

1 BEFORE THE CITY OF BRISBANE PLANNING DIVISION
2 PANEL OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION
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7 RE: DRAFT E.I.R. PUBLIC COMMENT MEETING
8 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2013
9 7:01 P.M.

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1 COMMISSIONER PARKER: Welcome. This
2 is a meeting as the talking points of the Planning
3 Commission Draft E.I.R. Public Comment Meeting on
4 behalf of the City of Brisbane and the planning
5 commission. I want to welcome you to tonight's
6 meeting, and we have a speaker. Speaker No. 1 is
7 Ken McIntire.

8 KEN MCINTIRE: Well, I'm Ken
9 McIntire from San Bruno Mountain Watch, and thank
10 you all for being here. I got here a little early
11 because I thought that I didn't want to stand in
12 line. (laughter)

13 I -- the scope of the E.I.R. is both
14 stimulating and daunting. I -- it seems like an
15 encyclopedia to me; and just as a reference, like,
16 if I want to talk about the geology or the
17 archaeological history or, you know, the chemicals
18 in the Baylands, I mean, as a reference, that
19 document -- I think it's great.

20 I think it's probably really hard
21 for most citizens to actually get into it because,
22 in any chapter, you got to go 15 pages before you
23 get to the the questions about, you know,
24 whether -- whether there are going to be impacts;
25 and you really need all of the background in order

1 to understand those questions.

2 So I think it's just really tough,
3 and I expect to be spending more time and make
4 written comments before the deadline. My comments
5 and questions tonight are just basically pretty
6 general. One is in the biological section.

7 At the beginning it mentions that
8 there were four reconnaissance field trips over
9 six years, three or more in the spring, and one
10 was in June; and I really question whether that's
11 enough, surveying to really capture the biological
12 resources in the Baylands.

13 So that's one question, and then
14 I've always had a lot of questions about the
15 ability of humans to build structures that are
16 going to hold up in the Baylands with the -- an
17 area that's subject to liquefaction and strong
18 shaking, and it's not just that.

19 You might be able to, you know, put
20 some pilings into the ground and have the building
21 stand up, but then every piling is going through
22 toxic material and has to be -- every piling has
23 to be sealed; and I just don't see how, the more
24 buildings you put up, the more -- the more problem
25 you're going to have after an earthquake resealing

1 all of those pilings; and, you know, on top of
2 that, you've got sea-level rise coming.

3 So that -- I just really -- when I
4 read this, "Oh, yeah. These are significant
5 impacts," but we can mitigate for these.

6 I just have a huge pile of
7 skepticism about them, especially in light of, you
8 know, world events like Fukushima and stuff like
9 that; and the engineers are always saying they can
10 make things work. That's their job.

11 Third question: Given the -- oh,
12 that was the third question -- it looks like I
13 repeated the question there. Then I'll move onto
14 the next one.

15 There's a Hunter proposed mitigation
16 measures in the document, and the sustainability
17 section adds even more.

18 Just from my experience in the San
19 Bruno Mountain Watch during the -- the northeast
20 ridge battle couple of years ago and having read
21 the habitat conversation plan, huge document that
22 gets amended all the time, (indicating) and seeing
23 all of the plans; all of the mitigations; this is
24 what we're going to do here; and that's going
25 to -- what we're going to do there and seeing that

1 even since that battle and the northeast ridge
2 project going forward, you know, troubles with
3 getting homeowners within the homeowners'
4 associations to comply with the mitigations and
5 regulations how, when you've got hundreds and
6 hundreds of mitigations that are going to change
7 over time as -- as the land settles and there are
8 little cracks in the roadways and somebody is
9 going to come out and fix that or the climate is
10 changing -- and so the plants that they planted in
11 the wetlands aren't surviving to the level that
12 they are supposed to, who is going to be checking
13 all of those things and evaluating what's
14 effective and what's not?

