

ABAG decrees with RHNA requirements that are out of whack

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To: EIR Comments <eircomments@bayareametro.gov>

External Email

Dear Sirs,

I am writing as an individual resident of Palo Alto concerned about the following issues of concern with ABAG's call for ever more housing while at the same time taking away local zoning under the auspices of Plan Bay Area 2050. First of all, I would like to know how ABAG was created - as far as I can tell it is an unelected body composed of appointees from the various cities from around the bay area. One of the questions that needs to be asked - Who appointed these members and whose interests are they expected to represent. When looking at the plans being floated by ABAG, it appears that the demands for more housing while sacrificing local Zoning, represent the interests of developers as well as real estate interests. Trying to push for increasing the concentration of jobs and housing in an already jobs rich area like Palo Alto without proper public discussion as required by CA codes about the consequences of concentrated growth, is highly irregular and disturbing. Prior to the pandemic, it was a nightmare to navigate traffic in Palo Alto throughout the day due to the congestion created by people pouring into town for jobs. Why is it that Palo Alto is expected to provide an ever increasing number of dwellings for more and more people who want to work here ? Why can't other neighboring cities, some across the bay be suitable for this kind of overflow? The existing residents have invested a great deal of their energies and money over a long time to get a single family dwelling in Palo Alto. Now we are being told that the city needs to provide even more housing and that too, not for workers who badly need housing help - meaning, we need housing for essential workers like teachers, policemen, other service workers who at the present time have to commute of great distances to provide the essential services we the residents need. Above market rate housing that is lucrative to developers are not what we need here.

Another question to ask is, who is going to pay for the needed infrastructure costs that would be needed. Are the developers going to pay for them? Are the (lucrative for the developers) above market rate buyers going to be paying for these expenditures? Or are we the residents expected to foot the bills? When one considers the fact that we already have the highest office and housing prices in the country, it is astonishing that organizations like ABAG continue to push the developer interests as though, the rest of us are ignorant, blind and plain stupid. This has to stop.

Regards,

Ranganath (long time resident of Palo Alto who doesn't want to get bulldozed into bad office and housing proposals from ABAG with its RHNA requirements. Enough is enough! concerned