

**From:** Brisbane 411 [<mailto:brisbane411@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 05, 2018 3:05 PM  
**To:** Padilla, Ingrid  
**Subject:** Re: RE: New website about the Baylands: Brisbane411.com

Hi Ingrid,

Please distribute this email and the attached Press Release to the City Council and Clay. It is from the Brisbane Citizens for Responsible Development. Some members are now named on the website, [www.brisbane411.com](http://www.brisbane411.com) and more Brisbane citizens are joining daily.

This Press Release is part of our broader campaign to get our story told outside the borders of our small town. It is being widely distributed with links to the website, which hopefully, City and Council has reviewed.

We disagree with the advice given by the Sacramento lobbyists who, along with some local state legislators, have created a climate of fear on the Council. These same lobbyists have a client list that includes many developers. While we are paying handsomely for these lobbyists, it is a drop in the bucket for the long term business relationships that will bring in their future revenues. SB35 will most certainly preempt restrictions you may believe will protect Brisbane.

While we wish to support the City Council, we believe in transparency. We believe in a rational process to deliberate, dialogue and address the many adverse impacts called out in the EIR and public hearings. This process has been thwarted by the threat of legislation, that given sunshine and the voice of courage, would not pass. Most of Council members were elected because of your stated commitment to protect our safety and financial sustainability into the future. You gave your word that changes to the General Plan would be put to the vote of the Brisbane citizens. We will hold you to your word.

Let's stand up together for what is right.

Respectfully,  
The Brisbane Citizens for Responsible Development.

Attachment: Press Release

PRESS RELEASE, March 3, 2018

Taking the Canary out of the Coal Mine  
The Legislative Threat to Local Democracy: The Brisbane Case

For the first time in our state's history, state legislators are threatening to pass targeted [legislation](#) to strip a single city of its authority over its own land. This is not just a threat to the City of Brisbane. It's a threat to every city in California. Brisbane is the canary in the coal mine. State legislators hijacked the public review process for a proposed mixed-use development on the Brisbane Baylands. Their highly questionable rationale for taking this drastic action is the contention even little cities are responsible for the crisis in affordable housing. In fact, corporate job creations, State policies, income inequality, and builders focused on the high end of housing construction are more responsible. Small communities like Brisbane have not been responsible for any of these phenomena. In fact, Brisbane has supported a high rate of housing development. Its reluctance to move rapidly on development in the Baylands has to do with the land itself - its status as an unregulated, unremediated contaminated landfill.

However, when the Taiwanese landowner/developer decided that Brisbane wasn't moving fast enough or might not approve all the planned housing (triple the amount of the total housing units currently in Brisbane), it orchestrated a media campaign that falsely claimed that Brisbane was planning to build a huge commercial development without any housing. Legislators trying to enhance their reputations on the housing issue used the fabricated Brisbane story and crafted targeted legislation that was used to threaten the Brisbane City Council to change its General Plan, before the deliberations were complete, or be forced by this legislation to rubber stamp the developer's project with minimal oversight.

The 660-acre "Baylands" was originally part of San Francisco Bay. Southern Pacific and San Francisco filled it in for their needs, railroad equipment maintenance and garbage dumping. Consequently, the landfill has 3 former Superfund sites that, to date, have not been remediated. Some of the many adverse environmental impacts called out in the EIR include serious health and safety risks from the highly toxic landfill, the unstable land that is a liquefaction zone between two major earthquake faults, no contracted water resources, severe traffic congestion from a lack of funding for roads or public transportation, the lack of sufficient resources to provide required public services such as fire, police and public works infrastructure and ongoing maintenance, and more.

California law requires local jurisdictions to have General Plans that focus on sustainability, healthy communities, and quality of life. The proposed legislation disregards all three. Never have we seen such an irresponsible and counter productive land grab. What happens in Brisbane will be repeated in cities across the state. Strip local governments of their power to engage in responsible development and you've taken away the people's ability to engage in rational planning that considers the local circumstances as well as broader regional needs. One size does not fit all. Take the canary out of the coal mine and there's no warning for what disaster could come next.

For more detailed information on all the issues mentioned above, refer to the web site of the Brisbane Citizens for Responsible Development. [www.brisbane411.com](http://www.brisbane411.com)

Read the Proposed State Legislation [here](https://goo.gl/TEF8dR). (<https://goo.gl/TEF8dR>)  
Or, contact Michele Salmon at [mmsalmon@aol.com](mailto:mmsalmon@aol.com)