
From: Melissa Hayes <>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2016 3:03 PM
To: info@PlanBayArea.org
Subject: Comments on Upcoming Plan Bay Area Update

As a long time resident of the Bay Area (48 years) I have seen my share of changes which is what motivates me to add my voice to others about the ongoing refinement of the Plan Bay Area.

I applaud your efforts to create a regional plan that will prevent unfettered and ill reasoned growth in this beautiful part of the world.

I have reviewed the different scenarios that will be under discussion at the upcoming workshops and here are my thoughts in response to them.

Housing. Please, minimize sprawling housing developments that create homes that are not designed to meet the challenges of climate change. For example, solar rather than oil based energy, gray water recycling, minimize the use of cars to access schools, shopping and employment. Instead, concentrate housing development more in our existing urban areas using the same designs recommended above and where access to amenities and employment is easier to create without relying on cars and freeways.

Open Space and Agricultural Land. We are fortunate to have relatively easy access to outdoor spaces. It is a feature that makes the Bay Area attractive to its residents. However, one proposed scenario would allow for massive growth that would diminish undeveloped open green spaces and agricultural land. With growing effects of climate change and drought here in California, we must rethink how we are going to feed our Bay Area population and eliminating agricultural land is foolish and irresponsible. Also trees contribute to carbon balance so reducing green spaces is foolish and short sighted.

Thanks for including my comments with the many others you will receive.

Melissa Hayes