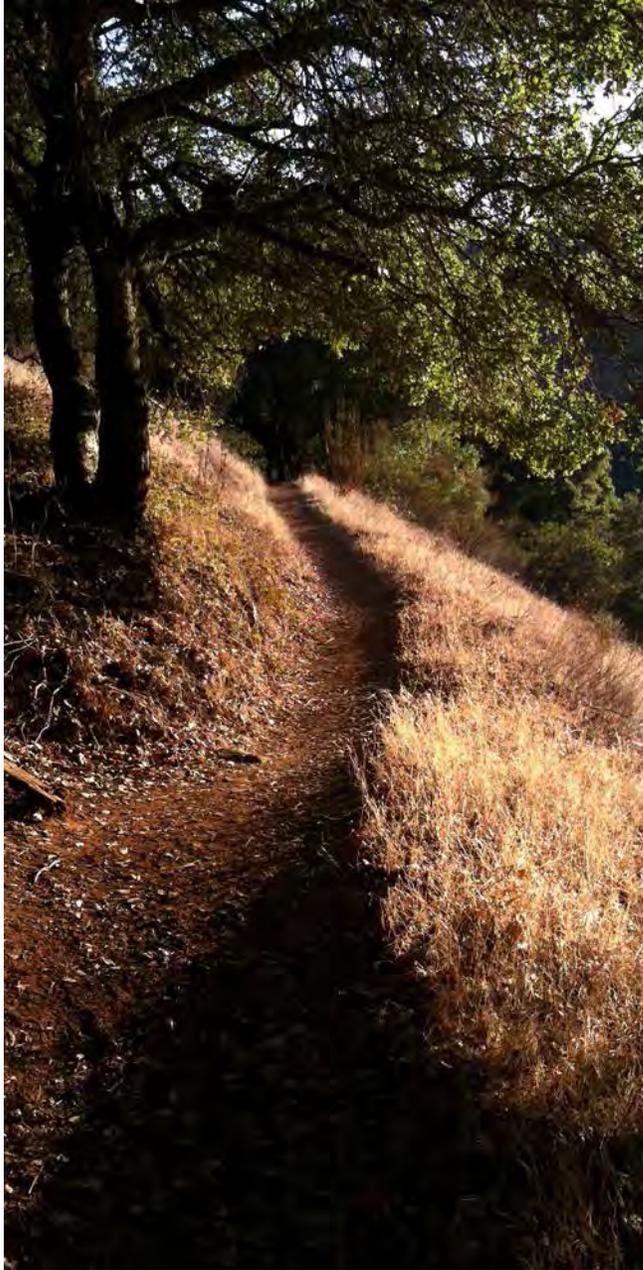


**Presentations for the
August 3, 2020
City Council Meeting**

FOOTHILLS PARK ACCESS City Council Discussion

August 3, 2020



BRIEF HISTORY OF FOOTHILLS PARK

- 1,400-acres in the Palo Alto foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains
- Acquired by the City from the Lee family in the late 1950s for \$1.3 million
- Park opened to Palo Alto residents in 1965

CURRENT Foothills Park Usage Restrictions

- PAMC 22.04.150(a) limits access to Foothills Park to Palo Alto residents and their accompanied guests
- Since 2005, non-resident hikers welcomed to enter via the Bay to Ridge Trail
- Unlawfully entering FHP is a misdemeanor
- No misdemeanor citation has been issued in at least the last 20 years
- Only one administrative citation has been issued (like a parking ticket)

CURRENT PARK USAGE RESTRICTIONS

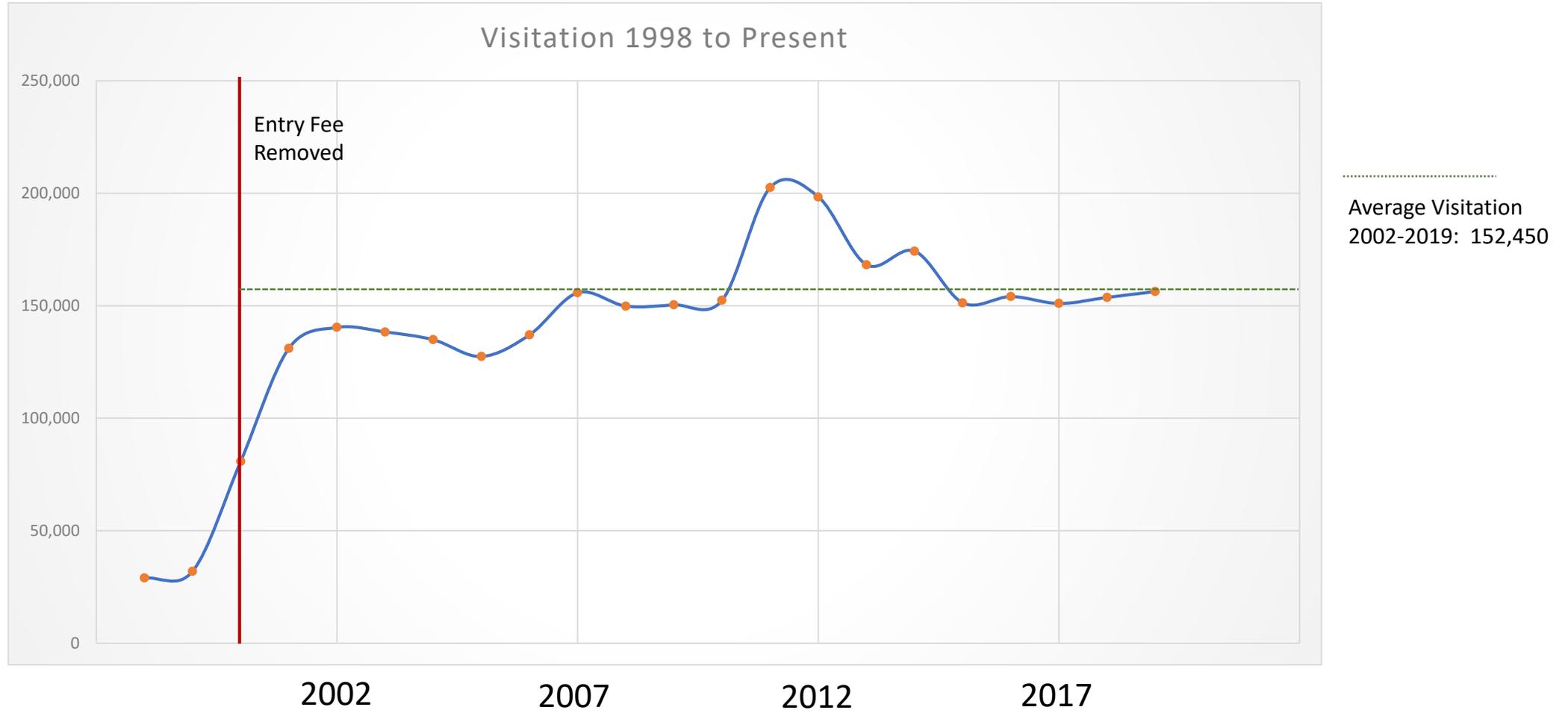
- PAMC 22.04.150(k) caps visitors at 1,000 at any time:
 - In 1965, the cap was 2,000
 - In 1976, it was changed to 1,600
 - In the late 90s, it changed to 1,000
 - The 1,000-person cap roughly corresponds to parking capacity
 - Cap has not been reached in past 20 years

VISITATION TRENDS

- In past 20 years, visitation steady at ~152,000 persons visiting each year
- Approximately 292,000 visitors in 1969
- Peaked at ~372,000 visitors in the early 1970s
- Declined in the late 1970s and throughout the 1980s and 1990s
- Entry fee was charged in the 1980s and 1990s to help recover costs of Boronda Lake dam repairs
- Fee removed in 2001
- Visitation bottomed out in 1998 at ~29,000 visitors



VISITATION TRENDLINE



VISITATION DATA

- Busiest days are holidays:
 - New Year's, Mother's and Father's Day
 - Memorial Day, Thanksgiving, 4th of July
- Busiest months are late spring and early summer (May to July)
- Least busy months are late fall through winter (November to February)
- 5-year average of ~3,100 non-resident vehicles turned away (2015-19)
- Increase in visitation as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic
 - Approximately 137% increase on weekends compared to 2019
 - Approximately 8% decrease on weekdays compared to 2019



