

Comments on Plan Bay Area

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To: info@planbayarea.org <info@planbayarea.org>

External Email

Hi there,

Here are my comments on Plan Bay Area.

HOUSING

H5. Integrate affordable housing into all major housing projects. Require a baseline of 10-20% of new market-rate housing developments of five units or more to be affordable to low-income households

Can we make this 20-30% of new market rate housing? And can we require at least half of that low income housing to be onsite and not in lieu fees?

Can we have a "right of return" to homes for people of color (especially Black folks) who were displaced?

(That is something Friends of Adeline has advocated for.)

On affordable housing, there are a lot of funds with "impact investors" who want to do good and do well. Knowing that people can earn a return by investing in affordable housing is something to explore further. I suggest ABAG/MTC talk to Lauryn Agnew of the Bay Area Impact Investing Initiative about this: <lauryn@coastside.net> I can provide a intro as well.

ECONOMY

Recommendations look good. EC1 and EC3 especially.

TRANSIT

Recommendations look good. **When will BART go to San Jose?**

ENVIRONMENT

EN5. Protect and manage high-value conservation lands. Provide strategic matching funds to help conserve and maintain high-priority natural and agricultural lands, including but not limited to Priority Conservation Areas and wildland-urban interface areas.

It would also be really great to go beyond the land acknowledgment of the native peoples of the bay area and integrate that into the conservation plan. I for one would like to see a park/museum led by the Sogorea Te land trust on the West Berkeley Shellmound, which is currently a parking lot near 4th street high end shops, which I think is what the indigenous people want:

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Native-American-site-in-Berkeley-slated-for-260-15592611.php>

<https://shellmound.org/>

What would it be like to turn over our regional parks to indigenous control? Can that be assessed?

There is a similar proposal I saw in *The Atlantic* to turn over America's National Parks to the indigenous tribes from which they were stolen. I am a Mayflower descendant so my ancestors were part of that in the 1600s in the East Coast of the U.S.

Details on the national version: <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2021/05/return-the-national-parks-to-the-tribes/618395/>

Best,

Katharine Bierce

Bay area resident since 2013