



CITY OF BRISBANE

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Honorable Mayor and City Council

The Open Space and Ecology Committee thanks the City Council for the time and ability to review and comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Baylands. We have collectively spent hundreds of hours reading, reviewing, and researching the topics presented in the report in order to make comments which, if responded to and incorporated into the Final Environmental Impact Report, we hope will make the document and the final project more environmentally beneficial.

Our Committee understands the limitations of CEQA law and would request that the consultants and City Council prepare a document which not only meets the letter of the law, but also its spirit. A number of our comments and concerns focus on making the document easier to read and understand for the lay person who does not have hundreds of hours to devote to the project. We want to make sure the casual reader can pick up the document and understand all of the environmental implications without having to refer to a multitude of other documents.

More than this, when it comes time for approving a project on the Baylands, the City Council should not just look at what is required by law, but what is needed to create a community which we can all be proud to call home—and one that is environmentally sustainable over time. The law sets out just the minimum level of what is required, however, as a community we have a moral and ethical obligation to do what is right for all of our residents—both present and future ones. We ask the City Council to look at carefully, judiciously review, and then approve the best possible project—not one which just minimally meets minimum legal requirements.

Respectfully,

Open Space and Ecology Committee, City of Brisbane

