Office of the Mayor
City & County of San Francisco

Gavin Newsom

January 7, 2011

John A. Swiecki, Community Development Director
City of Brisbane
50 Park Place
Brisbane, CA 94005

Dear John:

Last year I was thrilled to have the opportunity to see the "Vision Plan" that Recology has created for their facilities on the border of Brisbane and San Francisco that are envisioned to enable San Francisco to achieve the goal that we have established of zero waste by 2020. I am very much in support of the direction that they have taken, and I hope that Brisbane will be as well.

The plan that Recology, the City's primary recycling company, has initiated is an opportunity for San Francisco, Brisbane and the region to create green jobs and to expand leadership in the green economy that has taken hold in our cities. Last August I was very proud to be able to announce that San Francisco had exceeded our target of 75% diversion of waste from land fill and had achieved a remarkable 77% — the highest diversion rate of any city in the United States. We diverted just over 1.6 million tons of material—double the weight of the Golden Gate Bridge—through recycling, composting and re-use. Of this only 560,000 tons went to landfill, the lowest disposal on record.

Data collected since our Mandatory Recycling and Composting Ordinance went into effect last October indicates that the trend of increased diversion, coupled with dramatically reduced landfill, puts San Francisco at the forefront of environmental stewardship. Leading by example, composting has increased by 45 percent, and the City is now sending nearly 600 tons of food scraps, soiled paper, and yard trimmings to Recology's compost facilities each day, up from 400 tons a year ago.

For a growing number of people, recycling provides the dignity of a paycheck in tough economic times. The recycling industry trains and employs men and women in local environmental work that can't be outsourced and sent overseas, creating ten times as many jobs as sending material to landfills. Recology employs over 1,000 people in the region, and in the past few years has added 118 new employees to sort recyclables and monitor collection routes in order to meet San Francisco's aggressive recycling goals.

With so much recent focus and planned improvements proposed for the Southeastern portion of San Francisco, including the plans for Candlestick Point/Hunters Point Shipyard, Visitacion Valley and Executive Park, I recognize the tremendous opportunity to coordinate

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and refine an overall transportation vision that supports and benefits from the investments already committed for this area. As Recology's master plan advances through your civic planning process, San Francisco City staff will continue to work toward solutions with you that not only enable us to achieve our ultimate goal of zero waste, but also allow us to do right by our economy, a more sustainable transportation network and to further local job creation. I am enthusiastic about jointly supporting a final plan for Recology's facilities on our shared border that will help us achieve these goals.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom
Mayor

cc: Mike Sangiacomo, President & CEO, Recology
John Legnitto, Vice President, Recology
Melanie Nutter, Director, San Francisco Department of the Environment