15 And then who is going to be
16 enforcing the regulations and enforcing
17 consequences?

18 It just seems like an overwhelming
19 task to me, and then finally none of the plans
20 that are considered mention the existence of the
21 Mission Blue Nursery and that section there right
22 behind the fire station; and it, by this point, is
23 a regional resource; and I'm not sure how it got
24 omitted when they talk about what's going to be
25 there in the future, but it's a solid building.

1 It's not producing much, if any,
2 pollution; and it's a resource. It should be in
3 there. Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER PARKER: Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER CUNNINGHAM: Thanks,
7 Ken.

8 Would anyone else like to speak at
9 this time?

10 KANJI NISHIJIMA: Oh, that's it? I
11 mean, I want to have a chance eventually but --

12 COMMISSIONER CUNNINGHAM: Come on.
13 (indicating)

14 KANJI NISHIJIMA: You know what?

15 COMMISSIONER PARKER: Did you fill
16 out one of these cards?

17 KANJI NISHIJIMA: No. I don't see
18 them.

19 COMMISSIONER PARKER: Yeah. Come on
20 up and start speaking.

21 KANJI NISHIJIMA: Okay. Yeah. I
22 had some question:

23 One was I tried to go through as
24 much as I could about in these different
25 documents.

1 It seems impossible, but I did my
2 best, and I didn't notice anything regarding the
3 rising sea levels that are predicted -- what
4 measures are being taken to address those, and I
5 don't know what they were going to be expecting;
6 but, you know, once I had heard that it was going
7 to be like, I don't know it was realistic or not;
8 but it seems like a 50-foot rise in the sea
9 levels.

10 I don't know what it is, but I was
11 just wondering if it was addressed in some manner
12 in the E.I.R., and another -- another that
13 isn't -- you know, I read through different
14 mitigations and different -- you know, different
15 ways that they were going to address the increased
16 traffic and an increased population and impact on
17 the community, and I -- it's just -- I can't
18 imagine it being as clean and as well thought out
19 as this plan suggested it will be.

20 Just doesn't seem possible, and so I
21 don't know if that can be answered because I know
22 there are -- you know, what they talked about the
23 different ideas about carpooling and all of that
24 kind of, you know, giving people bus passes -- it
25 doesn't seem like it's going to be very effective

1 in addressing the increased traffic and, you know,
2 the kind of growth that they're expecting.

3 I mean, it did say something about,
4 you know, it's going to be a substantial impact
5 on -- on the, you know -- the number of houses and
6 number of people and all the -- all of that going
7 on. I just didn't understand how that addressed
8 that question very well.

9 It just seemed to be kind of
10 unrealistic, and I think that was it. You know, I
11 assumed. I didn't see it, but I assumed there the
12 earthquake issues are being addressed and that in
13 there somewhere, and I couldn't find that either;
14 but it must be in there somewhere, I would assume,
15 because -- because, you know, the Hayward
16 earthquake is ready to go any second now; and when
17 that happens, how does the -- how do these plans
18 basically address -- address the inevitable?
19 Okay. Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER PARKER: So, Kanji, can
21 you state your name.

22 KANJI NISHIJIMA: Oh, I'm sorry.
23 Kanji Nishijima -- I'm a Brisbane resident --
24 102 Monterey Street.

25 COMMISSIONER PARKER: And then fill

1 the card out.

2 KANJI NISHIJIMA: Okay. Thanks.

3 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER PARKER: Thank you very
5 much.

6 At this time would anyone else like
7 to speak?

8 FRAN MARTIN: I'm not prepared. I
9 just came to see what's happening tonight, but
10 I'll say something. I can't help myself.

11 I haven't read the thing, you know.
12 I'm Fran Martin from the Visitation Valley. I'm
13 with the Visitation Valley Grooming Project and
14 Visitation Valley Planning Rights.