<u>Weekends</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2011</u>
<u>Memorial Day Weekend</u>	1,249	729	1,017	1,447
<u>2nd Weekend after Memorial Day</u>	1,960	931	763	1,261
<u>3rd Weekend</u>	2,309	1,398	1,224	1,041
<u>4th Weekend</u>	2,472	700	1,081	907
<u>5th Weekend</u>	1,671	622	561	1,041
<u>6th Weekend</u>	2,118	1,025	937	907
<u>7th Weekend</u>	2,753	739	1,121	811
<u>8th Weekend</u>	1,911	787	1,178	940

August 3, 2020

<u>Weekdays</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2011</u>
<u>June</u>	10,203	11,040	7,360	24,459
<u>July</u>	10,789	11,731	7,593	18,413

August 3, 2020

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION PROCESS AND OUTREACH

- **Fall, 2018:** Parks & Rec Commission's Foothills Park ad hoc committee
- **2019:** PRC public meetings on
 - July 23, 2019 Foothills Park Access Discussion
 - Sept. 24, 2019 Pilot Program Discussion
 - Nov. 12, 2019 Foothills Park Access Pilot Program Recommendation

PRC PILOT PROGRAM RECOMMENDATION

November 2019, PRC vote 6-1 to recommend pilot program to City Council

- One-year pilot to test concepts of:
 - (1) a limited and adjustable number of Park vehicle passes for non-residents via online reservation system
 - (2) broader availability for student fieldtrips
- Max cap of 50 passes per day (adjusted based on historic data)
- \$6 fee for non-resident passes

PILOT PROGRAM RECOMMENDATION

- School Field Trip Program with reservation process
- No change in current 1000 person per day ordinance
- Prioritize resident access – no changes to current access policy
- At end of pilot, staff, PRC review Park visitation and impact data and recommend how to move forward

FACTORS SUPPORTING PILOT PROGRAM

- Effectively mitigates concern about overcrowding/overuse
- Incorporates focus for students and volunteers
- Allows adaptation based on data collection during pilot
- Fees expected to generate modest revenue

THE WORLD LOOKS MUCH DIFFERENT THAN IT DID A FEW MONTHS AGO

- COVID-19 limitations and changes in recreational patterns
- Unprecedented financial crisis
- City Council unanimously supports Black Lives Matter proclamation (Jun. 8)
- Civic and faith leaders calling for repeal of “residents-only” ordinance
- Human Relations Commission unanimously passed recommendation to repeal “residents-only” ordinance (Jun. 11)

FOOTHILLS PARK ACCESS PANEL DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Panel experts provided deeper understanding of complex issues
- Increased visitation impacts wildlife, habitat, trails & visitor experience
- Impacts manageable with consistent monitoring, mitigation, adjustment
- Staff & park management affected by pilot program & visitation increase
- Access benefits physical & emotional well-being and natural environment
- Stewardship focus – preserve special community resource today & tomorrow

PANELISTS

- **Professor Nicole Ardoin** – Director, Emmett Interdisciplinary Program in Environment & Resources, Stanford University EEES
- **Lester Hendrie** – Former Foothills Park Supervising Ranger
- **Taylor Peterson** – Director of Biological Analysis, MIG
- **Roger Smith** – Co-Founder & Director, Friends of Palo Alto Parks
- **Alex Von Feldt** – Executive Director, Grassroots Ecology

FOOTHILLS PARK ACCESS PANEL DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Panel experts provided deeper understanding of complex issues
- Increased visitation impacts wildlife, habitat, trails & visitor experience
- Impacts manageable with consistent monitoring, mitigation, adjustment
- Staff & park management affected by pilot program & visitation increase
- Access benefits physical & emotional well-being and natural environment
- Stewardship focus – preserve special community resource today & tomorrow

PANEL DISCUSSION OVERVIEW

- Goals
 - Deeper understanding & appreciation of varied perspectives & complexities
 - New expert information on potential impacts and park management issues
- Format
 - Congenial panel conversation, facts & expert opinion, moderated by Chair
 - Questions selected in by Chair, Vice-Chair, and CSD Staff
 - Opportunity for each panelist to respond to all questions
- Questions & Comments from Commissioners, Liaison, & City Manager
- Staff Presentation (Daren Anderson)
- Public comments (7), emails to Commission (14)



IMPACTS OF INCREASED VISITATION

- Wildlife
- Vegetation / Habitat
- Trails
- Visitor Experience
- Varies by amount of human use & type of activity
- Different for high-use vs. more remote, natural areas



IMPACT MONITORING, MITIGATION, COMMITMENT

- Baseline data for vegetation, wildlife, and trails
- Multi-year monitoring & analysis of impacts
- Adaptive management to quickly address issues
- Implement changes carefully for proper assessment
- Install physical mitigations
- Commit to mitigation plan funding – “do it right”

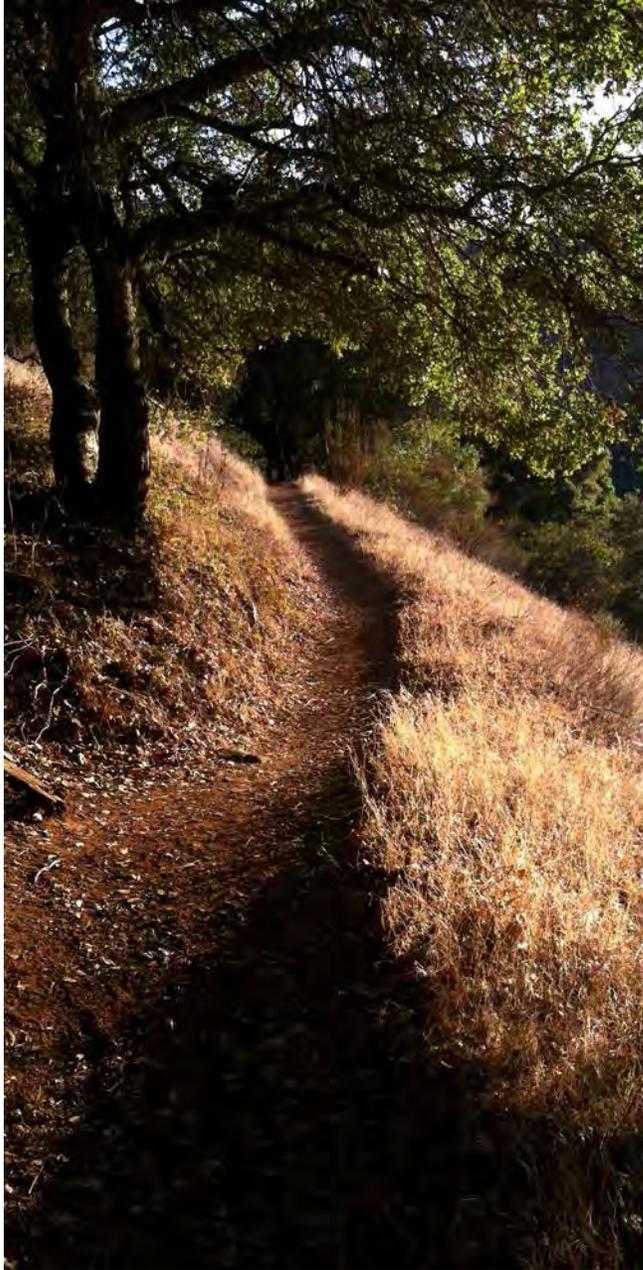


PARK MANAGEMENT CONCERNS / FEEDBACK

- Critical importance of staff well-being repeatedly emphasized
- Palo Alto Open Space staff is very limited – 6 Rangers
- Pilot program or managing increased visitation will impact basic daily duties
- Primary infrastructure issues – Restrooms & Parking
- Budget and timing (Covid-19) concerns
- New online reservation system is an intriguing idea
- “Drive through” required for count of cars / visitors in park
- Early peak park visitation numbers likely not accurate, inflated

BENEFITS OF OPENING

- Increase ease of access to “nature rich” experiences
- Support well-documented health & developmental benefits for youth and adults
- Engender a stronger sense of belonging and support for nature
- Encourage outside partnership in environmental projects
- Reduce impact on neighboring open space preserves
- Be a good neighbor



