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September 28, 2011

John Swieki
City of Brisbane, Redevelopment Agency
50 Park Place
Brisbane, CA 94005

RE: Draft Brisbane Baylands Specific Plan

Dear Mr. Swieki:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide comments on the Draft Brisbane Baylands Specific Plan. We are supportive of the specific plan as it contemplates a vision for the area that is transit-oriented. High-density land uses that generate transit ridership not only provide a financial benefit to Caltrain but also contribute to managing traffic congestion and pollution.

In reviewing the specific plan, we identified one area of concern. It relates to implementation and funding. Given the identified transportation upgrades needed to support the vision, the plan needs to identify a funding strategy that maximizes outside funding sources. Given our ongoing financial challenges both on the capital and operations side of the business, Caltrain's ability to financially contribute to system and station upgrades is limited.

In addition to our comment on the specific plan, it is my understanding that you are also seeking early comments on your planned Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the specific plan. The following are EIR related comments for your consideration:

- Identify and mitigate impacts associated with proposed upgrades to the Caltrain system;
- Identify and mitigate impacts associated with construction;
- Identify and mitigate impacts associated with generated Caltrain ridership and access trips by mode of transportation;
- Conduct a geological resource evaluation of the proposed refuge area and wetlands adjacent to the railroad ROW to ensure that these features will not compromise Caltrain operations and maintenance activities; and
- Take into consideration impacts to Caltrain's future plans for electrification and a blended system supporting both Caltrain and HSR service along the corridor.

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments. Please know that we are available and ready to support your efforts in advancing this exemplary plan.

When you are ready for further dialogue on preparing your environmental document, please contact us. We will be available to expand on the summary comments identified above and provide you with needed information to assist with analysis.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me anytime. I can be reached at leem@samtrans.com, 650-622-7843.

Sincerely,

Marian Lee
Acting Director
Caltrain Modernization Program

cc/ Dominic Spaethling, CAHSR
Brian Fitzpatrick, JPB
Hilda Lafebre, JPB