

ABAG's plan for PaloAlto

Linval DePass [REDACTED]

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To: EIR Comments <eircomments@bayareametro.gov>

External Email

Dear ABAG Executive Committee,

I am a US citizen, a long-time resident of Palo Alto and a major taxpayer since 1984. I am writing to express my strong disagreement with the plans that ABAG is preparing to implement with respect to new housing in the Bay Area in general and in Palo Alto in particular. As a professional biologist, I am aware that every ecosystem has a limited carrying capacity, which represents the number of individuals that the ecosystem can support. ABAG's plan does not seem to be concerned about the number of people who can survive comfortably in Palo Alto. On the contrary, ABAG seems to think that we can accommodate an infinite number of new residents as long as we build any kind of housing for them. There is no concern for the severe drought that currently exists in California and especially in the Bay Area that is requiring significant reductions in water consumption by the existing population. Likewise, there is no concern for the amount of new traffic nor the space for parking that this plan would entail. Nor is there concern for the quality of life of the people who have invested their assets in Palo Alto because they enjoy living in Palo Alto. Who is expected to pay for the required new infrastructure, the cost of new roads, schools, etc, that we would need to accommodate the additional population?

The concerns I have expressed above would be less valid if Palo Alto and the surrounding communities like Los Altos and Mountain View had not already increased their supply of new housing very significantly in the past several years. As a resident since 1984, I would be happy to provide a guided tour to any ABAG official who would like to see the new housing developments that have arisen in recent years and those that are now being constructed as I write this letter.

I strongly urge the ABAG Executive Committee to respect the right of Palo Alto residents to retain local zoning control and the right to live a peaceful life free from unreasonable pressures from the State and other entities such as ABAG.

Sincerely,

Linval R. DePass, Ph. D.