

18 November 2013

John Swiecki, AICP, Community Development Director
City of Brisbane
50 Park Place, Brisbane, CA 94005
Fax: 415.467.5547

Dear Mr. Swiecki:

I am writing to provide comment on the Brisbane Baylands Draft EIR and data on wildlife present on the land and water. I am a professional ornithologist who leads birding trips, teaches ornithology at multiple levels, I am a board member of the Golden Gate Audubon Society, and employed at the California Academy of Sciences. I am committed to preserving natural habitats and helping make the SF Bay Area as bird and wildlife friendly as possible, and I believe that our natural areas are a big part of what makes the Bay Area attractive to people as well as wildlife.

I am enclosing two spreadsheets that document the diversity of birds that use the Brisbane Lagoon. The first is a data from eBird – an online citizen science resource that many birders use for keeping track of their observations, but it also allows researchers to quickly and reliably extract data about particular regions. For many months of the year, there is insufficient data; however even with the limited data, birders have documented that between 1990 and 2013 over 87 species of birds have been recorded using the Brisbane Lagoon. The second document I am sending is data from the Audubon Society's annual Christmas Bird Count. These data document 45+ species using the area during the winter non-breeding season, when many ducks and migrant shorebirds overwinter in the SF Bay region.

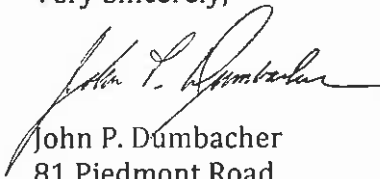
These lists clearly document the importance of the Brisbane Lagoon for many species – over 12 species of ducks, 5 species of grebe, cormorants, pelicans, herons, shorebirds, raptors, gulls, terns, as well as many songbirds that use the habitat surrounding the lagoon. Many species use the lagoon for breeding, feeding, and resting, and I am not sure that your DEIS has fully considered this full diversity of birds and their diverse uses of the lagoon. The area and its habitats are vital resources for these species. Furthermore, the increased presence of people, cats, dogs, and activity will certainly have an impact on the Lagoon, and it will be important to make sure that adopted plans will protect these critical resources, reduce disturbance and impact, and provide some buffer from the increased activity.

I also see that there are proposals to generate alternative energy on the land, including solar and wind farms. While I generally applaud the efforts to reduce the need for fossil fuels, I also encourage you to make sure that the choice of generators and the placement of these on the land are environmentally safe for birds and do not unnecessarily reduce available bird and wildlife habitat. Large turbines with rapidly spinning propellers can have devastating effects on soaring raptors or flocks of

migrating shore birds. More wildlife-friendly options are available, and should be used wherever possible.

I urge you to choose a development option that will protect wildlife and the vital habitats that they require. The beauty, functionality, and hence the value of the development, relies largely on a healthy surrounding environment and the animals and plants living in it. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about these data or if you would like additional information (additional years, more information about particular seasons, etc.)

Very Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John P. Dumbacher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John P. Dumbacher
81 Piedmont Road
Larkspur, CA 94939
jdumbacher@calacademy.org

eBird



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Hello John Dumbacher (jdumbacher) | [Preferences](#) | [Sign Out](#) Translate to: [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [Português](#)

« Hotspot Explorer

Bird Observations

▼ Date Range:

1/1 - 12/31, 1990-2013 Combine Years

▼ For

[[Brisbane Lagoon](#)]

87 species (+5 other taxa)

[Canada Goose](#)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██

[Mallard](#)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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[Green-winged Teal](#)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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[Canvasback](#)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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[Ring-necked Duck](#)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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[Greater Scaup](#)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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[Lesser Scaup](#)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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[Greater/Lesser Scaup](#)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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[Surf Scoter](#)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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[Bufflehead](#)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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[Common Goldeneye](#)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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[Red-breasted Merganser](#)

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[Ruddy Duck](#)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██

[duck sp.](#)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██

[Pied-billed Grebe](#)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██

[Horned Grebe](#)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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[Eared Grebe](#)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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[Western Grebe](#)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██

[Clark's Grebe](#)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██

[Western/Clark's Grebe](#)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██

[Brandt's Cormorant](#)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██

[Double-crested Cormorant](#)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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[Brown Pelican](#)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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[Great Blue Heron](#)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██