STEWARDSHIP FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

- Foothills Park is a special place and we can keep it special
- Preserve by carefully considering changes & investment
- Nurture outdoor experiences to develop enduring connections to community & environment
- Positive public engagement to foster ownership and commitment to sustainable behavior
- Instead of “leave no trace”, “*make it better than you found it!*”

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

City Council discuss the Parks and Recreation Commission's proposed pilot plan to increase access to Foothills Park for nonresidents and either:

A. Direct staff to return with an Ordinance to amend the Municipal Code to allow non-residents to access Foothills Park under a pilot plan and a Resolution to define the pilot plan itself

or

B. Provide feedback and direct staff to explore and evaluate alternative scenarios to open Foothills Park to non-residents



Foothills Park Presentation

COUNCIL MEETING

08/03/2020

Received Before Meeting

11

Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) Process & Plan Bay Area 2050

August 3, 2020

www.cityofpaloalto.org



Objectives for Tonight

Staff Presentation Overview

- Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA)
- Plan Bay Area 2050

Action & Discussion

- Questions & Answers
- Direction to Staff on RHNA and Plan Bay Area 2050
- Motions on Draft Letters:
 - RHNA Methodology Options (Attachment A)
 - Draft Blueprint Feedback (Attachment B)



What is the Regional Housing Needs Allocation?

- Process by which the State allocates housing unit production across the state, region by region
- Focuses on total housing production by region, as well as housing offered at a variety of income affordability levels
- Uses a methodology created by regional representatives



Regional Housing Needs Determination (RHND)

Regional Housing Needs Determination (RHND):

- HCD RHND of 441,176 new housing units on June 9, 2020
- The ABAG Exec. Board declined to appeal the determination; appeal deadline 7/10/20

HCD Regional Housing Need Determination-ABAG: 6-30-2022 to 12-21-2030		
Income Category	Percent	Housing Unit Need
Very-Low*	25.9%	114,442
Low	14.9%	65,892
Moderate	16.5%	72,712
Above-Moderate	42.6%	188,130
Total	100%	441,176
*Extremely-Low	15.5%	Included in Very-Low Category

Palo Alto's Progress Toward 5th Cycle RHNA (2015-2023)

- City received 1,988 housing units
- City planned for 2,187 units in current Housing Element
- City issued 554 building permits for housing units by end of 2019

Bay Area Regional Housing Needs Allocation Progress: 1999-2018

RHNA		Permits	Percent of RHNA Permitted				
Cycle	Total Need	Permits Issued	All	Very Low Income	Low Income	Moderate Income	Above Moderate Income
1999-2006	230,743	213,024	92%	44%	79%	38%	153%
2007-2014	214,500	123,098	57%	29%	26%	28%	99%
2015-2023*	187,994	121,973	65%	15%	15%	25%	126%
2023-2031**	441,176	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

*Only includes building permits issued in 2015-2018 **Recently issued by HCD

Palo Alto's Progress Toward 5th Cycle RHNA (2015-2023)

Income Level		RHNA Allocation	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total	Remaining
Very Low	Deed Restricted	691	43					43	648
	Not Deed Restricted								
Low	Deed Restricted	432	58		5		2	65	367
	Not Deed Restricted								
Moderate	Deed Restricted	278							252
	Not Deed Restricted		11	3	12			26	
Above Moderate		587	174	15	72	54	105	420	167
Total		1988	286	18	89	54	107	554	1434



RHNA Methodology

- Method by which ABAG will distribute the 441,176 new housing units amongst 101 Bay Area jurisdictions
- Provides the total number of units, as well as affordability levels
- Housing Elements must show compliance and demonstrate the means by which to provide the units



Housing Methodology Committee (HMC)

- Convened October 2019
- Members are elected officials, staff from cities, and stakeholder groups
- Not likely to use previous RHNA methodologies for the upcoming RHNA cycle
- No decisions on the RHNA methodology to use to date
- Draft methodology likely to be released in Fall 2020



Methodology Options Considered by HMC

1. Factor Based Total Allocation and Income Shift

- *Total units* are allocated to a jurisdiction
- *Income shift* used to distribute that allocation among 4 income categories

2. Bottom-Up

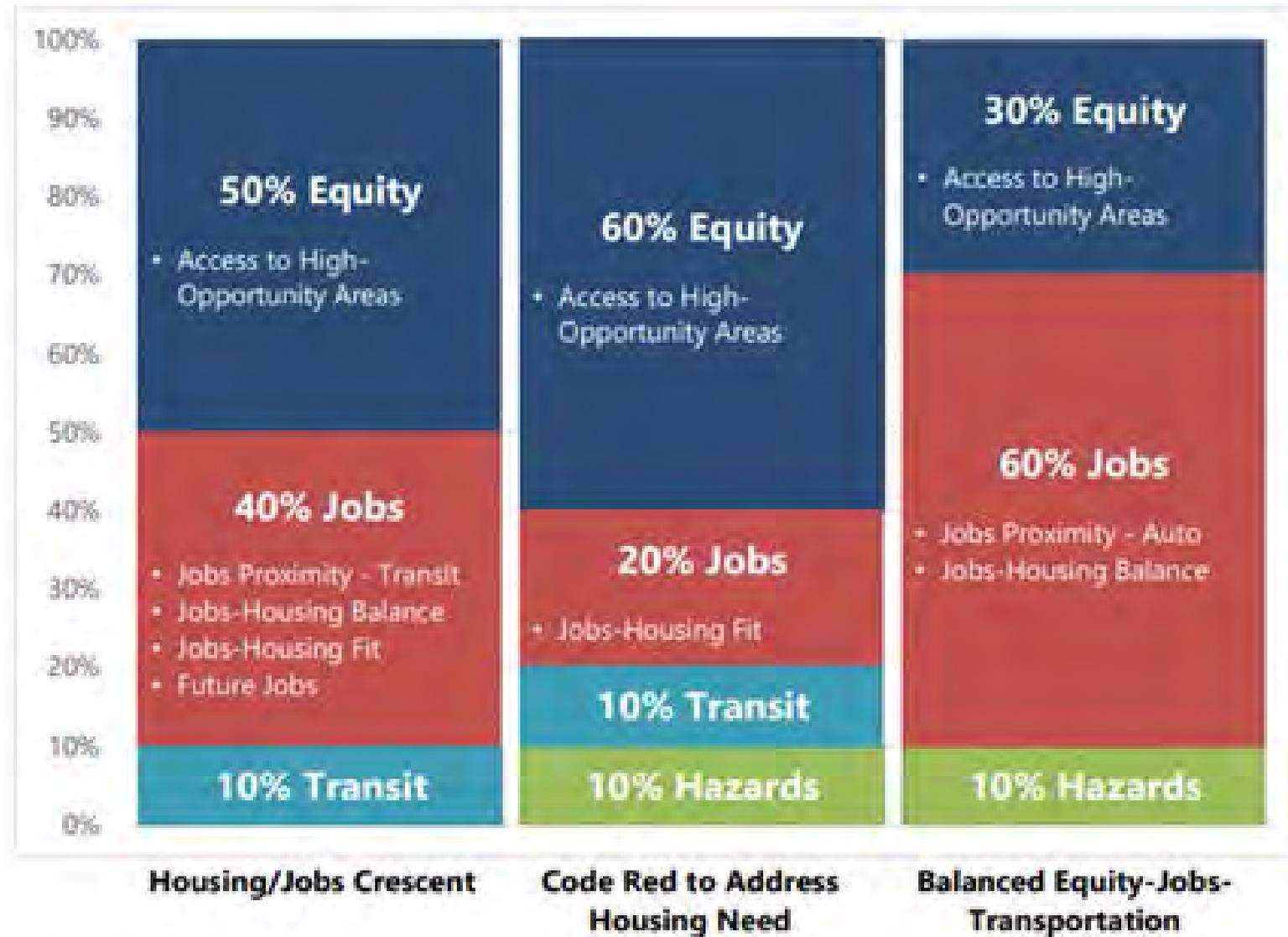
- Factors and weights determine the number of units distributed to each income category
- The sum of units in each income category equals a jurisdiction's total allocation

