

RE: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT)
PLAN BAY AREA 2050)
PUBLIC HEARING)

***CERTIFIED
TRANSCRIPT***

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Taken remotely by MARK I. BRICKMAN

Certified Shorthand Reporter No. 5527

State of California

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

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A P P E A R A N C E S

THE HOST:

URSULA VOGLER, MTC Staff

LOGISTICS/CHAT LINKS:

LESLIE LARA-ENRIQUEZ

Page

PUBLIC SPEAKER:

4, 7

PUBLIC SPEAKER:

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PUBLIC SPEAKER:

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1 JUNE 23, 2021 6:19 PM

2 P R O C E E D I N G S

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4 MS. VOGLER: The public hearing on the Draft
5 Environmental Impact Report for Plan Bay Area 2050 is now
6 open and is being transcribed.

7 Staff just presented on the Draft EIR and
8 shared highlights of the environmental analysis and
9 findings.

10 All of these documents were posted on Friday,
11 June 4th, 2021 at Plan Bay Area.org and are available for
12 public inspection for the public comment period which
13 will close at 5:00 PM on Tuesday, July 20th, 2021.

14 If you wish to testify, please press the raise
15 hand button or star 9 on your phone's keypad and once I
16 call on you, please unmute yourself by pressing the
17 microphone button in Zoom or star 6 on your phone's
18 keypad.

19 We ask that each speaker be brief and concise
20 and keep their comments to no more than three minutes.

21 When making your comment please state your name
22 for the record organization if applicable, and be sure to
23 speak clearly into your computer or phone's microphone so
24 that Mark can capture your comment accurately.

25 If Mark cannot hear or understand you, he may

1 interrupt you and ask you to slow down or speak up.

2 Please remember that we will not be responding
3 to comments during the hearing.

4 So let's begin. So again, if you could press
5 the raise hand button on your computer and then unmute
6 yourself. So I'll wait. We're going to wait a minute
7 here to see if we have any comments. I'll give it thirty
8 more seconds.

9 Again, if you wish to testify, use the raise
10 hand button bottom of your screen or press star 9 to be
11 put in the queue.

12 Okay. Susan, please unmute yourself.

13 PUBLIC SPEAKER: So since there aren't other
14 questions coming forward, I -- I --

15 MS. VOGLER: Susan, I'm so sorry. You're
16 muted.

17 PUBLIC SPEAKER: There, okay. I --

18 MS. VOGLER: Repeat your comment again. I'm
19 sorry.

20 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Okay. So my name is Susan
21 Kirsch. I with Catalysts for Local Control and I've been
22 following Plan Bay Area for a long time.

23 And while this isn't specifically about the
24 Draft EIR, I guess my -- and since you're not responding
25 to questions, anyway, I'll make in this a comment to say

1 repeatedly going back to 2013, there's been great concern
2 about the process by which you at ABAG/MTC come to
3 conclusions like you are again this year both with the
4 content of Plan Bay Area, which I know is not the subject
5 of the hearing right now. You're talking about the Draft
6 EIR, but that it's very lacking in transparency and it
7 seems to be very lacking in a true interest in calling in
8 the public to understand both what you're doing and the
9 good work that you're intending.

10 But the confusion about -- about what you're
11 doing by the fact that your presentation is filled with
12 the jargon for people who aren't up to speed with all of
13 the acronyms of transit rich areas and priority
14 development areas and whatever the other language is.

15 Yet you have no time that you're providing real
16 interaction that might feel like there is genuine
17 commitment to the well-being of the Bay Area that would
18 give a voice to regular people who are trying to do their
19 part to participate, to local community leaders and to
20 elected officials.

21 And this is kind of like being in the tsunami
22 of you guys having apparently so much money and so much
23 time that you're able to repeatedly go into all of these
24 details for a plan that goes out to 2050 without a
25 commitment for bringing people along with you.

1 So I will just register that as the comment.

2 MS. VOGLER: Thank you, Susan.

3 Are there any other comments on the Draft
4 Environmental Impact Report for Plan Bay Area 2050?
5 Please use the raise hand button now.

6 Gerald. Please unmute yourself.

7 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Okay. Sorry. David
8 mentioned something a little while ago that I wanted to
9 comment on in some way.

10 He talked about transit oriented development
11 and he talked about -- he also mentioned that many trips
12 are not commute trips, and most of the analysis that goes
13 into selecting the value of transit oriented housing
14 would face a commute.

15 The question if you put it close to buses or
16 especially rail, you'll get some additional riders.

17 Is there any data to back up what kind of
18 actual inclusion you will get with all of this clustering
19 around transit entities?

20 Because my personal feeling is that without a
21 lot more than just a bus line or two or maybe a BART
22 line, most people, all of us would continue to do a lot
23 of our travel, which is at least seventy-five percent of
24 all travel is non-commute, by car, and that's -- that's
25 the question or comment.

