

June 26, 2006

To: Schroeder, Sheri

Cc: Barnes Michael at Mindspring

Subject: A Letter about the Baylands

Dear Mayor and Honorable Members of the Council—

I would first mention that I am against demanding the following items from UPC or any developer of the Baylands. I do not believe it is moral or ethical to demand anything in return for the fair use of ones own property. That being said this is to be a discussion of the citizens desires and I have a few.

I would like us to look at something like www.centexhomes.com when we consider housing in the baylands. They have built a zero energy home that was featured on HGTV's show Dream Builders. This home used off the shelf technology to efficiently build a home. I would rather go in this innovative direction than request a random Leed certification level, which I am sure homes built in this fashion would automatically qualify for. If it is possible to build a housing development that is totally efficient I suggest Brisbane actively make this a goal.

I personally would love to see homes coupled with retail and of course, if homes could be made efficiently then I would love to see the retail spaces also made so.

I would love to see a children's fantasy park on the scale of something like Tom Sawyers Island in Disneyland. This could be a fantastic draw to have parents come and shop while their children play.

I would love to see a market that was geared toward healthy eating, like Whole Foods or Harvest. There is nothing like that near us unless you count San Mateo as close by. People who live in the city but work in the peninsula would be able to stop there on the way home.

I would like one of the retail spaces to be a drop off childcare place that was somewhat like Clubkids or Gymboree where the children can still have fun and it was childcare. This model has been successful in many retail centers.

I would like to see a small science and technology High School that was geared toward the best and the brightest children. This school should be aimed at children who have shown measurable scientific aptitude or whose test scores show a mathematical mind. Given our proximity to some of the most intellectually engaging fields, it is a shame that such a school does not exist near us.

I feel it is important to restate that while I am opposed to the city specifically interfering with the rights of a property owner and developer, these are some of the things I would like to see in the Baylands. I believe that first and foremost, any project that is to be built should benefit UPC directly and financially and if it does not then they should not have to fund the pipe dreams of our citizens.

Thank you for your time,
Monera Mason