3. Incorporation of Plan Bay Area 2050

- To be further discussed August 13, 2020

Ten Exploratory Factors

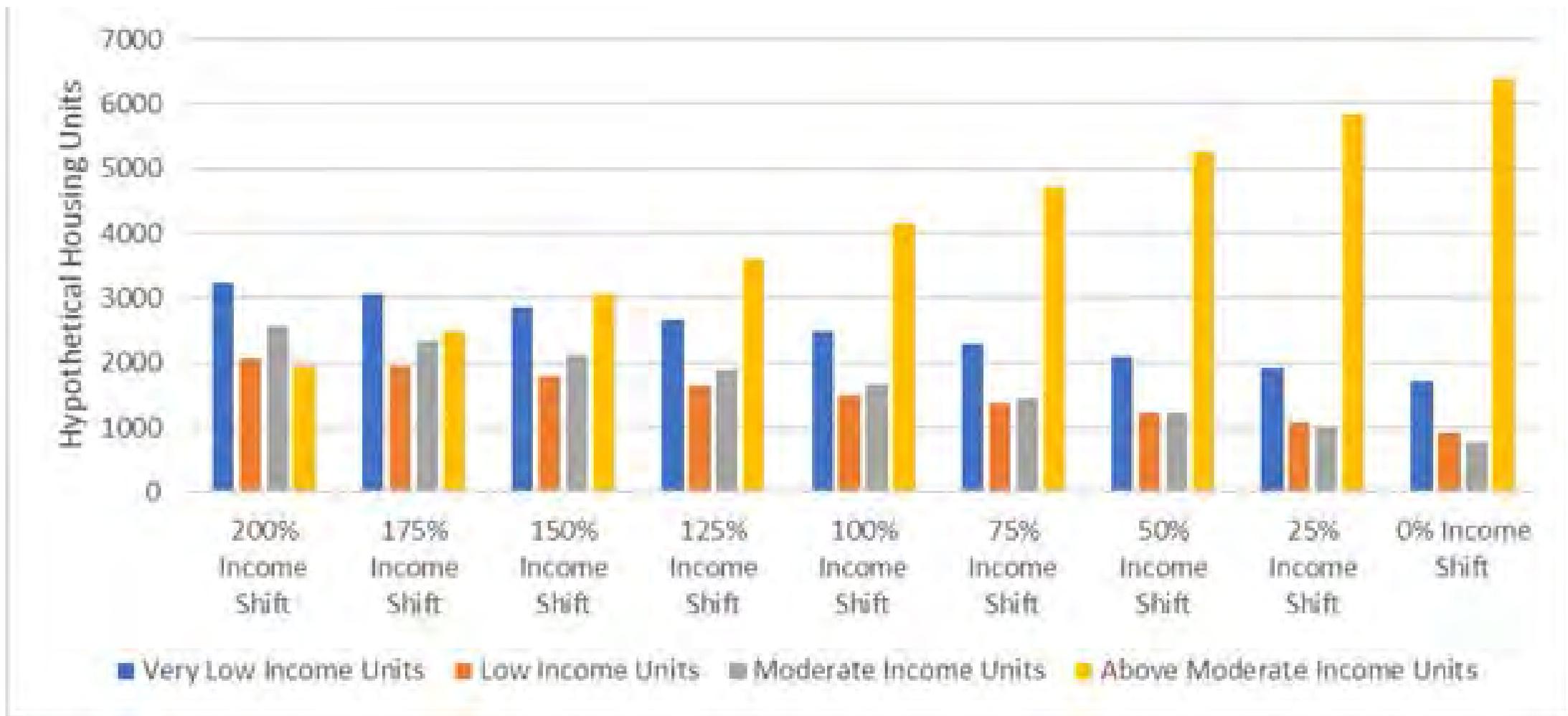
1. High Opportunity Areas
2. Divergence Index
3. Job Proximity – Auto
4. Job Proximity – Transit
5. Vehicle Miles Travelled
6. Jobs-Housing Balance
7. Jobs-Housing Fit
8. Future Jobs
9. Transit Connectivity
10. Natural Hazards



Factor Based Total Allocation

	Hypothetical Growth Rate (% Increase over Housing Units in 2019)	Hypothetical Housing Units	Difference from Hypothetical Baseline
Palo Alto Hypothetical Baseline Allocation	16%	4,475	-
Top Three RHNA Methodology Options (Using HMC Identified Factors & Weights):			
Housing/Jobs Crescent	21%	5,819	+1,344 units
Code Red to Address Housing Need	22%	6,087	+1,612 units
Balanced Equity- Jobs-Transportation	24%	6,532	+2,057 units