1 MS. VOGLER: Thank you, Gerald.

2 Do we have any other comments on the Draft EIR?

3 Again -- oh, Susan.

4 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Okay. I know that much of
5 the work on Plan Bay Area is done initially with the idea
6 of reducing greenhouse gases.

7 So I want to bring forward an article that I
8 just read in the last day or two. This is under the
9 heading under Environmental -- Environment as a subject
10 saying that carbon dioxide levels hit fifty percent
11 higher than pre-industrial times, and that we have --
12 maybe what we're seeing is that with all the of the
13 planning, with everything that's going on is that we
14 really are not moving the needle for re -- reducing
15 greenhouse gas emissions and that we're actually with
16 many of the kinds of projects that are going forward
17 increasing and contributing to climate change as we have
18 a focus on economic growth that is really unsustainable
19 in light of the way in which economic growth so often
20 contributes to increasing greenhouse gases.

21 MS. VOGLER: Thank you, Susan.

22 Do we have any other comments on the Draft EIR?

23 And I could be mispronouncing it. Is it Ferank? Please
24 unmute yourself.

25 PUBLIC SPEAKER: So I've been away for a while

1 and not up to your -- your current EIR, but what are your
2 goals? Are they still from last summer?

3 MS. VOGLER: Again, this is the comment
4 period. We are not answer -- we -- we are not
5 responding.

6 PUBLIC SPEAKER: I will get you outside. I
7 don't have to comment at this point. Thank you.

8 MS. VOGLER: Thank you, Ferank.

9 Do we have any other comments for the public
10 hearing or the Draft EIR?

11 I'll give it twenty more seconds. James, I
12 believe. Please unmute yourself. James, I believe
13 you're unmuted. James, you're muted again. There you
14 go. We can't hear you. If you're speaking, we can't
15 hear you.

16 James, we're unable to hear you. I'm sorry
17 about that. I'm going to provide additional ways to make
18 comments and the comments will all be entered into the
19 record and you can indicate that it's about the
20 Environmental Impact Report. Unless you want to try one
21 more time with your microphone.

22 Okay. I'm sorry about that, James.

23 Does anyone else have any more comments about
24 the Draft Environmental Impact Report? Please use the
25 raise hand button now.

1 Okay. I guess we don't have any more comments.

2 I will now declare this hearing to be closed.

3 Thank you very much for participating in this
4 public hearing.

5 So again, if you have -- like James, if you
6 have a comment, additional comments, you can e-mail them
7 to us at eircomments@baybreametro.gov, by e-mail to MTC
8 Public Information, Attention: Draft Plan/Draft EIR
9 Comments, 375 Beale Street, Suite 800, San Francisco
10 94105, and by fax at 415-536-9800.

11 All comments must be received by 5:00 PM on
12 Tuesday, July 20th, 2021.

13 We are currently conducting our engagement for
14 the Draft Plan and Draft EIR. Listed here are future
15 workshops and public hearings. We have two left, one on
16 the 28th at 5:00 with a West Bay focus. One on the 30th
17 at noon with a North Bay focus.

18 They are location specific, but we welcome
19 anyone to attend any of the workshops. So you don't have
20 to be from that area to participate.

21 We have one additional public hearing scheduled
22 for July 7th. If you think of additional comments,
23 please attend. This event will also have a court
24 reporter on hand to take the transcript of the comments.

25 For more information and the links to these

1 events, go to planbayarea.org/learnmore.

2 Also just a final reminder that we will be
3 scheduling a webinar in August where we will summarize
4 the comments that we received on the Draft Plan Bay Area
5 report back what we heard from the public.

6 The information for the webinar will be posted
7 to the Plan Bay Area website soon.

8 For the Draft EIR we will -- staff will prepare
9 responses to every comment received and the record
10 comments and responses will be included in the Final EIR.

11 So we'd like to thank you so much for spending
12 this time with us. Public engagement is very important
13 to this process and we appreciate your comments.

14 Please tune in this summer for our
15 presentation, as I mentioned earlier, and for specific
16 dates and times for this meeting again go to Plan Bay
17 Area website for more information. The link is in the
18 chat.

19 And with that, thank you, again, and have a
20 good evening.

21 (The hearing concluded at 6:32 PM).

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1 STATE OF CALIFORNIA)

2 COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO)

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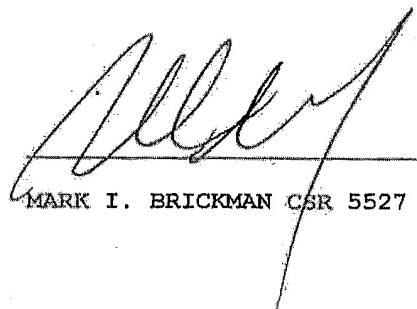
I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the discussion in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the foregoing is a full, true and complete record of said matter.

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I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties in the foregoing hearing and caption named, or in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said action.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 24 th day of June, 2021.



MARK I. BRICKMAN CSR 5527