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RECEIVED

JUN 07 REC'D

BY BRISBANE CITY CLERK

Brisbane City Hall

Brisbane, CA 94005

To the Brisbane City Council;

It appears that Brisbane must prepare for one more assault on the insularity of its small town character. Already it has survived the threat of the huge residential development on San Bruno Mtn. and has absorbed only the development on the NE Ridge, which is much smaller in comparison, but, more importantly, is contiguous. Also, the residential portion of the Marina's development was stopped because the Council had a survey constructed in order to obtain planning guidance from the residents of the city. To their credit it was a very objectively constructed and performed (outside interviewers) survey. This honestly derived guidance was proper then, as it is now, for decisions that will permanently affect the overall character of the town. Though I understand that a survey is to be done on this Baylands project, I'm concerned that this survey be as objective and fair as the aforementioned Marina/Planning survey. A more recent experience with the home-done survey that was conducted regarding the actual design of the center park challenges my trust that an honest survey will be conducted.

After a 'recall' which allowed the town to make an honest choice between the former Council's proposed City Hall-use and a Park-use on land located in the center of town, a Councilperson then decided that he'd, personally, construct a survey to decide among the many competing design ideas for the new, to-be park. Unfortunately, he constructed an unbelievably leading, biased survey regarding the Park's design. Hopefully, he was completely oblivious to the irony of his rewarding the desires of the folks who conducted the 'recall'. By doing the recall, they had restored the town's right to decide on the use of the land, but at the expense of an honest decision about the design of the park. I understand that we owed the folks who did the 'recall' our thanks and appreciation for restoring our decision on 'use' – the more important of the 'use' vs 'design' – but, not at the cost of losing our right to have an honest decision on 'design'.

Obviously, I'm still peeved about this denial, but I am bringing it up – not to vent this disgruntlement, but to ask the Council to be on guard (by this example) about introducing your own possible biases during your oversight on the construction of this upcoming survey. It would be all too easy to unconsciously introduce some of the propaganda by which you've been wooed by the County and the State. Propaganda which, I presume, is urging you – on behalf of the 'big picture' – to coax people to give up on their silly hang-up on retaining 'small town' character and to "Come, join us and get in step with our mindless march to .....somewhere?"

I strongly suspect that a concession to any added community that is physically separate from our as-is town will eventually lead to feeling the loss of the integral small town community. Acknowledging that the new composition of residents in town may not concur with the honest survey result of the past (on the Marina),

and that it may well invite the chance-changes that will come with residential development in the Baylands, one must await the results of an honest survey and go along with the results.

I've missed all the preliminary planning meetings, except for the first open one at the Library. So, I may be going over well-worn territory, but it occurred to me that Brisbane's survival as a small town needn't necessarily be 'either/or' vs 'Baylands residential development'. Nor need the governments' drive for housing expansion be frustrated by Brisbane's potential demand to not be in the parade. How? Through trade-offs. Everyone's familiar with the artifice of phasing a residential housing project in order to avoid the more onerous requirements of taking on the whole project at once. In the same spirit, could not Brisbane work in conjunction with the County and either one of the adjoining municipalities to design a residential portion to the Baylands that fulfills the desired contribution from Brisbane. Upon being signed-off by the entities looking for the housing quota and having satisfied the design needs of the adjoining municipality, a city limit border could be adjusted to incorporate the residential portion into the other city. By giving up some property, Brisbane could meet the desired quota for housing and yet, retain its singularity and its right to oversee the remaining development of its Baylands property.

Unless this, or a similar compromise, could be worked out, my personal leaning would be against allowing residential development of any size on the Baylands property inside Brisbane city limits.

Thank you.

From: Ron Colonna

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ron Colonna". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name "Ron Colonna".