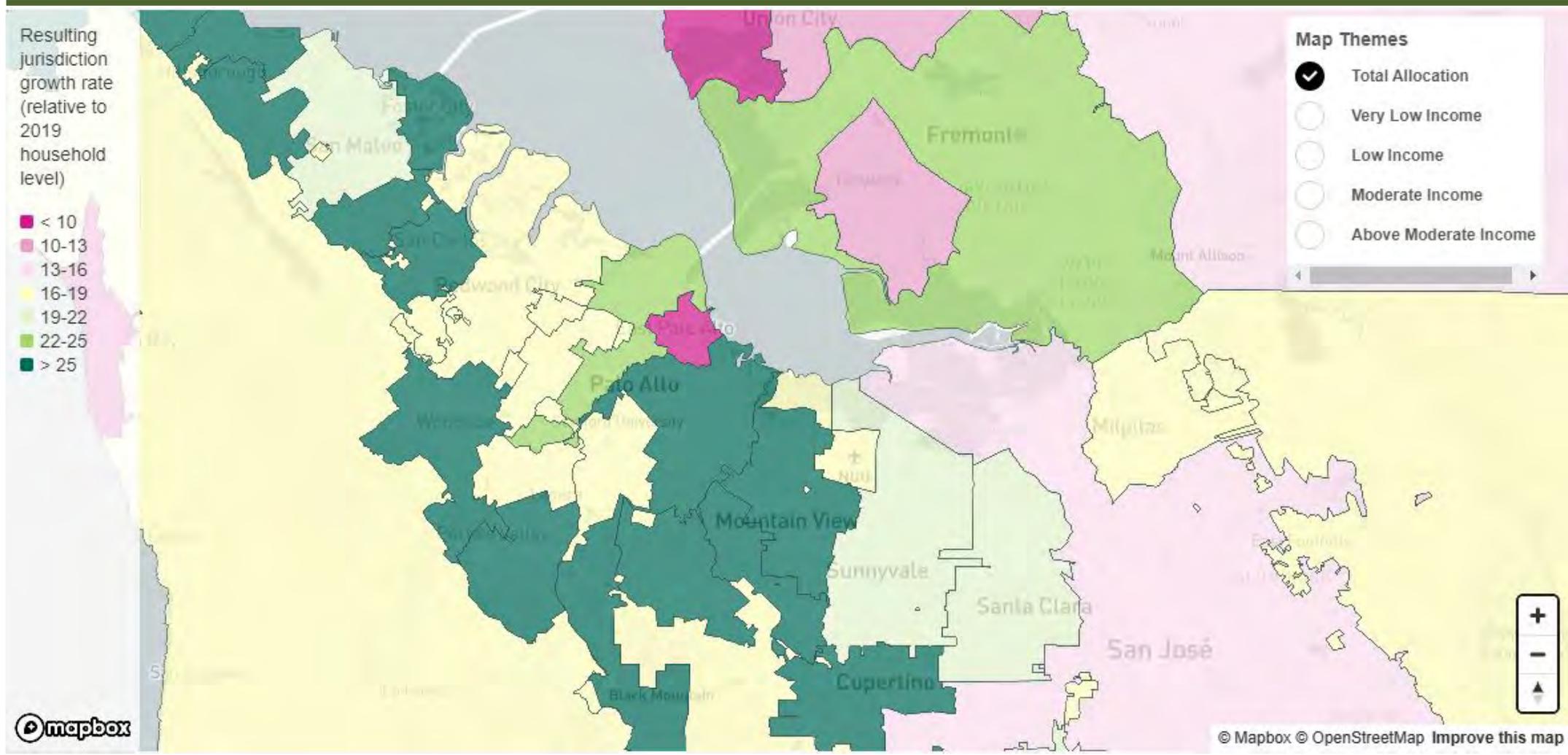
Income Shift Example



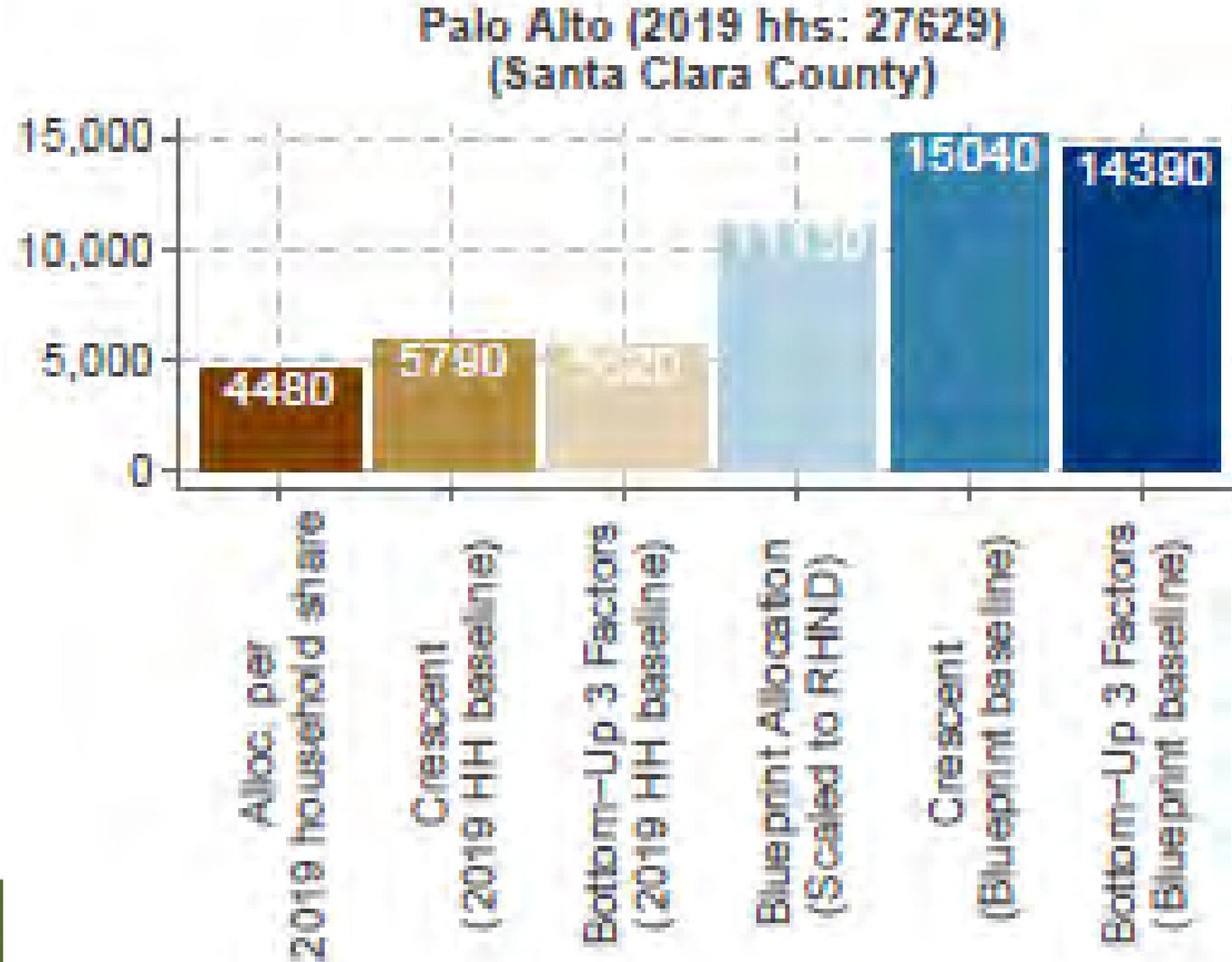
3-Factor Bottom Up Example



Access to High Opportunity Areas Map (100% Factor Weight)



Hypothetical Housing Unit Allocations





RHNA Next Steps

- Continue Housing Methodology Committee Discussions
- Fall 2020 - HMC/ABAG Proposed RHNA Methodology to HCD
- Spring 2021 – Release of Draft RHNA to local jurisdictions
- Summer 2021 – Appeals of Draft RHNA numbers
- Winter 2021 – Final RHNA numbers
- January 2023 - Palo Alto develops Housing Element Update based on final RHNA; certified by HCD



Recommendations in Staff Draft Letter

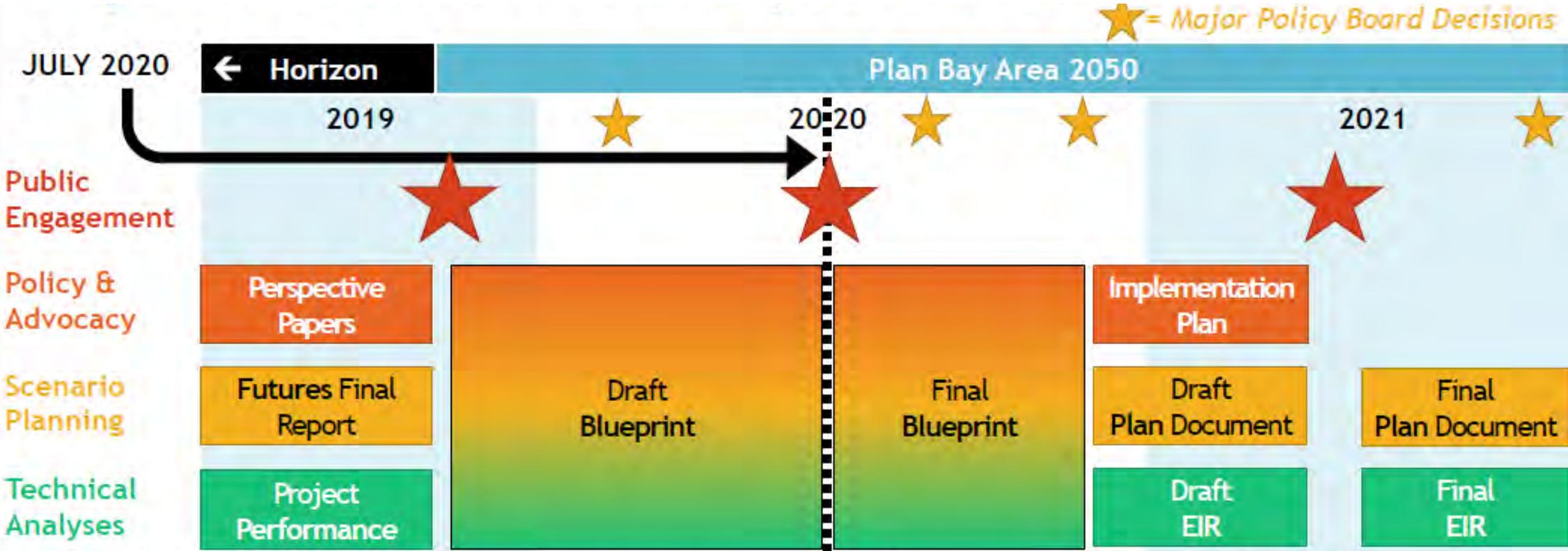
- Support 2019 existing households as baseline methodology
- Support income shift up to 150%



What is Plan Bay Area 2050?

