

## Comments on the PBA 2050 draft EIR

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To: EIR Comments <eircomments@bayareametro.gov>

**\*External Email\***

Dear Bay Area Metro Staff;

Please submit the article cited below, and this brief introduction, as public comment to the PBA 2050 Draft EIR. The article represents a brief narrative preview of a UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the IPCC, draft of a 4000 page climate update due in February, 2022.

The draft itself is not yet available to the public, but the information it contains is not new to PBA 2050. Just not seriously considered.

Fortunately this report covers the same timeframe as PBA 2050, and its findings are directly pertinent to the context of the plan.

While PBA 2050 has access to an extraordinary amount of analysis of all aspects of the coming 30 years, it appears to use this information selectively; avoiding many profound, overarching climate projections as “outside the scope of the plan”. Truth be told, the decisions we enact now have a great deal to do with the success of PBA 2050 as well as the resilience and sustainability in many decades following PBA 2050.

One example is the decision in the Draft EIR to utilize seawalls at the Bay shore, to “protect existing assets”. The IPCC points out that the sea level rise criteria, and resulting decisions regarding the coming 30 years, are wholly dependent on our world human culture holding global warming within one to two degrees. The effects of failing to do this; something we have as yet to master; are spelled out. Instead of the 2-3’ of sea level rise predicted in the draft EIR, it can rise up to 43’, based on the loss of Greenland glaciers alone. There are many other profound effects; but we have 30 years.

I have encouraged decentralization as our only viable long-range initiative to retain our culture, given the complexity of stopping the warming of an entire planet. Any effort to hold back rising seas is presently fully known to be temporary at best; expensive, endless, and ultimately vain. Our true challenge is no less than progressively relocating the Bay Area societal foci ; a planned retreat from the inevitable. The longer this inevitable fact is met with denial; the more severe, the deeper, the long-lasting our future emergency. In the words of Joe Romm, with “Houston Tomorrow”; “We basically have three choices: mitigation, adaptation and suffering. We’re going to do some of each. The question is what the mix is going to be. The more mitigation we do, the less adaptation will be required and the less suffering there will be.”

In line with the alternatives, I did a survey of lands atop the mountains surrounding the Bay. There are a number of large ranches currently for sale, and many more rolling acres available to a government entity that chose to develop a planned, viable option for those that follow us. So, 2050 can either be seen as what we choose to do as the minimal changes necessary to continue our present lives; or as the interval during which we prepare long range strategies far beyond 2050. It is restoring to the spirit to look at those lands, and I encourage each of you to do so, from your desktop, by researching Bay Area ranchlands.

I have oversimplified this as the spending of each public dollar one time for its maximum effect; rather than spending that dollar 100’s of times; later; desperately trying to achieve the effects of that single dollar.

<https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20210623-the-worst-is-yet-to-come-draft-un-climate-report-warns-of-drastic-changes-over-30-years>

Thanks,

Bill Mayben