

**From:** Ihsan Nijem  
**Sent:** Friday, December 16, 2016 3:15 PM  
**To:** Baylands  
**Subject:** Council Meeting to Discuss Brisbane Baylands (15Dec2016)

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council,

My name is Ihsan Nijem and I've lived in Brisbane since 2002. My family owns property here, as well. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the special city council meeting due to family obligations. However, I would like to take this opportunity to express my views on the Brisbane Baylands project.

I have two young kids, and I love that we can just walk to our community park, but that is essentially the only thing that's conveniently accessible for me in my city. There are some nice businesses downtown, but the variety of amenities is limited. For example, Midtown Market is a decent grocery store, but not a place I can shop at consistently, due to limited inventory, store hours, and high prices. Instead, I need to drive approximately 6 miles for one of the bigger stores. With two kids and never enough time, grocery shopping is always an inconvenience. I plan on living in this beautiful city for many years to come and have already also started thinking of the inconvenience of having my kids travel to a different city for high school. The Baylands would provide a high school within a convenient location and, based on the demographics of this area, I have no doubt that it will be a great school.

I've been following this project for almost as long as I lived here because the amenities are very appealing to me. I started doing more research on the project recently because I'm wondering why it's taking so long. Some people say that the site is too contaminated to allow certain development, but I see otherwise with examples everywhere.

I have a cousin who lives on Bay Street in Emeryville, and I love visiting him. I didn't realize that site had the same contamination issues as the old railyard on the Baylands: VOCs, lead, arsenic, oil. It also went through the same enforceable regulations and approvals process that the Baylands would go through. The same goes with Mission Bay, which has over 6k homes, a hospital, a really nice creek where people can kayak, and, soon, the Warriors stadium.

Here in Brisbane, at Sierra Point, we have a great office campus on a former landfill. And even where I work, at Genentech, there were tons of toxics from the former paint plant. It now has a child care facility and is the economic engine for South City.

I'm a scientist, so I value data, facts and processes.

We, the voters of Brisbane, elected you to be our decision makers and the fundamental fact is that the developer has collected the data and conducted the analysis necessary for you, the Council, to make your land use decision. We should respect the process and move this project forward. My hope is that you'll make the right decision, and enable the developer to remediate the site, and deliver the amenities that I, and many other Brisbane residents, have been looking forward to for way too long. I don't think the site is any more unique than all the case studies we have around us. We should build housing on the former railyard. Personally, I think we should build as many homes as possible to continue to diversify the city, but the exact number of units is for you to work out with the developer in your negotiations.

I urge you to certify the EIR, and move the Brisbane Baylands plan forward. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Ihsan Nijem