



SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Randy Breault
City Engineer
City of Brisbane
50 Park Place,
Brisbane, CA 94005

*cc: [unclear]
Prince*

February 23, 2007

RECEIVED

FEB 28 2007

Brisbane Public Works Dept.

Dear Mr. Breault,

Sequoia Audubon Society, the San Mateo county chapter of National Audubon Society, with 1500 members, wishes to offer some specific suggestions for the preservation of the bird habitat in and around the Brisbane Lagoon. Since there is a sizeable development project proposed for the lands adjacent to the lagoon, we offer these preservation ideas now, so they can be included in the project proposal.

Here are the basics for bird preservation.

- Shorebirds in a lagoon setting need to have an ability to see in a 360 degree circle when they are feeding on the mudflats exposed during outgoing tides. This is so they can spot predators coming from any direction. To this end the lagoon edge needs to be free from trees, bushes, light poles and sign posts as they provide perches for predators.
- The lagoon edges need to be kept in a natural state with no riprap added. Shorebirds feed by probing the mud for invertebrates. Edge water needs to be shallow without riprap for predators to hide in or to keep birds from accessing the mudflats.
- Birds in any setting are much bothered by disturbance. The lagoon needs to have a wide buffer zone around it free of walking, running or bicycle paths, picnic tables, playing fields, buildings or roads. Dogs need to be on leash.
- Boating concessions have been mentioned at the project meetings. Boating on the lagoon will result in relocation of many birds using the lagoon.
- As you already know, water quality is very important. Runoff from the former dump area or landscaped areas within the project should not enter the lagoon. Inflows and outfalls are prime egret feeding areas and need to remain as they now are, as does the sandy fishing area.
- During the construction phases of the project, machines and materiel should be stored well outside of the buffer zone.

Sequoia Audubon encourages you to take the welfare of the birds on the Brisbane into special consideration as you plan for the development project there. They are an integral part of the public's enjoyment of the lagoon.

Sincerely,

Robin Winslow Smith

Robin Winslow Smith
Conservation Chair
Sequoia Audubon Society

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