

COMPACT FOR A SUSTAINABLE BAY AREA



e q u i t y



e c o n o m y



e n v i r o n m e n t

BAY AREA ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Working together to achieve and maintain a prosperous economy, quality environment and social equity

## e-vision the future: environment, equity, economy

"We envision a Bay Area where the natural environment is vibrant, healthy and safe, where the economy is robust and globally competitive, and where everyone has equitable opportunities to share in the benefits of a quality environment and prosperous economy."

Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Communities, 1997

### Steering Committee

Juliet Ellis, Executive Director of Urban Habitat  
Robert L. Harris, Vice President Environmental Affairs of Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
Sunne Wright McPeak, President and CEO of the Bay Area Council  
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Architects, Designers and Planners for Social Responsibility  
Association of Bay Area Governments  
Bank of America  
Bay Area Air Quality Management District  
Bay Area Council  
Bay Area Economic Forum  
Bay Conservation and Development Commission  
Bay Planning Coalition  
Building Opportunities for Self Sufficiency  
Contra Costa Council  
Contra Costa Economic Partnership  
Earth House  
East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation  
Economic Development Alliance for Business  
Environmental Defense  
Greenbelt Alliance  
Greenlining Institute  
Homebuilders Association of Northern California  
Interfaith Coalition for Green Planning

League of Women Voters of the Bay Area  
Legal Aid of Marin  
Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
National Economic Development and Law Center  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
The Nature Conservancy  
Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
PolicyLink  
Regional Alliance for Transit\*  
Richmond Improvement Association  
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board  
San Jose/Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Sierra Club  
Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group  
Urban Ecology  
Urban Habitat  
Urban Strategies Council  
Youth in Focus

\*This organization has affirmed the final Compact and has submitted additional comments to advance the work of the Bay Area Alliance, which can be viewed at <http://www.BayAreaAlliance.org/comments.html>

**C O M P A C T F O R A S U S T A I N A B L E B A Y A R E A :  
ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT, EQUITY**

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Bay Area Alliance for  
Sustainable Communities

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November 2003

Dear Bay Area Friends:

We are pleased to present the final *Compact for a Sustainable Bay Area (Compact)*. This *Compact* was developed in a multi-stakeholder collaborative process overseen and coordinated by the Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Communities (Bay Area Alliance) over the last six years. The *Compact* represents a major success in cooperation, participation and communication on matters of great significance to the future of the Bay Area.

In order to improve the likelihood of regional consensus, the member organizations of the Bay Area Alliance along with many other participants first worked diligently to develop and reach "agreement in principle" on the *Draft Compact for a Sustainable Bay Area*. We then encouraged and facilitated a regionwide conversation about a more sustainable future, based on the vision and actions in the *Draft Compact*. This final *Compact* reflects the feedback received during the course of that regionwide conversation. We also plan to establish an appendix to this *Compact* at [www.BayAreaAlliance.org](http://www.BayAreaAlliance.org). This appendix will be a repository for comments related to but not included in the *Compact*. These comments are intended to advance sustainability in the Bay Area and do not contradict the provisions of the *Compact*. We sincerely thank all those who reviewed the *Draft Compact* and provided thoughtful comments and support. We are grateful to the county and city officials participating in the 1999 and 2000 General Assemblies of the Association of Bay Area Governments for reviewing an initial draft and deliberating strategies for implementation, and to the city councils and county boards of supervisors who subsequently reviewed and commented on the *Draft Compact*.

The *Compact* identifies key regional challenges and recommends a package of strategic commitments to meet those challenges and put the Bay Area on a more sustainable path. The *Compact* embraces and employs **e-vision**--integrating the essential **Three Es** of Sustainable Communities in order to achieve and maintain a prosperous **e**conomy, quality **e**nvironment, and social **e**quity. Hence the design of the cover, with the word "linking" connecting the Three **Es** to convey the concept of integration.

This *Compact* is a commitment by member organizations of the Bay Area Alliance to take specific steps extending over the next quarter century. It is envisioned that this *Compact* will also serve as a framework for action that will guide, but not prescribe, both regional and local planning and decision-making and motivate government, employers, civic organizations and individuals in cooperative efforts that will lead to a more sustainable region.

We recognize that full implementation of the strategies and actions in this document is a large task. We also accept that this *Compact* is a first step in moving to a more sustainable Bay Area. To move further in this direction, the Steering Committee recognizes that planning for the region must be based on the carrying capacity constraints imposed by its environment and infrastructure. By working together and simultaneously considering social equity, environmental quality, and economic prosperity, we will leave a more sustainable legacy for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Juliet Ellis in cursive.

Juliet Ellis  
Executive Director  
Urban Habitat Program

Handwritten signature of Robert L. Harris in cursive.

