

To:

John Swiecki, AICP  
Community Development Director  
City of Brisbane  
50 Park Place, Brisbane, CA 94005

Dear Mr. Swiecki:

I would like to address another topic regarding the high-density housing proposed for the Brisbane Baylands: the topic of COVID-19 and of future viral pandemics, as the deadline of 4/20/2020 is tomorrow for the submission of written comments from the public re the scope of the related Environmental Impact Report.

COVID-19 has shown us the folly of the kind of high-density housing which facilitates the spread of viral pandemics - whether of the coronavirus variety or otherwise - by allowing more rapid and efficient spread among closely-situated households and common spaces with high traffic such as elevators.

These pandemics will increase in frequency and intensity as both the United States and foreign nations destroy the natural habitats of wild animals and those animals (and the viruses they carry) intermingle with humans more frequently.

The Baylands is a vast open space which can be used for a mix of solar arrays, wind turbines, and battery storage. However, the applicant for the Specific Plan, Baylands Development Inc. (previously Universal Paragon Corporation) currently intends to instead place high-density housing on this site close to a former unregulated toxic dump.

The California Public Utility Commission should broker a deal between PG&E and Universal Paragon Corporation/Baylands Development Inc. to turn the Brisbane Baylands into a sustainable energy resource for the SF Bay Area where solar- and wind-generated energy can be stored on site in large, industrial-strength batteries (contact Elon Musk/Tesla for more information about large-scale battery storage developments) for the use of SF Bay Area residents and companies.

Those who have been arguing for high-density housing (whether at the Baylands or elsewhere) must now pause and reevaluate their arguments given the rapid spread of COVID-19 in high-density housing and the likelihood that we will begin to see viral pandemics with a greater frequency from this point forward.

A good related article can be found at <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/26/life-after-coronavirus-pandemic-change-world>

COVID-19 should affect the perception of risk among the members of City Council and

among city staff with regard to proposed high-density housing at the Baylands.

I have sent a letter to California Public Utilities Commission President Marybel Batjer requesting that she look into the possibility of the CPUC bringing UPC and PG&E to the table to consider using the Baylands for renewable energy generation and storage instead of high-density housing.

Incidentally, I have also communicated with the board of the Modesto Irrigation District, and the MID representative (MID Board Member John Mensinger) could think of no evidence that Steve Knell, the General Manager of the Oakdale Irrigation District (or anyone else from OID, for that matter), had even approached the MID board about using its canals to transfer water from the OID to the Brisbane Baylands.

As you may be aware, the OID does not have the means to transfer water directly to the Baylands and must use the canals of the MID and/or the canals governed by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission.

The MID Board Secretary Angela Cartisano has initiated a Public Records Request on my behalf and has forwarded my emails to the MID staff and its outside counsel for comment. I should hear back from them later this week.

Housing construction at the Baylands has been marketed to Brisbane's residents as obtaining its fresh water supply from the OID, but if in fact the OID has not even bothered to contact the MID Board, that marketing may have no basis in reality. I have not yet heard back from the SFPUC. The more likely outcome will be that once construction commences, the true nature of the Baylands water supply will be revealed: recycled toilet water.

Best,  
Prem Lall

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Community Development Director  
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Dear Mr. Swiecki:

With regard to the proposed Brisbane Baylands development, I have asked several times to see confirmation of how the Oakdale Irrigation District (OID) plans to provide

the Brisbane Baylands with the stated water supply, namely "an annual water supply of 2,400 acre-feet" but as of yet have not been provided with any confirmation.

Therefore, I have forwarded the respective Notice of Preparation to the representatives of OID as well as of the Modesto Irrigation District (MID) and of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), requesting their input and providing them with the email address [baylands@Brisbaneca.org](mailto:baylands@Brisbaneca.org) in case they wish to contact you directly.

Thank you.

Prem Lall  
Brisbane resident