

OPEN SPACE AND ECOLOGY COMMITTEE

ACTION MINUTES

Tuesday, July 10, 2012 6:30 PM
Community Meeting Room
Brisbane City Hall
50 Park Place, Brisbane, CA 94005

Call to order

Vice Chair Gutekanst called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

Committee members present:

Ebel, Gutekanst, Hayuk, Salmon, and Sweeney.

Committee members absent:

Chair Fieldman

Staff members present:

Administrative Services Director Schillinger

Management Analyst Pontecorvo

Community Development Director Swiecki

Others:

Terry Rivasplata, Technical Director, ICF International

1. Adoption of the agenda.

MC Gutekanst moved and MC Ebel seconded to adopt the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Oral Communications for items not on the agenda.

There were no public comments under Oral Communications.

3. CEQA Environmental Impact Report Training Session.

Vice Chair Gutekanst introduced Terry Rivasplata, the Technical Director of ICF International. Mr. Rivasplata is leading the CEQA trainings to help prepare the Brisbane community for the release of the Baylands Draft Environmental Impact Report. Vice Chair Gutekanst thanked him for sharing his expertise and welcomed him to the meeting of the Open Space and Ecology Committee.

Mr. Rivasplata began his presentation by discussing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the 1970 law that requires disclosure of environmental effects of proposed projects. He stressed that CEQA is not a permit that can approve or deny activities, but rather a process.

The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) serves to analyze the project's potential environmental impacts, disclose significant impacts, identify feasible mitigation measures, and study potential alternatives including the no project alternative. This information is then used to enable a public process of informed decision-making.

CEQA provides that the EIR describe the environmental setting as it exists before commencement of a project to serve as a baseline; the impact is considered the difference between the baseline and the project. The DEIR includes a series of impact chapters, such as air quality, biological resources, soils, etc.

Throughout his presentation, Mr. Rivasplata took questions and engaged in discussion with members of the Committee. He explained that the City of Brisbane is the Lead Agency responsible for preparing the Baylands EIR with the assistance of a consultant. Before the project may be approved, the City must certify the EIR.

The Draft EIR provides for a minimum of 45 day review period. However, the City Council has allotted a 120 day review period for submitting comments on the Baylands DEIR. Mr. Rivasplata suggested that the most effective comments are concise, relate to the project's potential for impact, identify the specific part of the DEIR at issue, and include supporting evidence. All comments will be acknowledged and addressed in the Final EIR. The Lead and Responsible Agencies must consider the information in the EIR before taking any final action on the project.

John Burr commented on the inadequacy of regulations to monitor contamination and the inappropriateness of the Baylands site for housing.

After a lengthy period of questions, answers, and dialogue with each member of the Committee, Vice Chair Gutekanst thanked Mr. Rivasplata for his comprehensive presentation. Staff noted that videos of all training sessions and copies of presentation materials will be made available to the public.

The Committee recessed for 5 minutes.

4. Next meeting date.

The next OSEC meeting date was set for August 14.

The meeting adjourned at 9:42.