



July 20, 2021

Metropolitan Transportation Commission Public Information
Submitted via email: info@planbayarea.org, eircomments@bayareametro.gov

Re: Plan Bay Area 2050, and the Draft EIR for Plan Bay Area 2050

Dear MTC Commissioners and Staff,

Since 1962, we at Green Foothills have worked to protect the open spaces, farmlands, and natural resources of San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties for the benefit of all through advocacy, education, and grassroots action. We support the regional approach taken by MTC and Plan Bay Area to protect open space for a wide variety of reasons, including the reduction of carbon emissions, increased carbon sequestration, and better climate resilience.

Green Foothills supports and endorses the comment letter from Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority (attached to this email) and refer you to the letter for the details in the suggestions.

In particular, we support using Alternative 1 as the selected strategy for Plan Bay Area, or failing that, incorporating as much of Alternative 1's transit-rich focus into the selected strategy. For the reasons stated by SCVOSA, this Alternative minimizes pressure on greenfields throughout the Bay Area and generally results in an environmentally superior outcome.

We support the withdrawal of highway widening funding in Alternative 1. However, resilience projects associated with highway widening but not including widening in the preferred project should be funded.

Please contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Schmidt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Brian Schmidt
Legislative Advocacy Director

Local. Vocal. Effective.

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