

Email to ABAG, 2/29/12 (KennethK, Jackie R)

Re: PDA designation for San Mateo County Midcoast “rural corridor”

Dear Mr. Kirkey:

San Mateo County has a jobs/housing imbalance, which leads to long commute distances from around the Bay Area to County Bayside jobs center. The County needs more housing near jobs and transit corridors to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and greenhouse gas emissions.

The San Mateo County Coastside is one of the outlying areas providing housing for Bayside jobs, and thus has the opposite jobs/housing imbalance. The only local transit is inadequate bus service. There is no transit connection to Bayside jobs. Building more housing on the Coastside, far from the jobs center and transit corridor will not help reduce VMT and greenhouse gas emissions.

The Coastside’s unique scenic and environmental resources are a treasure to be shared with all Californians. This area, without transit connections and isolated from the Bayside jobs center, is best preserved as a small town farming, fishing, and visitor-serving destination, and the jobs that support that. How can this possibly be considered a Priority Development Area? The designation will conflict with the CA Coastal Act and the San Mateo County Local Coastal Program.

Local residents were not consulted about the County’s plans to apply for PDA designation for the Midcoast. We learned about it only at the last minute when it appeared on the Board of Supervisors’ consent agenda.

In the spirit of SB 375, Coastside VMT and greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced by improving local bus service and building the Hwy 1 multi-modal trail and safe highway crossings, not by making this a Priority Development Area.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Lisa Ketcham
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