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July 27, 2016

Ms. TuongVan Do, Chair  
Planning Commission  
City of Brisbane  
50 Park Place  
Brisbane, CA 94005

Re: July 28, 2016 Public Hearing: Baylands Planning Applications (Baylands Concept Plans, Brisbane Baylands Specific Plan, General Plan Amendment Case GP-01-06) and Final Environmental Impact Report; Universal Paragon Corporation, applicant

Dear Chair Do and Members of the Commission,

The San Mateo County Economic Development Association (SAMCEDA) represents a contingent of leading Bay Area businesses, institutions, organizations and entrepreneurs. We are recognized for our experienced, impact-driven approach as a business advocacy organization. I am writing again to comment on the Brisbane Baylands project that has been under review.

It is my understanding that on Thursday, July 28, the Planning Commission will vote on a recommendation denying the General Plan Amendment and Specific Plan for the Baylands as proposed by the applicant Universal Paragon Corporation. The proposed plan would include over 4,000 new housing units next to transit that would allow current and future residents in Brisbane and in neighboring towns the opportunity to live and work near existing job centers. The jobs-housing imbalance in our region is well documented and the cost of housing at all income levels continues to rise. As you consider this recommendation, I encourage you to consider the needs of the region as well as those of the City of Brisbane.

As companies seek to grow and expand in San Mateo County, there are two primary factors for choosing the right location on the Peninsula: if housing is nearby or adjacent and if public transportation is readily accessible. While there is a significant amount of housing under development in San Francisco near the Baylands, including Schlage Lock, Candlestick and Hunters Point, it is not sufficient to meet the housing needs of the Peninsula or the needs of growing companies looking for growth opportunity sites on the Peninsula. With Caltrain already on site, and a site large enough to accommodate a wide range of uses housing needs to be part of the equation. World class office space alone will not be nearly as attractive to future users as office space with adjacent housing. This is the reality of our new economy and an essential ingredient in our region's sustainability model and it cannot be overstated.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or want to learn more about the San Mateo County Economic Development Association.

Sincerely,

Rosanne Foust  
President & CEO