

October 29, 2013

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Citizens Committee on the Baylands DEIR

RE: Request for Extension of Comment Deadline

At your meeting on October 21, 2013, you kindly allocated funds for assistance to our Baylands DEIR Citizens Committee by Antero Rivasplata, the consultant who previously conducted training sessions to educate our community about this highly complex DEIR process. You agreed that he should review our comments and make suggestions. We appreciate your consideration.

After meeting with Mr. Rivasplata last night the Committee decided that in order to effectively utilize his expertise and advice we need additional time beyond the November 22, 2013 deadline for comments. As it is, the DEIR sections on Traffic, Biological Resources, and Hazards will require more study than we will be able to do by the current deadline. Added to this would be the time required to consider and react to the consultant's suggestions. Clearly the time before the current deadline is insufficient for us to provide a thorough, informed and unified report.

For the past several months, our committee members have spent countless hours diligently reviewing the massive DEIR and relevant other resources, which together consist of thousands of pages. We have written and discussed hundreds of comments individually, within subcommittees, and in full committee sessions. When finished, we expect to have produced nearly 200 pages of carefully researched and crafted comments.

You could compare the time reasonably expected to produce this volume of factual writing, for instance, with the time it has taken the committee assigned to write and revise the second volume of Brisbane's history – at least 2 years.

We understand that our comments form part of the important legal basis for your future decision-making related to the Baylands. Thus it is crucial that the Committee be given enough time to perform its assigned duty, both to your Council and the community at large. A lot is at stake. Our fellow citizens are counting on us as well as on you.

Taking into account, as you routinely do in scheduling your own work, the reality that hardly any volunteer work of this type would occur during the Thanksgiving-to-New Year's period, we appeal to you to use your prerogative, as allowed by CEQA, to grant an extension of the comment deadline to and including March 22, 2014.

Thank you,



Anja Miller
Chair