

Correspondence on Draft Plan Bay Area 2050 Amendment

Name: Bill Mayben

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Comment:

Dear PBA.org Staff;

To what extent is a sustainable community autonomous? Should it include food production, commerce, energy sufficiency, digital as well as transportation connectivity? Previously I suggested that PBA2050 encompasses only the “toes” of 9 Bay Area counties; yet the Plan avoids the realities of sea level rise by setting in motion extraordinary expenditures on sea walls to safely maintain a centralized commercial and residential footprint; essentially concentrating rather than decentralizing future growth. The costs to maintain a concentrated commercial and residential Bay Area within the available land area going forward in time are incalculable; extending far beyond 2050. The original decision to permanently adhere to existing city, county, and open space boundaries; given the realities of sea level rise, place all infrastructure; civic, commercial, and private and improvements at risk in the future.

We are setting the precedent for development options far beyond 2050; meanwhile global warming, sea level rise, and severe climate events will become more costly and time-consuming in a deteriorating environment. Our belief that the features we have planned will endure exponential global warming does not match up with the science. A coastal solution has greater true sustainability only if it does not require constant major public cash infusions and infrastructure disruption to maintain it. The higher the proposed sea walls must be raised over time, the more vulnerable and uninsurable we become.

Beyond sea level rise ; we are vulnerable to earthquakes. This plan places an unmanageable burden on future generations.

Decentralization follows a strategy of spending each public dollar towards the longest possible, safest, most affordable applications. There are areas in the rest the nine counties that can assure the safety and continuity of public investment.

The UN has particular concerns regarding the effects of extreme climate events on cities with populations of 10 million or more. There are now 42 of these worldwide. Public safety, at a time when we can choose, requires stable, long range solutions. 2050 is only 26 years away.

Yours,

Bill Mayben