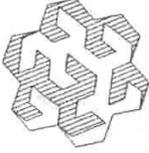


## EXHIBIT 2: Letter from Thomas Reid Associates



# THOMAS REID ASSOCIATES

560 WAVERLEY STREET, SUITE 201  
P.O. BOX 880 PALO ALTO, CA 94301

Tel: 650-327-0429  
Fax: 650-327-4024

*Environmental Impact Analysis • Ecological Studies • Resource Management*

Fred Smith  
Assistant to the City Manager  
City of Brisbane  
50 Park Place  
Brisbane, CA 94005-1310

March 3, 2004

*Re: Brisbane Acres 43 and 65 habitat and buffer value assessment*

Dear Mr. Smith,

At your request, I visited Parcels 43 and 65 in the Brisbane Acres on February 4 and February 26. It is my understanding that you are interested in purchasing these parcels for conservation purposes and would like to know their values for butterfly habitat or as native vegetation that could function as a buffer zone.

Parcel 43 is approximately 300 x 150 feet in size and is located on a south facing slope in the area known as the Southeast Ridge (See attached map). It is located just below the ridgeline. The parcel is composed of grassland habitat and is dominated by storksbill filaree, annual grasses and a variety of abundant native forbs (Table 1). This parcel also contains areas of rocky outcroppings and shallow soils which tend to protect native grasses and forbs from being outcompeted by annual grasses.

Parcel 43 has value as butterfly habitat for both the Callippe silverspot and the Mission blue butterflies. It is located in an area that is known to be excellent habitat for the federally endangered Callippe silverspot due to documented butterfly observations, the abundance of the host plant golden violet (*Viola pedunculata*), and the parcel's proximity to the ridgeline. Callippe silverspot is a hilltopping species which means that the butterflies congregate on hilltops and ridges in order to mate. Eggs are laid on the golden violet plants on the slopes below the ridge. This necessitates the preservation of ridgelines and associated slopes harboring host plants, as vital to the ongoing persistence of this butterfly on San Bruno Mountain.

The federally endangered Mission blue butterfly is also known to inhabit the Southeast Ridge. One of the three host plants for the Mission blue is the silver bush lupine (*Lupinus albifrons* var. *albifrons*) and several of these plants are present in Parcel 43.

Fennel and French broom are threats to the butterfly habitat in Parcel 43. Currently these exotics are only found as sparsely distributed seedlings. Future exotics control work will be necessary to ensure that these plants do not cause a deterioration in the butterfly habitat value of the parcel.

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*Brisbane Acres 43 and 65 habitat and buffer value assessment*

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Parcel 65 is approximately 400 x 100 feet in size and is located on a steep northwest facing slope in the Southeast Ridge. The parcel is well below the main ridgeline and is near the edge of a suburban Brisbane neighborhood. There is a thin swath of French broom along the disturbed access route to the property. This parcel has a high amount of plant diversity (Table 2). The interior of the parcel is composed primarily of native scrub habitat. The upper portions of the property consist of grassland vegetation and the varied lupine (*Lupinus variicolor*), another host plant for the Mission blue butterfly, is present. Parcel 65 is not located in an area that has been surveyed for butterflies, and therefore it is unknown if Mission blue are present. This grassland area also provides habitat for the San Francisco wallflower (*Erysimum franciscanum*) which is listed by the California Native Plant Society as a List 4 species. List 4 is a Watch List and means that the plant has limited distribution.

The value of Parcel 65 is both as an area dominated by native coastal scrub vegetation that functions as a buffer zone to butterfly habitat higher up on San Bruno Mountain and as grassland habitat for the varied lupine, a Mission blue butterfly host plant, and the San Francisco wallflower, a plant with limited distribution. French broom seedlings and cotoneaster shrubs are mostly limited to the edge of the parcel, however, these exotics will need to be controlled in order to prevent deterioration of the native scrub and grassland communities. The establishment of a buffer zone that is maintained free of exotics is paramount to protecting and maintaining the grassland butterfly habitat on San Bruno Mountain. Coastal scrub functions well as a buffer zone since exotics are slower to invade and to further colonize the dense coastal scrub habitat.

If you have further questions, please contact me at (650) 327-0429 x92.

Sincerely,

*Wendy Knight*

Wendy Knight  
Biologist



Thomas Reid Associates, Environmental Consultants  
560 Waverley St., Suite 201 (Box 880) Palo Alto, California 94301

tel: 650-327-0429  
fax: 650-327-4024

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Brisbane Acres 43 and 65 habitat and buffer value assessment

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<b>Table 1. Plants observed in Parcel 43</b>	
<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>
<i>Chlorogalum pomeridianum</i>	soap plant
<i>Dudleya farinosa</i>	powdery dudleya
<i>Erodium botrys</i>	storksbill filaree
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	sweet fennel
<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	French broom
<i>Lomatium utriculatum</i>	common lomatium
<i>Lupinus albifrons</i> var. <i>albifrons</i>	silver lupine
<i>Monardella</i> sp.	coyote mint
<i>Sidalcea malvaeflora</i>	checkerbloom
<i>Viola pedunculata</i>	golden violet
	annual grasses

<b>Table 2. Plants observed in Parcel 65</b>	
<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	yarrow
<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	pearly everlasting
<i>Aralia californica</i>	elklover
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	coyote brush
<i>Briza minor</i>	rattlesnake grass
<i>Cardamine californica</i> var. <i>californica</i>	milk maids
<i>Chlorogalum pomeridianum</i>	soap plant
<i>Cotoneaster</i> sp.	Cotoneaster
<i>Dodecatheon hendersonii</i>	shooting star
<i>Dudleya cymosa</i>	common dudleya



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<i>Eriogonum latifolium</i>	coast buckwheat
<i>Eriophyllum staechadifolium</i>	lizard tail
<i>Erysimum franciscanum</i>	San Francisco wallflower
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	California poppy
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	sweet fennel
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	wood strawberry
<i>Fritillaria affinis</i>	checker lily
<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	French broom
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	toyon
<i>Lomatium utriculatum</i>	common lomatium
<i>Lonicera hispidula</i> var. <i>vacillans</i>	hairy honeysuckle
<i>Lupinus variicolor</i>	varied lupine
<i>Marah</i> sp.	wild cucumber
<i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i>	sticky monkey flower
<i>Phacelia californica</i>	California phacelia
<i>Polypodium californicum</i>	California polypoidy
<i>Potentilla anserina</i> ssp. <i>pacifica</i>	Pacific cinquefoil
<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i>	holly leaf cherry
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> var. <i>pubescens</i>	brackenfern
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	coast live oak
<i>Ranunculus californicus</i>	buttercup
<i>Rhamnus californica</i>	coffeeberry
<i>Ribes californicum</i>	hillside gooseberry
<i>Rubus discolor</i>	California blackberry
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	sheep sorrel
<i>Salvia spathacea</i>	hummingbird sage
<i>Scabiosa atropurpurea</i>	pincushion plant



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<i>Scrophularia californica</i>	California bee plant
<i>Sidalcea malvaeflora</i>	checkerbloom
<i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i>	poison oak
<i>Vicia</i> sp.	pea
<i>Festuca californica</i>	California fescue



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