



# SIERRA CLUB

LOMA PRIETA CHAPTER

San Mateo, Santa Clara and San Benito Counties

August 21, 2020

Brisbane City Council and Staff  
City of Brisbane  
50 Park Pl  
Brisbane, CA 94005

**via email:** CouncilMembers@brisbaneca.org, ipadilla@ci.brisbane.ca.us, planning@brisbaneca.org

**Subject: Proposed New Residential Development at the Lower Acres**

It has been brought to the attention of the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter that Brisbane is considering a new development that pushes development further up the hillside into a new area adjoining the Wildlife Urban Interface (WUI).

After review by our Sustainable Land Use Committee and our Forest Protection committee, we are concerned that this development appears to conflict with best practices for both environmental sustainability, and basic safety. The proposed development encroaches into the Wildland Urban Interface in a manner that will displace a variety of animals, disturb the hillslopes with significant grading and create a long-term liability to provide services to houses at the edge of a city known for its picturesque, but difficult to navigate, mountainside streets. The local environment is windy, and prone to drought. These homes will be exposed to high and rising risk of fire and will be challenging to reach in a timely manner when they eventually are threatened. The area has also experienced landslides, and an extended period of stripping cover vegetation and trees, followed by deploying construction equipment to the site, may pose a significant risk in the event of storm or earthquake.

While we appreciate Brisbane's effort to contribute to meeting the region's serious deficit of housing, we would respectfully suggest that it would be more productive to look at producing housing as infill or re-development with multi-family housing along Bayshore Blvd, with access to bus routes and Bayshore Caltrain. This could provide significantly more, and more-affordable housing, with less impact to the environment, lower infrastructure service cost over the life of the buildings, and lower risk of misadventure due to too much or too little rain.

Respectfully submitted,

Gita Dev, Sustainable Land Use Committee

Cc: James Eggers, Executive Director, Loma Prieta Chapter; Gladwyn d'Souza, Co-Chair, Conservation Committee