15 COMMISSIONER CUNNINGHAM: Okay.

16 FRAN MARTIN: As I said, I haven't
17 read it, but I'm -- I've been saying this all
18 along. I hope that Brisbane pays attention to the
19 needs of Visitation Valley. I do know that most
20 of the development is going to be in the northern
21 part of the site; and that's really, you know,
22 more consequence to our neighborhood than it is to
23 Brisbane.

24 So we're concerned about traffic,
25 about the aesthetics, just -- just all of those

1 things -- excuse me -- that -- I'm catching a
2 cold -- that if there's going to be housing, even
3 if there's not going to be housing, we would like
4 to have a green connection with all the green that
5 you're going to have, all the open space that
6 you're going to have in the southern part of the
7 site.

8 So and we're also very, very
9 concerned about ecology particularly since we're
10 putting 650 units of housing at Schlage Lock. I
11 know that all that whole process is coming up, but
12 I would hope that you would pay attention to the
13 needs of your neighborhood particularly Schlage
14 Lock and the neighborhood particularly the
15 aesthetics to what's going to happen with ecology.

16 There needs to be some kind of
17 barrier, physical barrier between physical --
18 visual barrier between -- and noise barrier
19 between that new development, that ecology, you
20 know, upgrading their facility. We're not against
21 that happening, and we're not against development,
22 and that's it. I don't have anything, you know,
23 specific until I look at that document.

24 COMMISSIONER CUNNINGHAM: Thanks,
25 Fran.

1 FRAN MARTIN: Do I give this to you?

2 COMMISSIONER PARKER: Thank you,
3 Fran.

4 So, again, this is the City of
5 Brisbane and the planning commission; and we are
6 here for the Draft E.I.R. Public Comment Meeting,
7 and if you wish to make a comment, please come and
8 state your name; and we'll be thrilled to hear
9 from you. Thank you.

10 (Whereupon, from 7:15 P.M. until
11 7:38 P.M., a recess was taken.)

12 COMMISSIONER PARKER: Welcome. On
13 behalf the City of Brisbane and the planning
14 commission, we are here currently to accept public
15 comment for the draft E.I.R.

16 At this point we've had three
17 speakers. If anyone else wants to come down,
18 please feel free and bring your thoughts. If we
19 do not have anyone in the next 20 minutes or so, I
20 think we will probably decide that we will not
21 have anyone and close up the meeting, but please
22 feel to come down and make comments. Thank you
23 very much.

24 (Whereupon, from 7:39 P.M. until
25 8:01 P.M., a recess was taken.)

1 COMMISSIONER PARKER: Did you want
2 to come, speak one more time?

3 COMMISSIONER CUNNINGHAM: Are we on?

4 COMMISSIONER PARKER: Kanji?

5 KANJI NISHIJIMA: Hi. Kanji
6 Nishijima.

7 I wanted to add to my previous
8 comments or questions. What I wanted to do was
9 basically -- now that I've had a chance to, at
10 least, go through the summary, it -- it -- this
11 seems to confirm my concerns; and that is that the
12 traffic -- the issues with all the traffic and all
13 the disruption to the different roadways
14 apparently will be significant and unavoidable,
15 and I don't think that's acceptable at all.

16 Also the air quality -- apparently
17 it's going to be higher than considered
18 acceptable; and, you know, certainly the fact that
19 we are in a situation where global warming is a
20 factor, is a fact, we need to take every measure
21 possible to do our part to try and minimize things
22 as they get worse; and this -- apparently
23 according to this, according to the summary, these
24 projects will, in fact, be significant -- these
25 projects will, in fact, adversely impact our air

1 quality, contrary to the -- what is it? -- clean
2 air plan; and for those reasons, I, as a resident
3 of Brisbane, would choose not to see these
4 projects go ahead. Okay. Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER PARKER: Thank you very
6 much.

7 Does anyone else wish to speak?

8 Well, at this time, I think we will
9 close the public comment for the draft E.I.R.; and
10 thank you very much for your participation, and
11 thank you very much. Bye-bye.

12 (Meeting was adjourned at 8:04 P.M.)

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