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**Subject:** ABAG Executive Board: Regional Growth Forecast  
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**\*External Email\***

Dear ABAG Executive Board:

As elected officials, thank you for your work on behalf of communities.

The Regional Growth Forecast prepared by staff working on Plan Bay Area 2050 has far-reaching impact. For that reason, I joined the PBA2050 Working Group call on Tuesday, April 7. The call confirmed my sense the staff operates with good intentions, but the process and recommendations are flawed.

*We have a saying around here... the process determines the outcome. If you're getting bad outcomes, focus on fixing the process that leads to the bad outcomes. If you have bad processes, they won't magically lead to good outcomes.* Black Door Renovation <https://www.blackdoorrenovation.com/post/process-determines-outcome>

Before you recommend Board adoption on April 16th, consider these elements of a faulty process:

1. Failure to acknowledge the drastic impact Covid-19 will have on everything, including transportation, housing, economy, environment, and cross-cutting plans to generate new revenues.
2. Forecasts developed for years 2030 and beyond are irrelevant as we move into a whole new world of public transportation being a threat to public health, migration out of the state, a new normal for people to work virtually or from home, and a loss of appetite for new taxes or bonds.
3. Continued failure to gather input from locally elected officials and community leaders in a respectful process of public participation.
4. Reliance on "talking at and down" to audiences rather than engaging them in thoughtful dialogue that includes listening, discussion, critical thinking, and problem solving.
5. For the Working Group meeting April 7th, failure to provide documents in advance, failure to provide evidence to support assumptions, and failure to provide links to sources.

The momentum to keep rolling forward as if nothing has changed is a missed opportunity to be mindful of the moment. The legislature's decision to suspend work until May is a model

suitable to this body. Planning for 2050 is a laudable goal, but pushing timelines in April, 2020 for a thirty year plan is a non-essential action. Use this opportunity to address shortcomings in the process and increase the chances of reaching a sustainable, trusted outcome.

We all want long-term solutions. This Regional Growth Forecast does not get us there.

Best wishes,  
Susan Kirsch, President  
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