- Long-range regional plan for the **9 County Bay Area**
- **State law requires (a)** Regional Transportation Plan and the **(b)** Sustainable Communities Strategy
- MTC and ABAG are required to periodically to update the plan
- Focus on four key issues: **(a)** economy, **(b)** environment, **(c)** housing **(d)** transportation
- Identifies policies, strategies, and investments for the region
- Does not change local land use authority
- **Vision: To ensure a more affordable, connected, diverse, healthy, and vibrant Bay Area for all**

Plan Bay Area 2050: Process and Deliverables



Plan Bay Area 2050: Growth Geographies

Priority Development Areas – Red

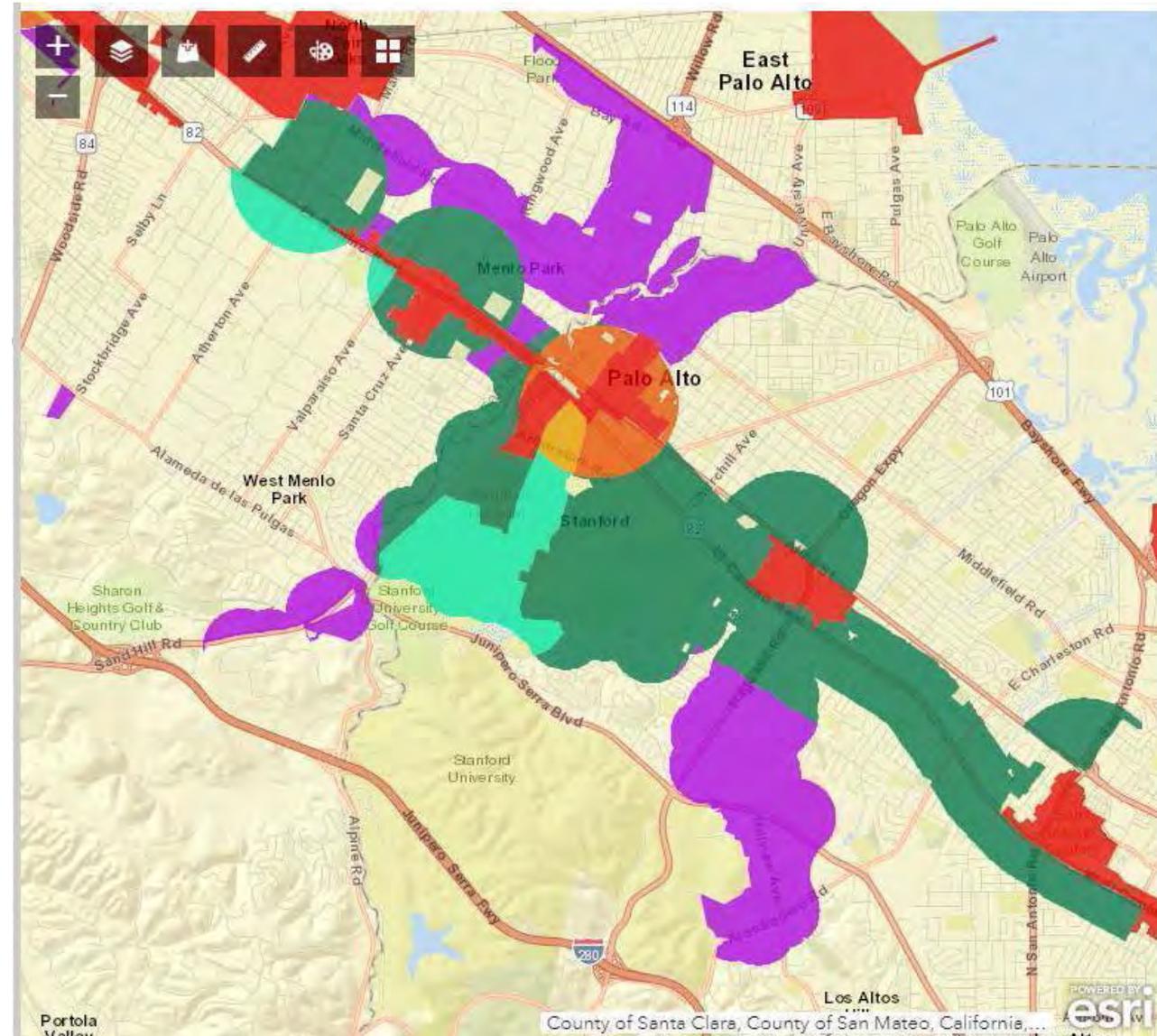
- Areas within ½ mile of high-quality transit planned for housing and/or job growth

Transit Rich Areas – Dark Green

- Areas within ½ mile of transit with peak headways of 15 minutes or less

High Resource Areas – Purple

- State identified high opportunity areas within 16-30 minute bus headways



Plan Bay Area 2050: Draft Blueprint: Strategies

- The Draft Blueprint is the “first draft” of Plan Bay Area 2050
- Contains 25 transportation, housing, economic, and environmental strategies
- Equity objectives advanced throughout

OBJECTIVES ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIES

8. Reduce Risks from Hazards



Adapt to Sea Level Rise. Protect shoreline communities affected by sea level rise, prioritizing areas of low costs and high benefits and providing additional support to vulnerable populations.

Modernize Existing Buildings with Seismic, Wildfire, Drought, and Energy Retrofits. Adopt new building ordinances and incentivize retrofits to bring existing buildings up to higher seismic, wildfire, water and energy standards, providing means-based subsidies to offset impacts.

9. Reduce Our Impact on the Environment



Maintain Urban Growth Boundaries. Using urban growth boundaries and other existing environmental protections, confine new development within areas of existing development or areas otherwise suitable for growth, as established by local jurisdictions.