Robert L. Harris  
Vice President  
Environmental Affairs  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Handwritten signature of Sunne Wright McPeak in cursive.

Sunne Wright McPeak  
President and CEO  
Bay Area Council

Handwritten signature of Michele Perrault in cursive.

Michele Perrault  
International Vice President  
Sierra Club

Handwritten signature of Gwen Regalia in cursive.

Gwen Regalia  
President  
Association of Bay Area Governments

# Introduction

The Bay Area's vibrant economy, spectacular environmental resources, cultural amenities, educational institutions, and the rich diversity of the population make this region a unique and special place. Like many growing regions, however, the Bay Area is undergoing rapid changes and facing serious challenges. Traffic congestion, long commutes and overburdened transit systems, the lack of sufficient housing and skyrocketing housing costs, loss of open space, declining neighborhoods, air and water pollution and the increasingly inequitable distribution of the benefits of our thriving economy are inter-related problems that require integrated solutions. Sustaining the region's environment and economy in a way that ensures equity for all residents requires innovative thinking and "e-vision"—a balanced, integrated, inclusive, collaborative approach.

*"Without a quality environment and social equity, a prosperous economy is a short term phenomenon."*

Robert Harris  
Vice President Environmental  
Affairs, Pacific Gas and  
Electric Company

## e-vision

e-vision is a vision of the future that integrates the **Three Es of Sustainable Development** (Three **Es**): **prosperous economy, quality environment, and social equity**. e-vision is inclusive of all stakeholders; and celebrates the region's diverse social, environmental, and economic strengths.

## Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Communities

The Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Communities (Bay Area Alliance) is a multi-stakeholder coalition established in 1997 to develop and implement a sustainability action plan for the Bay Area. The Bay Area Alliance has embraced the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development definition of sustainable development as the ability ". . . to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

The **overall goal** of the Bay Area Alliance has been to reach consensus regionwide among a critical mass of stakeholder organizations and civic leaders regarding a new **shared vision** rooted in **common values** about how the region can grow in a more sustainable manner. The **overarching strategy** has been to achieve this regionwide consensus through the development and adoption of a "compact" that can become the foundation for implementation actions by both the public and private sectors at the local, regional, state and national levels.

*"The Vision of the Bay Area Alliance describes a place where most people would want to live. We need to act now to protect the quality of the environment, maintain the vitality of the Bay Area's economy, and ensure equitable opportunities for all."*

Will Travis  
Executive Director,  
Bay Conservation and  
Development Commission

The Bay Area Alliance is committed to facilitating a continuing regionwide dialogue on how the region can grow more sustainably, and to taking actions commensurate with achieving that goal. In all activities and deliberations the Bay Area Alliance is employing e-vision, integrating the essential Three **Es** in order to achieve and maintain a prosperous **e**conomy, quality **e**nvironment, and social **e**quity. The Bay Area Alliance acknowledges that e-vision can also simultaneously represent other **Es** related to sustainability, including education, energy, and the symbol of the digital age (e-commerce, e-government).

## Compact for a Sustainable Bay Area

The purpose of the *Compact for a Sustainable Bay Area (Compact)* is to inform regional and local planning and decision-making, guide the actions of government, employers, civic organizations and individuals and motivate cooperative efforts that will lead to a more sustainable region.

*"Compact" is such a marvelous pun!  
A compact development pattern is a covenant between ourselves and the natural systems that enrich and sustain us. The Compact for a Sustainable Bay Area is also a covenant that speaks to how we define prosperity and community. Just how good is it living here, for how long, and for whom?"*

Councilmember Duane Bay  
City of East Palo Alto

The *Compact* identifies key regional challenges and presents a package of ten strategic commitments to meet those challenges in order to put the Bay Area on a more sustainable path. This *Compact* is a commitment by member organizations to take specific steps extending over the next quarter century.

The *Compact* recommends strategies and actions that move toward the essential Three **Es** of sustainability: prosperous **e**conomy, quality **e**nvironment, and social **e**quity. All are equally important and interdependent. The Three **Es** also represent different constituencies in the Bay Area that, along with local and regional governments, have the ability to accomplish recommended actions. While each constituency views each strategy and action from its point of view, the recommendations in the *Compact* will have a positive effect on all Three **Es**.

This *Compact* calls for actions by business, community and civic organizations, and government to achieve the vision. These actions are not intended to be the responsibility of any one jurisdiction, agency or organization. Rather they are actions that could and should be pursued individually and/or collectively. Some jurisdictions, agencies or organizations may not be in a position to take action on every Commitment to Action. But, it is especially important for everyone to consider the perspectives of all Three **Es**—economy, environment, equity— and promote a more sustainable future in all their decisions and actions.