[Great Egret](#)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██

87 species (+5 other taxa)		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Snowy Egret	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██
Turkey Vulture	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██
Osprey	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██
White-tailed Kite	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██
Northern Harrier	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec													
Red-shouldered Hawk	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██
Red-tailed Hawk	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██
American Coot	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██
Black-necked Stilt	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██
American Avocet	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██
Black-bellied Plover	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██
Semipalmated Plover	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██
Killdeer	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██
Spotted Sandpiper	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██
Greater Yellowlegs	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██
Willet	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██
Whimbrel	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██
Long-billed Curlew	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██
Marbled Godwit	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██
Black Turnstone	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec													
Dunlin	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██
Least Sandpiper	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██
Western Sandpiper	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██
peep sp.	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██
Mew Gull	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██
Ring-billed Gull	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██
Western Gull	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██
California Gull	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██
Herring Gull	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██
Glaucous-winged Gull	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██
gull sp.	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██
Caspian Tern	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██
Forster's Tern	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██
Rock Pigeon	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██
Eurasian Collared-Dove	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec													
Mourning Dove	<input type="button" value="MAP"/>	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██	██

87 species (+5 other taxa)		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Anna's Hummingbird	MAP	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Belted Kingfisher	MAP	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Red-breasted Sapsucker	MAP	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
American Kestrel	MAP	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Black Phoebe	MAP	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Steller's Jay	MAP	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
American Crow	MAP	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Common Raven	MAP	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Barn Swallow	MAP	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Cliff Swallow	MAP	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	MAP	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Bushtit	MAP	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
American Robin	MAP	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Northern Mockingbird	MAP	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
<hr/>													
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
European Starling	MAP	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Orange-crowned Warbler	MAP	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Nashville Warbler	MAP	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Yellow Warbler	MAP	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Yellow-rumped Warbler	MAP	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
California Towhee	MAP	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Savannah Sparrow	MAP	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Song Sparrow	MAP	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Lincoln's Sparrow	MAP	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
White-crowned Sparrow	MAP	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Golden-crowned Sparrow	MAP	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Red-winged Blackbird	MAP	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Western Meadowlark	MAP	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Brewer's Blackbird	MAP	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
House Finch	MAP	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
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		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lesser Goldfinch	MAP	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
American Goldfinch	MAP	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█

KEY: █ = insufficient data | █ = rare to widespread

[Download Histogram Data](#)

CBC Brisbane Lagoon

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Species Name	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Common loon	1	0	0	1	0
Clark's grebe	4	0	5	1	0
Western grebe	6	3	5	8	13
Eared grebe	4	3	0	3	1
Horned grebe	6	1	1	0	1
Double-crested cormorant	6	2	2	0	0
Great blue heron	2	1	0	0	0
Great egret	2	0	1	0	0
Snowy egret	2	0	6	4	1
Mallard	7	5	4	1	7
Gadwall	1	0	0	0	0
Greater scaup	5	0	5	25	0
Lesser scaup	107	47	11	25	11
Surf scoter	9	2	30	5	9
Common goldeneye	5	7	1	3	0
Bufflehead	54	29	51	50	15
Ruddy duck	50	47	64	73	22
Turkey vulture	1	0	0	0	1
Northern harrier	2	2	0	1	0
Osprey		0	0	0	1
Coopers hawk	1	1	1	0	0
Sharp-shinned hawk	1	0	0	0	0
Merlin		0	0	1	0
Red-tailed hawk	1	1	2	1	1
American kestrel	4	0	3	0	1
Brown Pelican		2	0	2	1
American coot	25	21	37	50	12
Black-necked stilt	6	7	0	1	2
Spotted sandpiper	2	2	0	1	2
Ring-billed gull	1	1	2	2	1
California gull	4	0	22	7	2
Glaucous-winged gull	3	0	1	0	0
Western gull	12	14	19	10	12
Brandt cormorant		2	0	0	0
Common Merganser		2	0	0	0
Willet		8	15	10	15
Mockingbird		1	3	1	3
Least sandpiper		0	29	150	0
Belted kingfisher		0	1	0	1
Red-breasted Merganser		0	0	2	0
Canvas back		0	0	2	0
Ruddy turnstone		0	0	0	10
Kildeer		0	0	1	0
Long-billed curlew		0	0	1	0
Marbled Godwit		0	0	1	0
Dowitcher (sp)		0	0	50	0
Forster's tern		0	0	1	0
Pied-billed grebe		0	0	0	2

observed.

Total species: 30
 observed by
 year

2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
24	25	32	25	

Total birds

48 species