

Plan Bay Area 2050

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To: EIR Comments <eircomments@bayareametro.gov>

External Email

Dear MTC/ABAG people:

What I have read is this:

ABAG, the unelected regional planning agency, decided that new jobs and housing should go where jobs are already concentrated — to jobs- rich areas like Palo Alto. ***When setting those goals, ABAG blatantly ignored California Government codes requiring them to hold open meetings to explore ways to disperse jobs throughout the Bay Area.*** After approving their methodology in September 2019, they quickly announced they wouldn't even look at the benefits of dispersing new jobs around the Bay Area, preferring to put both new jobs and new housing in one of the costliest areas of the country. They even refused to consider the impacts of changing work patterns like working remotely.

if this is true, then I have to demand, as a Bay Area resident, that you return to the drawing board and follow the codes, and hold those open meetings, and find ways to disperse those jobs. As well as ways to ensure affordable, sustainable housing and good transit are built, that will benefit the entire Bay Area and its entire population.

Sincerely,

Virginia Smedberg

Palo Alto