

DRAFT

January 7, 2024

Dear Members of the City Council:

As a new year begins, the Open Space and Ecology Committee would like to express our appreciation to the Council for its respectful hearing of our policy suggestions and willingness to consider innovative policies on dark skies, invasive species and many others. The Council's forward thinking and aggressive policies to reduce carbon emissions have been implemented with dispatch by our outgoing city manager, Clay Holstine and our excellent city staff, and have won our city statewide recognition.

We are writing to ask the Council, as it reviews applications and interviews candidates for Brisbane's new city manager, to ensure that the incoming manager will prioritize sustainability issues to the maximum extent possible in crafting the city's budget and hiring and managing staff. Large development projects loom, and how they are permitted and built will have a great deal to do with how Brisbane weathers climate-induced changes in the years ahead. We hope the Council will rigorously question candidates about how they will work with Council, staff and the community to ensure that new development will be consistent with rigorous emissions and water-use targets and that the safety of Baylands residents and employees will be protected from hazards at legacy sites.

Brisbane's city manager plays an important role as a Trustee of the Habitat Conservation Plan for San Bruno Mountain. We would particularly like the Council to discuss this role with City Manager candidates, as the mountain and its rare and endangered species face continued threats from species invasions, climate change and pollution. While the incoming city manager will have a lot on their plate, we hope the Council will impress upon that person the significance of this role in helping to oversee the best use of the funds set aside to protect the mountain's unique and rare ecosystem.