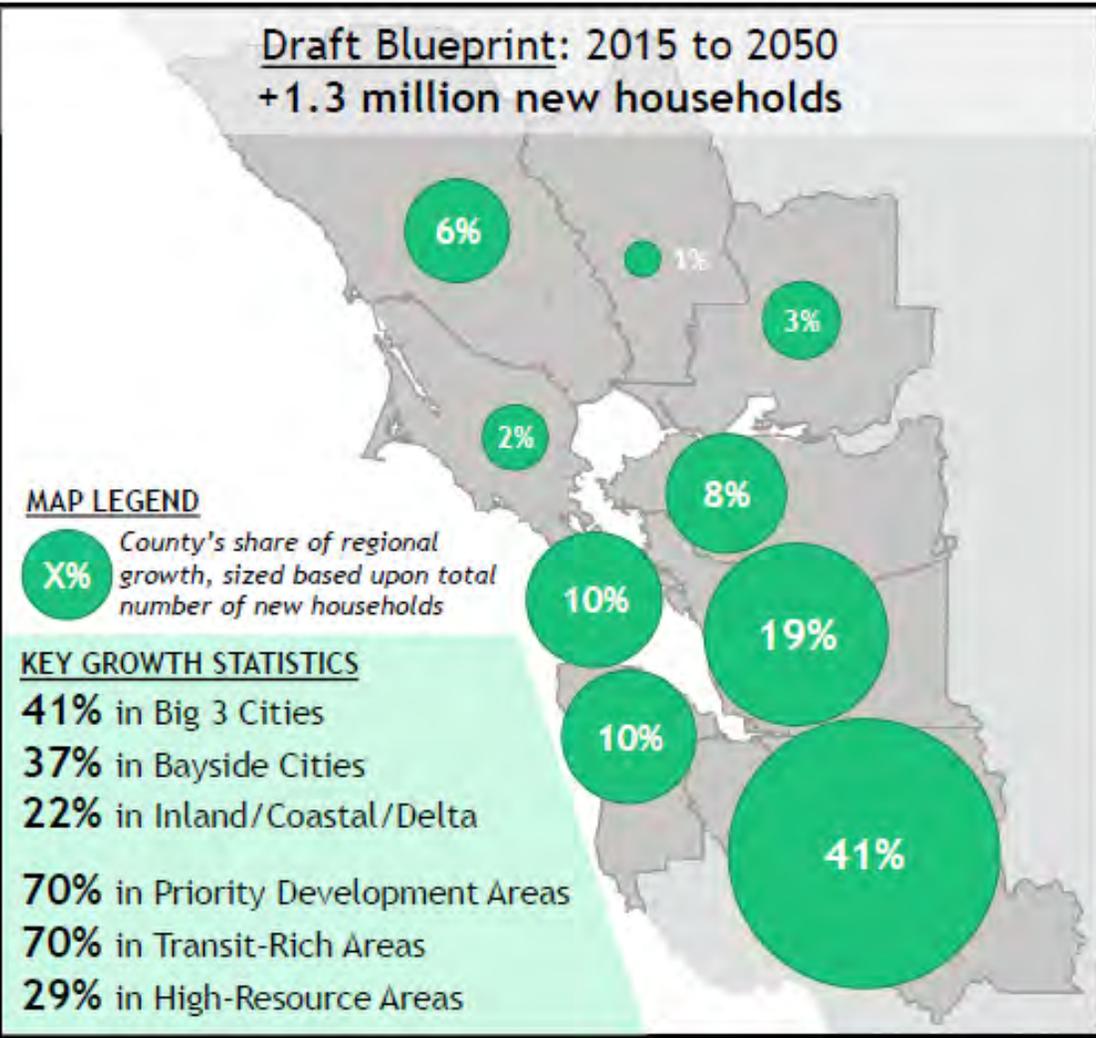
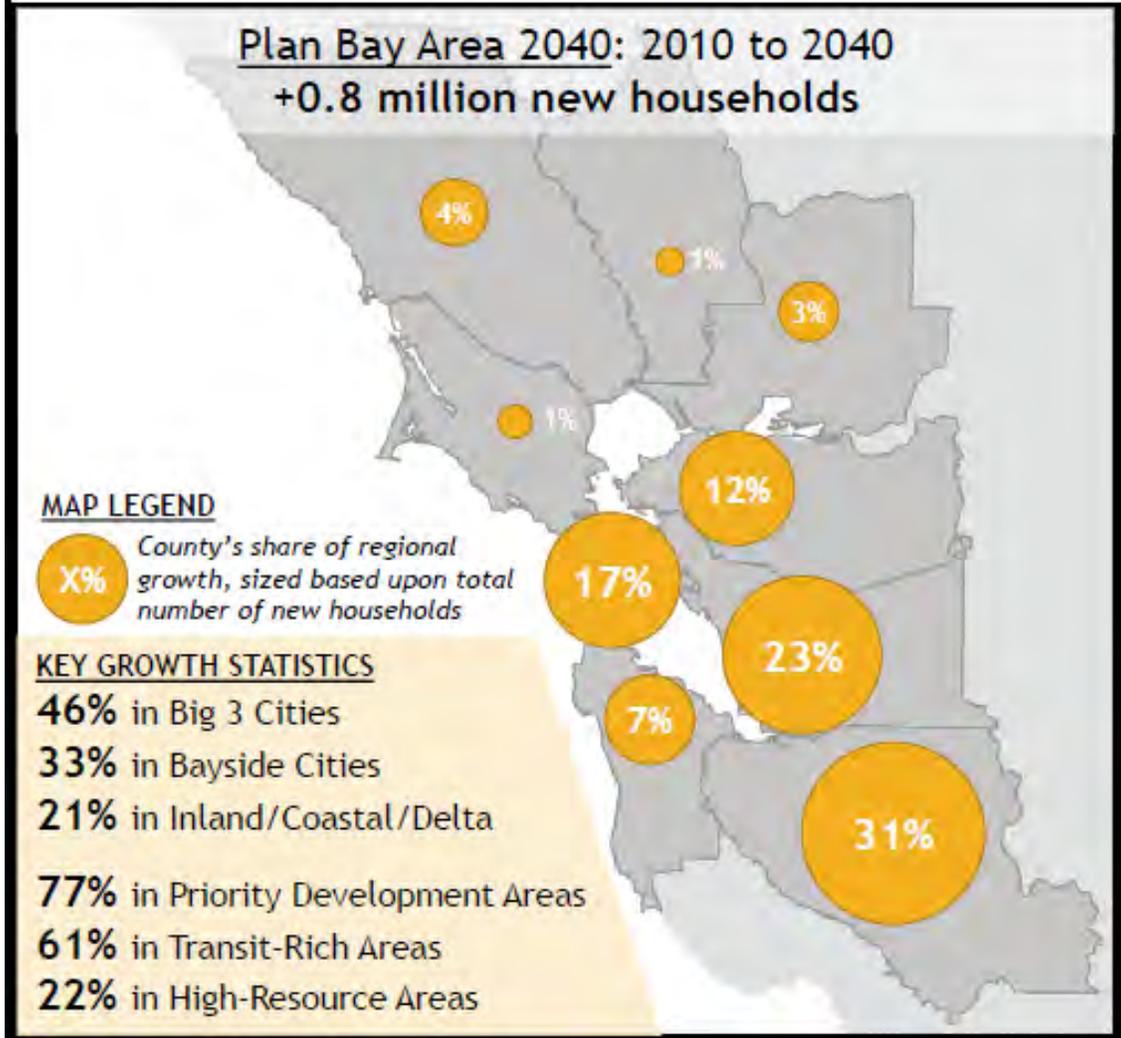
Protect High-Value Conservation Lands. Provide strategic matching funds to help conserve high-priority natural and agricultural lands, including but not limited to Priority Conservation Areas.

Expand the Climate Initiatives Program. Expand MTC’s Climate Initiatives Program, which includes investments in transportation demand management and electrification incentive programs, while simultaneously working with the Air District and the State to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for other transportation sectors.

