

Comments on Plan Bay Area Environmental Impact Report from Elizabeth W. Specht, 102 Nelson Avenue, Mill Valley, CA 94941

May 15, 2013

MTC-ABAG, Plan Bay Area

re: Public comment on Draft Bay Area Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report

I've lived in Mill Valley for 29 years. In 1990 I cofounded El Porvenir, a CA 501-c-3 and continue to serve on its board of directors. This organization works with Nicaraguan campesinos to develop potable water projects so that their villages can rely on healthy water, overcoming a cycle of sickness that plagues many rural people.

I've learned a lot of down-to-earth practical facts about water since then, and I'm still learning.

A deep concern for me is water. How will this county meet the increased need for water for the additional population called for by Plan Bay Area? MMWD has been pressing water-users in Marin to conserve water for years, threatening to build a desalination plant to enlarge our current supply.

Processing salty and impure water for human consumption requires a lot of energy which produces a lot of greenhouse gases. Desalination of San Francisco Bay's (or the Pacific Ocean's) water would radically increase the output of GHGs, cancelling any decrease made by locating new homes near transit centers.

For supporting data, I refer the reader to [http://www.pacinst.org/reports/desalination\\_2013./energy/](http://www.pacinst.org/reports/desalination_2013./energy/)

Therefore, I want to stress this critically significant and irreversible environmental change that would be brought about by the Plan: that there are and would be insufficient water supplies from existing entitlements and resources to serve the expected development.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth W. Specht