

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0017
(916) 319-2017
FAX (916) 319-2117

DISTRICT OFFICE
455 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE, ROOM 14300
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102
(415) 557-3013
FAX (415) 557-3015

Assembly California Legislature

DAVID CHIU
邱信福

ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT



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SUBCOMMITTEES
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 4 ON
STATE ADMINISTRATION

May 3, 2017

The Honorable Mayor Lori Liu and Members, Brisbane City Council
Brisbane City Hall
50 Park Place
Brisbane, CA 94005

Dear Mayor Liu and Councilmembers,

First, thank you to the City Council for your service in considering the Brisbane Baylands plan, a project of significant scale and impact for the San Francisco Bay Area. I commend Brisbane's leadership for their dedication in delivering a project for the Baylands site with ambitious sustainability goals, which I understand are in line with your Sustainability Framework.

However, the Sustainability Framework misses a critical element of the sustainability picture by being silent on housing. As elected leaders of our communities, it is our responsibility to acknowledge the contextual realities related to our decisions. The most sustainable way to grow is to build housing near jobs and transit. The Brisbane Baylands plan as proposed by the developer accomplishes just that. We need to shift towards compact, residential housing near jobs and on infill sites with public transportation, which is essential for California to meet its ever-growing housing needs and its climate goals for emissions reduction.

Throughout the state, families are burdened with high housing costs that are causing them to live increasingly far from where they work and to endure commutes that undermine their basic quality of life. California is the sixth-largest economy in the world, yet we face the most serious housing crisis in our history, including a large number of people experiencing homelessness. The recent Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) report, *California's High Housing Costs: Causes and Consequences*, demonstrates that "building less housing than people demand drives high housing costs." According to the state Department of Housing and Community Development, California needs to produce an additional 180,000 new housing units each year to keep up with population growth. The McKinsey Institute recently found that the housing shortage currently costs the California economy between \$143 billion and \$233 billion per year.



For this reason, many of us in the California State Legislature are pushing for solutions to the housing affordability crisis, including a new source of affordable housing funding, creative ways to reduce homelessness, the streamlining of housing production, and the strengthened enforcement of our state's housing laws. As underscored in the LAO report, cities like San Francisco, Oakland, and San Jose are carrying a disproportionate burden of our regional housing needs, and other cities throughout the region simply need to do more.

As we all search for solutions to the housing crisis, the entire Bay Area is watching what the City of Brisbane does with the Baylands project. As Chair of the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee, I submit this written comment to ask the City of Brisbane to view the Baylands site not as a burden, but as an opportunity, and to approve the proposed 4,434 new homes.

Sincerely,



DAVID CHIU

Assemblymember, 17th District

cc: Brisbane City Manager Clay Holstine