



Focus on Contra Costa County

# Contra Costa County

## Spring 2017 Public Engagement: Comments from Contra Costa County Contra Costa County Open House -- Wednesday, May 10, 2017

Embassy Suites – Contra Costa Ballroom, 1345 Treat Boulevard, Walnut Creek  
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

### ACTION PLAN STATION FEEDBACK

The **Action Plan Station** described proposed actions outlined in Draft Plan Bay Area 2040 to specifically address housing, economic development and resiliency. On three accompanying boards, participants were asked their ideas and encouraged to post their feedback. Below are the comments submitted at the boards for Housing, Economic Development and Resiliency.

#### Housing

- 1 Strong incentives for sustainable, equitable development near transit.
- 2 Better explain Plan Bay Area Greenbelt Alliance city planning connection in regard to housing.
- 3 Make sure to have diverse representation on CASA.
- 4 Find ways to implement policy that supports affordable housing in job rich areas -- particularly ownership of affordable housing

#### Economic Development

- 5 Congestion pricing Yeah!!! Index gas tax to go along with increases in costs.
- 6 "Fix it First" assumes a long-term vision of continued road use with today's transportation model. We need to consider that services like Uber or Lyft will /could remove 75% of cars off the road. So we need to invest in NEW transportation models that prioritize EV infrastructure, public transit expansion and bike and pedestrian infrastructure.
- 7 More "blue collar" jobs: We need grocery stores and places for entertainment.
- 8 Support/Assistance for Unique and individual businesses that make part of the Bay Area interesting
- 9 Commercial rent control -- to preserve small businesses

#### Resiliency

- 10 Agricultural mitigation must remain as a central strategy to protect the region's greenbelt. Ag lands are at risk, particularly in Contra Costa and they need targeted conservation to ensure we have fresh, local foods.
- 11 Contra Costa's Measure X had ag protection policies and it would be unfortunate to have a regional plan without a framework to guide protections of ag land.

## ACTIVITY STATION FEEDBACK

The **Activity Station** offered participants seven prompts to share additional ideas for how to address housing, economic development and resiliency. Below are the comments received at the Contra Costa County open house.

*To prevent displacement, I recommend...*

- 
- 1 Stronger tenant protections; and protecting and preserving affordable housing.
- 

*To solve the Bay Area housing crisis, I recommend that we...*

- 
- 2 Build up where possible, not OUT.
  - 3 Close the affordable housing funding gap and incentivize sustainable, equitable development near transit.
- 

*We can create a more resilient Bay Area by...*

- 
- 4 Listening to people of color and addressing institutional racism.
- 

*We need a transportation system that...*

- 
- 5 Includes safe, clean and desirable infrastructure for active transportation.
  - 6 Runs FREQUENTLY and has comfortable, sheltered places to wait out of the rain and sun.
- 

## FEEDBACK VIA WRITTEN COMMENT FORMS

Some participants submitted additional comments via a comment form available at the open houses. Below are comments received at the Contra Costa County Open House.

- 
- 1 I really appreciate that the planners recognize and are taking steps to protect the value of parks and open spaces. This is part of what makes the Bay Area so attractive. I wish/hope that the plan can somehow protect the individuality of different neighborhoods around the Bay Area. I'm not sure how this would be done but hopefully the experts do.
- 
- 2 I would like a better explanation of how Plan Bay Area connects with other reports such as Greenbelt Alliance when it comes to future housing. Are cities required or encouraged to use these plans (alone? in conjunction with?) when planning with cities' own land use plans?
- 
- 3 July 19, 2013, in spite of the great opposition expressed by the vast majority of people who turned out in opposition of Plan Bay Area, members of ABAG and MTC voted to pass Plan Bay Area -- affecting land use, housing, city development, roadways and transportation for nine counties. What does the commissioners vote mean for "we the people"? It means that, the voice of the people does not mean very much anymore. What is being touted tonight by the commissions is not representative government. We now have government by unelected regional commissioners making permanent decisions over our future. The regional commissions pretend to give citizens a voice in the matter such as this evening but they are not listening. So now you are asking for our input on Plan Bay Area 2040. It is like asking us to make a list of positive qualities of pancreatic cancer. Yes, I consider Plan Bay Area to be a cancer. You are rolling out a life changing environmental program that counteracts the environmental choices of every citizen who made a decision when they sacrificed to purchase their home in the Bay Area under a free-market capitalistic economy. No matter how you tout Plan Bay Area, I believe it will not reduce greenhouse gases. It is clearly a social engineering experiment. Maybe Mark Levin was correct the other evening when he suggested that social engineering programs such as this is representative of "totalitarianism wrapped in compassion".
-