



July 20, 2021

Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Bay Area Metro Center
375 Beale Street, Suite 800
San Francisco, CA 94105

Attn: Plan Bay Area 2050 - Draft Plan/Draft EIR Comment

Dear MTC Commissioners and Staff,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Plan Bay Area 2050. We appreciate the leadership of MTC in creating this vision for the region and including environmental considerations such as climate resilience. We were pleased to see equity, resilience, partnership, and collaboration emphasized in the Implementation Plan (pg. 158).

TOGETHER Bay Area's members are working on nature-based solutions to climate change, like healthy wetlands and redwood forests to sequester carbon, living levees to adapt to rising seas, and healthy forest management to reduce risk of catastrophic wildfires. We need to harness the power of natural systems and ecological functions to address the challenges the region faces. Natural and working lands are part of the solution, therefore, and should be prioritized in the region's planning efforts. We urge MTC to prioritize nature-based solutions, and the natural and working lands necessary, to tackle housing and transportation challenges and achieve the region's climate change goals.

We are supportive of the state and national goal of conserving 30% of land and waters by 2030. However, the Bay Area conservation community set the ambitious goal of 50% of lands and waters conserved by 2050, through a multi-year process that engaged over 100 scientists and conservation practitioners. The Conservation Lands Network is a regional conservation strategy that focuses on the conservation of lands essential for the region's biodiversity and supporting ecological function. We believe the goal of 50% by 2050 should be used in Plan Bay Area 2050, given the diversity of habitat found in the Bay Area, the progress already made toward the 30x30 goal, and the need to protect human and natural communities residing here. We also believe that the Priority Conservation Area (PCA) program is an important implementation strategy for realizing this goal, and would look forward to significantly increased funding for that program over previous years.

TOGETHER Bay Area is a regional coalition of nonprofits, public agencies, and Indigenous Tribes working together for climate resilient lands and social equity. Our partners and members are implementing on-the-ground nature-based solutions. Cross-jurisdictional, landscape-scale

TOGETHER BAY AREA

ecological restoration and stewardship require strong partnerships to support conservation and stewardship goals, and we look forward to collaborating with you during the next phase of Plan Bay Area 2050.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Annie Burke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Annie" and last name "Burke" clearly distinguishable.

Annie Burke
Executive Director
annie@togetherbayarea.org
510 333 7367 cell



TOGETHER Bay Area members*

- Alameda County Resource Conservation District
- Amah Mutsun Land Trust
- Bay Area Ridge Trail Council
- Brown Girl Surf
- Bull Valley Agricultural Center
- California Academy of Sciences
- California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC)
- California Mountain Biking Coalition
- Claremont Canyon Conservancy
- Coastside Land Trust
- David R. Brower, Ronald V. Dellums Institute for Sustainable Policy Studies
- East Bay Municipal Utility District
- East Bay Regional Park District
- East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy
- Friends of Five Creeks
- Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy
- Grassroots Ecology
- Green Foothills
- Justice Outside
- Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful
- Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation
- Land Trust of Santa Cruz County
- LandPaths
- Mare Island Heritage Trust
- Marin Conservation League
- Marin Agricultural Land Trust
- Marin County Parks
- Marin County Bicycle Coalition
- Marin Municipal Water District
- Marin Open Space Trust
- Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
- Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area
- Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District
- Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation
- Paula Lane Action Network (PLAN)
- Point Reyes National Seashore Association
- Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
- River Otter Ecology Project
- San Francisco Bay Trail
- San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
- San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department
- San Mateo County Parks
- San Mateo County Parks Foundation
- San Mateo Resource Conservation District
- Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department
- Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority
- Santa Cruz County, Parks, Open Space & Cultural Services
- Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Stewardship
- Save Mount Diablo
- Save the Redwoods League
- Sempervirens Fund
- Sogorea Te' Land Trust
- Solano Land Trust
- Sonoma County Ag + Open Space
- Sonoma County Regional Parks
- Sonoma Land Trust
- Sonoma Water
- Student Conservation Association (SCA)
- Sustainable Agriculture Education (SAGE)
- The California Urban Streams Partnership
- The Field Semester
- The Trust for Public Land
- Tri-Valley Conservancy
- Urban Bird Foundation
- Valley Water
- YES Nature to Neighborhoods

*as of July 15, 2021