

January 9, 2010

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TO: BBCAG

FROM: Clara Johnson BBCAG Chairwoman

Subject: Record of Emails Related to the Request by Member Barnes for advice from the BBCAG regarding the possible siting of a high school on the Baylands.

Hello BBCAG

I have assembled some of the emails that have been exchanged with regard to this issue. You will find M. Barnes request to us, the BBCAG request for assistance to regulators and the three responses that we have received to date. They provide some interesting information and some helpful suggestions. The DTSC has not yet responded except to say that they were referring the request to someone else within their organization to make a response.

Tuesday, September 1, 2009 2:34 PM

From: "Michael Barnes" <mgb5@mindspring.com>

To: clara-a-johnson@sbcglobal.net

Hi Clara,

I've been part of the parents group trying to start a charter high school in Brisbane. I have heard concerns about locating a HS on the Baylands. While the CAG may not make land-use recommendations, I am hoping the CAG could consider a few questions that might serve to address parents concerns and focus the CAG's thoughts on the Baylands.

Assume sensitive human receptors, 13-18 year olds on site for 8-10 hours a day, M-F for 3/4 of a year for 4 years

Where are the least polluted locations to place sensitive human receptors?

What are the current known hazards of these locations?

What are the locations with the highest concentrations of known contaminants that would prove harmful?

What locations or areas have inadequate information?

Thanks,

Michael Barnes

Dear _____

The Brisbane Baylands Community Advisory Group, BBCAG, exists to provide an open forum and community-based input from the communities of Brisbane, Daly City and San Francisco and to advise the agencies charged with the remediation actions on three contiguous sites commonly referred to as the Brisbane Baylands.

The BBCAG has been asked by a community advocacy group to make a recommendation on whether there is a site on the Baylands that would be a safe place to site a high school. The safety that the request refers to is related to the toxic contamination of the land or the lack of toxic contamination of some areas. Their request referenced the adolescent population of a high school, their status as sensitive receptors and the four or more years they would spend there.

The BBCAG does not feel qualified to respond to this request. We ask you to respond to this question for the Baylands area under your jurisdiction.

We will forward your response to the inquiring citizens.

We appreciate the attention that you give this matter and we await your response.

Sincerely

Clara Johnson

Chairwoman, BBCAG

RE: Brisbane Baylands Community Advisory Group Request for Assistance pg 3

From:

"Vic Pal" <VPal@waterboards.ca.gov>

[View contact details](#)

To:

"clara johnson" <clara-a-johnson@sbcglobal.net>

Cc:

"Alec Naugle" <ANaugle@waterboards.ca.gov>, "Bruce Wolfe"

<BWolfe@waterboards.ca.gov>, "Terry Seward" <TSeward@waterboards.ca.gov>

Hi Clara,

Good to hear from you and thanks for your question! In California, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) regulates the siting of all schools thru their School Property Evaluation and Cleanup Division.

DTSC is responsible for assessing, investigating and ensuring cleaning up at proposed school sites. It ensures that selected properties are free of contamination or, if the properties were previously contaminated, that they have been cleaned up to a level that protects the students and staff who will occupy the new school.

Janet Naito at DTSC (510-540-3833, jnaito@dtsc.ca.gov) has been my contact for other school sites in our region.

Happy Holidays!

Vic

Tuesday, December 15, 2009 11:02 AM

From:

"Jamie Kendall" <JKendall@baaqmd.gov>

[View contact details](#)

To:

"clara johnson" <clara-a-johnson@sbcglobal.net>Ms. Johnson,

This is certainly not my area of expertise either and I'm not sure the District takes a position on such matters. Sounds like something our planning or engineering departments may be better equipped to answer to at least to let me know who to refer you to. Let me check around and get back to you in a few days.

To the best of my understanding, when a facility seeks to add or modify a source under our jurisdiction, we can weigh in but I don't believe we have any jurisdiction in siting schools. Funny thing is that if the school planned to install a generator (as many new buildings do), it would likely require a full permit review by our agency and would become a permitted source. Diesel particulate and wood smoke are our current hot button source types these days.

I'll be in touch. I hope all is well with you. Jamie

Wednesday, February 10, 2010 8:46 AM

From:

"David Vintze" <DVintze@baaqmd.gov>

[Add sender to Contacts](#)

To:

clara-a-johnson@sbcglobal.net

Clara – Jamie Kendall forwarded your email to me. I am the Air Quality Planning Manager at the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and may be able to help answer your questions. Please call me at 415-749-5179 to discuss. Thanks Dave

Dave Vintze Air Quality Planning Manager

Bay Area Air Quality Management District

939 Ellis Street San Francisco, California 94109 415-749-5179

From:

"Dean Peterson" <dpeterson@co.sanmateo.ca.us>

[View contact details](#)

To:

"clara johnson" <clara-a-johnson@sbcglobal.net>

Hi Clara - my apologies for the delay in responding to your email. Prior to siting a school anywhere on the Baylands, a full health risk assessment should be performed, and while it may seem that the students would be the driving force in evaluation of health risk, it would more conservative to use the teachers and other employees of the school as the population more at risk. Most risk based models that I have seen would not put much risk at a short-term exposure of 4 or 5 years as applied to a generally healthy age group (high-school), A more conservative approach would be to focus on risk those individuals that may spend their entire career at the location -.

The USEPA has a very good assessment tool that should be used prior to siting a school anywhere. The assessment tool evaluates many factors as bulleted below

potential air, soil and water contamination on school sites; traffic and busing requirements that affect ambient air quality; safe walking and bicycling routes, which affect opportunities for physical activity; and play spaces and sport facilities that also influence opportunities for physical activity.

This guide can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/schools/siting.html> and the BBCAG may wish to consider recommending that prior to siting a school on the Baylands, that the approving agencies require such an assessment to take place.

If it is a public school then main approving agency is the California Division of State Architect. **Pg 5**

I hope this was helpful. May you and yours have a Safe and Healthy Holiday Season.

Dean D. Peterson PE, REHS
Director Environmental Health
(650) 372-6222
<http://www.smhealth.org/environ/index.shtml>

Be Ready for the Unexpected www.smcready.org

clara johnson <clara-a-johnson@sbcglobal.net> 1/6/2010 1:01 PM >>>
Hi Wayne

2. I think that you recall that BBCAG sent letters to four regulators about the advisability of siting a high school on the Baylands. We have received three replies, from RWQCB, BAAQMD and Sm Mateo County Environmental Health. We have not received a response from DTSC. RWQCB sent a reply stating that DTSC was in charge of determining whether siting a school in a contaminated area was advisable. When do you think that DTSC will respond?

We will distribute the responses that have been received to the membership on 1/19.

Thanks again for all your help.

Clara Johnson, Chair

BBCAG:
Please note DTSC sent a message that our request had been referred to the proper department. Unfortunately I can't locate that message but it arrived after 1/6/10. It is the last word from the DTSC.

Clara Johnson Chair