Hi there,

Here are my comments on Plan Bay Area.

HOUSING
H5. Integrate affordable housing into all major housing projects. Require a baseline of 10-20% of new market-rate housing developments of five units or more to be affordable to low-income households

Can we make this 20-30% of new market rate housing? And can we require at least half of that low income housing to be onsite and not in lieu fees?

Can we have a "right of return" to homes for people of color (especially Black folks) who were displaced?
(That is something Friends of Adeline has advocated for.)

On affordable housing, there are a lot of funds with "impact investors" who want to do good and do well. Knowing that people can earn a return by investing in affordable housing is something to explore further. I suggest ABAG/MTC talk to Lauryn Agnew of the Bay Area Impact Investing Initiative about this: <lauryn@coastside.net>
I can provide an intro as well.

ECONOMY
Recommendations look good. EC1 and EC3 especially.

TRANSIT
Recommendations look good. When will BART go to San Jose?

ENVIRONMENT
EN5. Protect and manage high-value conservation lands. Provide strategic matching funds to help conserve and maintain high-priority natural and agricultural lands, including but not limited to Priority Conservation Areas and wildland-urban interface areas.

It would also be really great to go beyond the land acknowledgment of the native peoples of the bay area and integrate that into the conservation plan. I for one would like to see a park/museum led by the Sogorea Te land trust on the West Berkeley Shellmound, which is currently a parking lot near 4th street high end shops, which I think is what the indigenous people want:
https://shellmound.org/
What would it be like to turn over our regional parks to indigenous control? Can that be assessed?
There is a similar proposal I saw in The Atlantic to turn over America's National Parks to the indigenous tribes from which they were stolen. I am a Mayflower descendant so my ancestors were part of that in the 1600s in the East Coast of the U.S. Details on the national version: https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2021/05/return-the-national-parks-to-the-tribes/618395/

Best,

Katharine Bierce
Bay area resident since 2013