

# ClimatePlan

July 16, 2021

Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Bay Area Metro Center  
375 Beale Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

## Re: Plan Bay Area - Full Draft and DEIR

Dear MTC Commissioners and Staff,

ClimatePlan appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft implementation plan of Plan Bay Area 2050. **We strongly urge you to prioritize the strategies that focus on amplifying community voices and partnering with other stakeholders (local jurisdictions and equity-based organizations) to center the needs of the equity priority areas.** We also want to highlight additional considerations that would enhance climate resilience and connect the water supply to land use and transportation planning.

Across the state, historic racist land use and transportation decisions shaped public investment, access to resources, and wealth accumulation. The outcome has been a failed transportation system, increased housing burden, and aging infrastructure for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color and low-income communities -- the Bay Area is no exception. We recognize that MTC also acknowledges these inequities, and we strongly urge you prioritizes the strategies that amplify community voice. For transportation, these strategies include community-led transportation enhancements, advance regional vision zero policy, implementing more active transportation projects, and enhance local transit frequency, capacity, and reliability.

Whenever possible, MTC must be encouraged to pair investment with greater renter protections. For water resilience, MTC should prioritize the strategies that led to this performance outcome: "There is sufficient funding to upgrade 650,000 of the region's oldest single and multi-family homes."<sup>1</sup> This is vital because it invests in the infrastructure of these under-resourced areas. Not only do they bear the burden now, but a new study shows that communities that are low-income communities are less likely to be able to pay for the aftermath of flooding.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.planbayarea.org/sites/default/files/documents/2021-05/Draft\\_PBA2050\\_Performance\\_Report\\_May2021.pdf](https://www.planbayarea.org/sites/default/files/documents/2021-05/Draft_PBA2050_Performance_Report_May2021.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://woodsinsitute.stanford.edu/system/files/publications/Coastal\\_Flood\\_Adaptation\\_Brief.pdf](https://woodsinsitute.stanford.edu/system/files/publications/Coastal_Flood_Adaptation_Brief.pdf)

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Prioritizing the above strategies will be vital. We also believe that there need to be additional considerations that would better integrate water into the implementation plan. We commend MTC's evaluation of water use in the Horizon process and the Draft Environmental Impact report. Still, the implementation plan does not fully reflect the work that has been done.

- Within the implementation plan, MTC can show a stronger commitment or alignment in partnering with agencies working on Bay Area Integrated Water Management (BAIRWM), DAC efforts. These efforts focus on DAC communities and directly align public funding to community projects to improve water resilience. This commitment aligns with strategy 9G, primarily since the BAIRWM already has formed strong partnerships with community-based organizations.
- Another action that should be taken is to include water agencies and equity-based organizations in the conversations when evaluating how to support jurisdictions to increase the supply of affordable housing. As you know, the drought has pushed questions about whether there is enough water supply. If water agencies are developing water moratoriums, there might be a way for them to exclude (or make special accommodations) for affordable housing.

We believe that prioritizing the equity strategies and including these considerations in your implementation actions would strengthen your goal to create a healthier, vibrant, resilient, and affordable Bay Area for everyone. Again, we appreciate this opportunity to comment.

Thank you,

Nailah Pope-Harden  
Executive Director