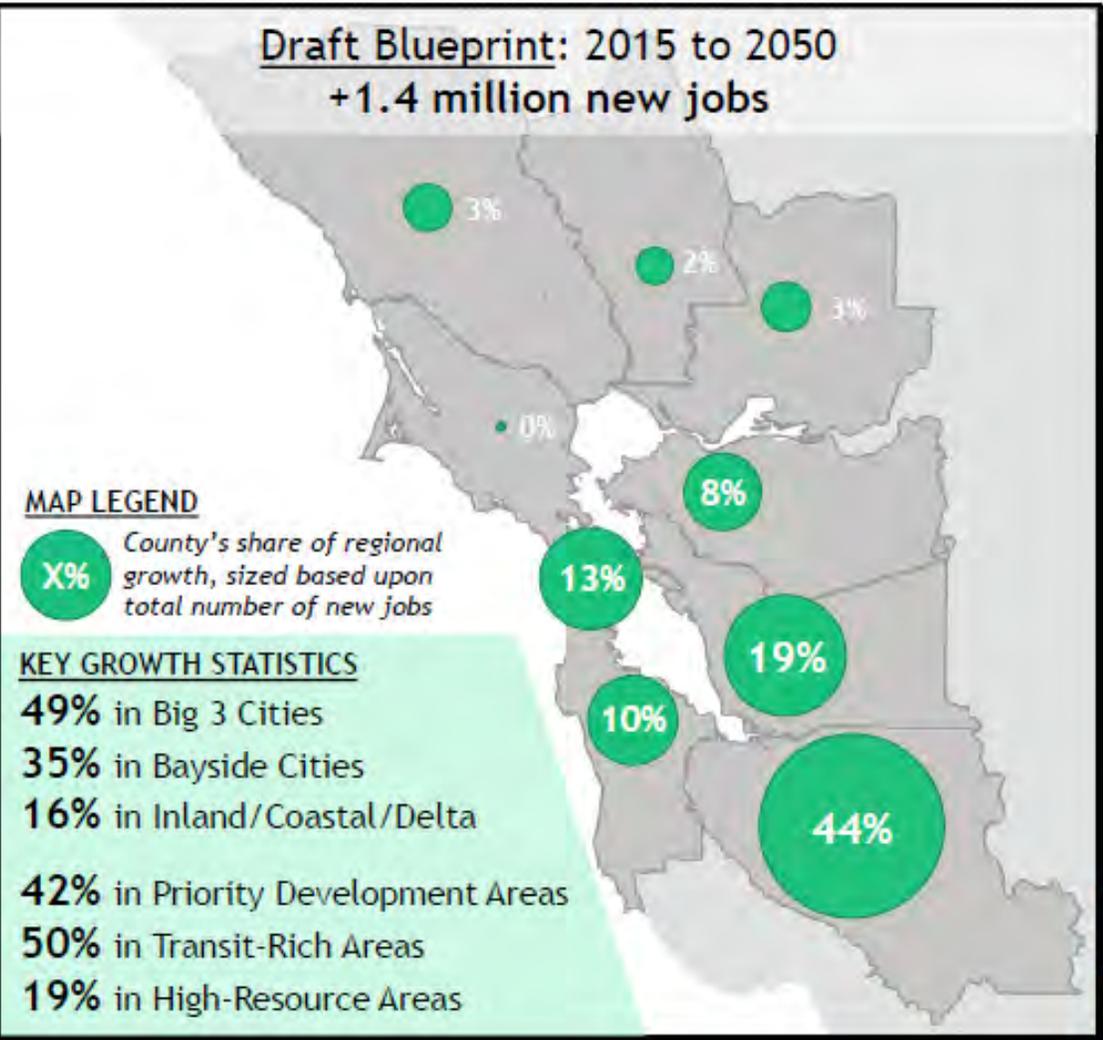
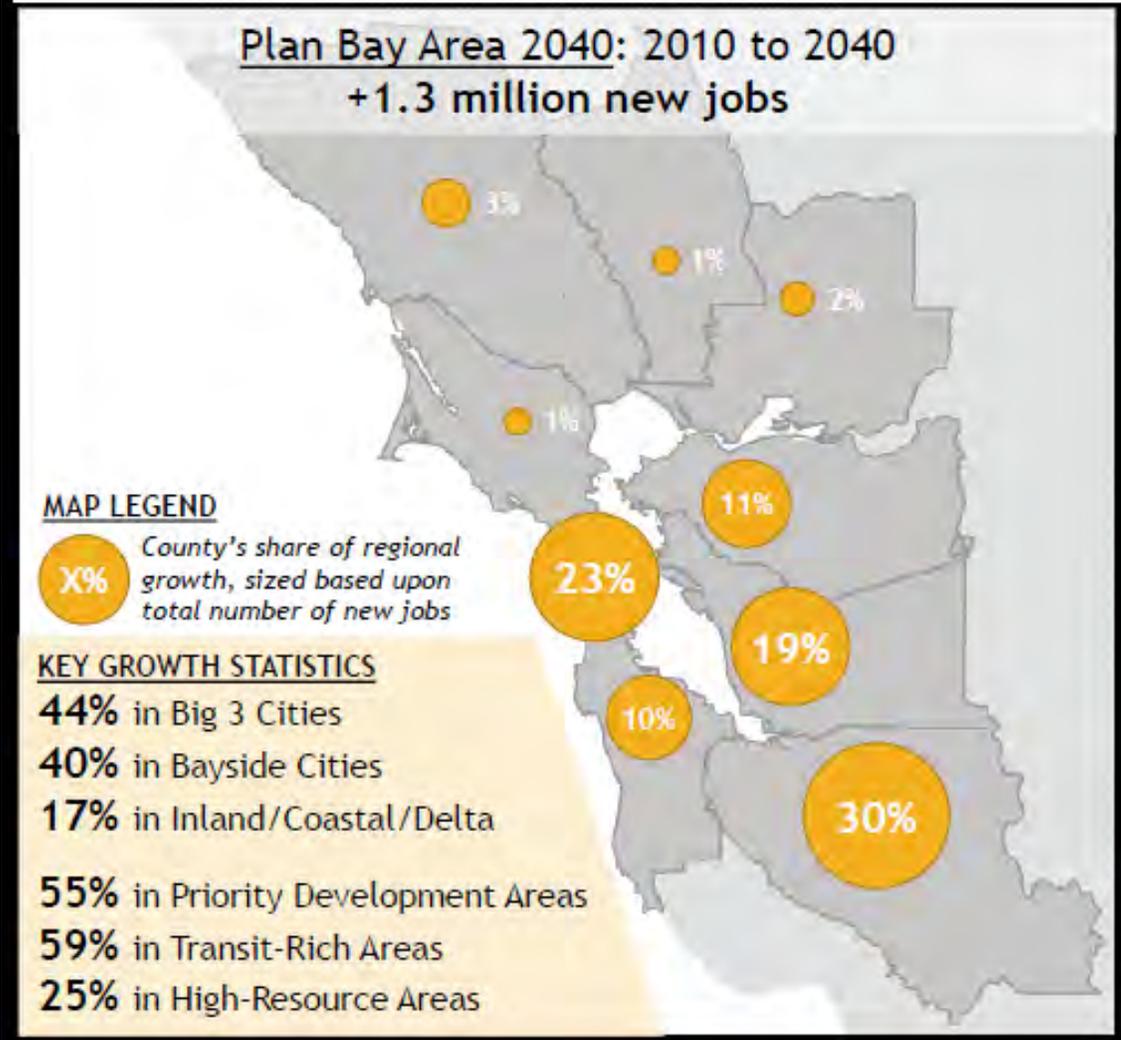
	Strategy	Funding	Share of Total Topic Area Investment	Key Metrics
ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTMENT \$53B	Adapt to Sea Level Rise (SLR)	\$17B	32%	Share of Funding in Communities of Concern*
	Retrofit Existing Buildings	\$20B	38%	
	Protect High-Value Conservation Lands	\$13B	28%	Retrofit Existing Buildings 13%
	Expand Climate Initiatives Program	\$1B	2%	

* Communities of Concern are communities of concern along California’s coastal system (selected only).

Plan Bay Area 2050: Draft Blueprint: Household Growth Pattern



Plan Bay Area 2050: Draft Blueprint: Job Growth Pattern





Plan Bay Area 2050 Next Steps

- **July - August 10, 2020** – Public feedback on Draft Blueprint
- **Summer 2020** – Strategy refinement; analysis of the Final Blueprint
- **Fall 2020** - MTC Commission and ABAG Executive Board adoption of Final Blueprint
- **Spring 2021** – Release of Draft Environmental Impact Report, Draft Plan Bay Area 2050, and Draft Implementation Plan
- **Fall 2021** – Adoption of a Final Environmental Impact Report, Final Plan Bay Area 2050, and Final Implementation Plan



Recommendations in Staff Draft Letter

- Time extension
- Integrate COVID-19 into the long-range model
- Update telecommuting projections
- Revise and ensure accuracy of growth geographies
- Model Palo Alto's Office Development Cap
- Greater public transparency about methodologies
- Request for specific data about job growth projections
- Clarification of if SB 35 and other policies were incorporated
- Support for some of the draft strategies

Plan Bay Area 2050 & RHNA and Key Milestones

ABAG 2023 RHNA and Plan Bay Area 2050 Key Milestones	Proposed Deadline
Housing Methodology Committee Kick-Off	October 2019
Subregions Form	February 2020
Plan Bay Area 2050 Regional Growth Forecast	April 2020
HCD Regional Housing Need Determination	Summer 2020 (June 9, 2020)
Plan Bay Area 2050 Draft Blueprint	July 2020
ABAG & Housing Methodology Committee Proposed RHNA Methodology, Draft Subregion Shares	Fall 2020
Plan Bay Area 2050 Final Blueprint	December 2020
Final Subregion Shares	December 2020
Draft RHNA Methodology to HCD for Review	Winter 2021
Final RHNA Methodology, Draft Allocation	Spring 2021
RHNA Appeals	Summer 2021
Final Plan Bay Area 2050	September 2021
Final RHNA Allocation	Winter 2021
Housing Element Due Date	January 2023
Dates are tentative and subject to change	



Staff Recommendation

1. Discuss and provide direction to staff as appropriate on two regional planning efforts, which are Plan Bay Area 2050 and the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) process
2. Authorize the Mayor to sign a letter reflecting City Council comments on the Plan Bay Area 2050 Draft Blueprint
3. Direct staff to submit a comment letter to ABAG/MTC's Housing Methodology Committee reflecting City Council initial comments regarding the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) methodology options that are under consideration



CONTACT US



Jonathan Lait

Director

Jonathan.lait@cityofpaloalto.org
(650) 329-2441

Rebecca Atkinson

Planner

rebecca.atkinson@cityofpaloalto.org
650-329-2596



CITY OF
PALO
ALTO

COUNCIL MEETING
08/03/2020 **12**
 Received Before Meeting

Discuss Caltrain Proposed 1/8-Cent Sales Tax Measure

August 3, 2020

www.cityofpaloalto.org

Timeline for Caltrain Ballot Measure

- **2017:** Senate Bill 797 authorizing consolidated election
- **April 1, 2020:** SamTrans voted to keep the option open for the Caltrain board to put a 1/8 cent sales tax on the ballot in November
- **May 5, 2020:** San Mateo County Board of Supervisors approved resolution to place a 1/8 cent sales tax on the ballot in November
- **July 14, 2020:** San Francisco Board of Supervisors declined to agendaize ballot measure
- **July 28, 2020:** San Francisco Board of Supervisors approved an amended resolution
- **July 31, 2020:** San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency rejected ballot measure. August 4 SFMTA meeting has been cancelled.
- **August 4, 2020:** Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
- **August 6, 2020:** Caltrain Board
- **August 6, 2020:** VTA Board