



August 5, 2020

Bay Area Metro Center
375 Beale Street, Suite 800
San Francisco, CA 94105-2066

RE: Plan Bay Area 2050 development

On behalf of the East Bay Economic Development Alliance, the East Bay Leadership Council and Innovation Tri-Valley Leadership Group, which represent a broad range of private and public sector employers in both Alameda and Contra Costa counties, we are writing to express our appreciation for your efforts to develop a comprehensive Plan Bay Area 2050. This Plan will help address both immediate and long-term transportation, housing, economic, and environmental needs in the greater Bay Area region.

The East Bay is one of the world's most vibrant economies and fastest growing regions with direct access to global markets, talent, and capital. Our diverse communities, skilled workforce, and innovative business climate are some of the reasons why companies of all sizes and types invest and thrive in the East Bay. Our region's 2.8 million residents also account for over a third of the total 9-county Bay Area population, yet more than a third of these residents commute outside of our sub-region for work. The East Bay also supports a high share of cross-regional commute trips (roughly 33% of regional commute trips pass through Alameda County, and this is expected to increase as the number of mega-commuters continues to grow).

In examining the Economic Strategies outlined in your Draft Blueprint, one of the objectives which we support is shifting the location of jobs. The current jobs-housing imbalance in the Bay Area has led to displacement of workers, increased congestion, and a host of environmental issues. To address these issues, we believe that more vibrant commercial centers need to be expanded in locations that are in closer proximity to their workforce where residential growth has occurred in recent years. Considering that the East Bay has been the main catalyst for housing construction, the economic element of the Plan should prioritize our region for future job growth.

Some of the strategies outlined in the Blueprint which show promise include incentivizing the placement of public institutions and sector-based incubators programs aligning employers with the local workforce in housing rich areas, retaining key industrial lands by providing supportive resources towards the creation of Priority Production Areas, investments in advanced manufacturing and related job training, and allowing greater commercial densities in growth geographies beyond just the urban core. Other strategies we feel should be considered are investments in physical and broadband infrastructure in economically-distressed areas through public-private partnerships, providing catalytic job-generating seed

funding and regional resources to promote trade and investment activity, and including the implementation of federal opportunity zones, foreign trade zones (FTZ), and the redevelopment of aging industrial stock in the East Bay.

Accordingly, we also believe that transportation investments to support regionally significant priorities and projects in the East Bay such as Express Buses, Lanes, and Shared Mobility Hubs on the I-580 and I-680 Corridors, reconstructing the I-580/I-680 interchange, constructing Valley Link in the Altamont Corridor, facilitating goods movement in the Vasco Road/Byron Highway Corridor, and improving the Capitol Corridor should be key components of the Bay Area's future growth strategies. These regionally significant projects will connect housing to jobs, strengthen critical goods movement infrastructure, and provide the seamless connectivity, worker equity, and emissions reductions that Plan Bay Area seeks.

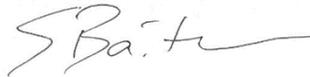
In closing, we believe that the East Bay's central location in the Northern California megaregion is a key asset. We have an extensive physical infrastructure which supports exports and goods movement with direct access to domestic and international markets. The East Bay is home to three national laboratories and two global port which provide significant employment and investments to the Bay Area. Therefore, making investments to further strengthen job creation, workforce accessibility, and infrastructure in the East Bay are critical to sustaining the Bay Area's economic growth.

We look forward to continuing our dialogue with you around this important work as we embark on a new Plan for the next 30 years.

Warmest regards,



Kristin Connelly
President & CEO
East Bay Leadership Council



Stephen Baiter
Executive Director
East Bay Economic Development Alliance



Lynn Naylor
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