## Input from Local Officials

The Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Communities presented the initial version of the *Draft Compact* to the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) General Assembly in April 1999. The *Draft Compact* was then revised to reflect input received from ABAG as well as other Bay Area Alliance members and stake-

holders. The *Draft Compact* and the work of the Bay Area Alliance helped shape the discussion at ABAG's General Assembly in April 2000, for which the theme was *Smart Growth: Rhetoric to Reality*. During 2001, the Bay Area Alliance began to formally present the *Draft Compact* to Bay Area city councils and county boards of supervisors. Sixty-six of the 101 cities and all nine counties took actions supporting the work of the Bay Area Alliance and the process of developing the *Draft Compact*. The comments received from local officials are reflected in this *Compact*.

## Public Review Shaped Compact

The Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Communities also sought input from Bay Area leaders and the public to refine the *Draft Compact* and develop consensus on the recommended actions. Through workshops in each Bay Area county, a website, and other means, the Bay Area Alliance made the *Draft Compact* widely available for review. The feedback received was used to finalize this *Compact*. The *Compact* was then submitted to the member organizations of the Bay Area Alliance in late 2002 for affirmation.

*"We have a choice -- joint action to protect our environment and make our cities better places to live and work -- or inaction and loss of the very things that make the Bay Area truly special. The Compact is a great first step. Now it's time to implement these ideas for a better Bay Area."*

Tom Steinbach  
Executive Director,  
Greenbelt Alliance

# Vision

The Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Communities adopted this Vision in 1997:

***“We envision a Bay Area where the natural environment is vibrant, healthy and safe, where the economy is robust and globally competitive, and where everyone has equitable opportunities to share in the benefits of a quality environment and a prosperous economy.”***

The members of the Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Communities agree that a sustainable Bay Area must have the following attributes:

### **Environmental quality is excellent.**

- The Bay Area ecosystem—including the Bay-Delta Estuary, air quality, wetlands and watersheds, and biodiversity—is healthy, vibrant, and productive.
- Open space and agriculture are preserved as a result of efficient, compact land use patterns.
- Resources are conserved and waste is eliminated.

### **The economy is prosperous.**

- The regional economy is robust, and productivity is high.
- Unemployment rates are low, and poverty levels are decreased.
- Sufficient housing affordable to the workforce is available close to job centers.
- Economic well being and quality of life are high in all neighborhoods.
- Traffic congestion is greatly reduced. There is a first-rate public transportation system including water transit and the percentage of single occupant vehicle trips significantly declines.

### **The diverse segments of the population share the region’s economic prosperity and environmental quality.**

- Education performance is greatly improved, especially among the disadvantaged population.
- Strategic capital investments in priority neighborhoods, in partnership with local neighborhood leaders, improve the physical and social environment, provide living-wage jobs, and enhance housing opportunities for neighborhood residents.
- The workforce in all sectors and civic leadership throughout the region reflect the diversity of the population.
- Land-use planning, economic development and the transportation network minimize disparities among neighborhoods and municipalities.

*“The future of the Bay Area depends on development patterns and policies that leave no community behind. Communities of color and low-income communities are positioned to provide leadership in the articulation and implementation of a vision for equitable development.”*

Joe Brooks  
Director of Capacity Building  
and Civic Engagement,  
PolicyLink

The sustainable vision is possible, starting now and continuing over the next quarter century.

## Challenges

The Bay Area is one of the world's most desirable places to live and work. It has a robust and expanding economy. It is a gateway to the Pacific Rim. It has internationally-known institutions of higher learning. It has a richly-diverse population. It has a climate that is among the best in the nation. And it has natural resources whose beauty is unmatched anywhere in the world.

But the Bay Area also faces major challenges to a prosperous economy, quality environment, and social equity. These challenges are interconnected and must be addressed comprehensively.

1. **Sustainable economy.** The Bay Area economy has not been immune to recession. In the early 1990s, the region experienced its most significant recession since the Great Depression. In the first years of the 21st century, the Bay Area is once again experiencing the effects of a national recession. In aggregate, the region recovered exceedingly well from the recession of the early 1990s and we expect the same robust recovery from the current recession. But many people have been consistently left out of the recoveries. The gap between the "haves" and "have-nots" has grown in the region. Many workers earn less than a living wage.
2. **Housing supply.** People travel increasing distances between home and work, leading to traffic congestion, personal stress and excessive time away from families. Housing prices are among the highest in the nation, adding to the problem of homelessness and causing Bay Area workers to live outside the region. Decent, affordable, safe and accessible housing should be available to all Bay Area residents.
3. **Transportation system.** Historical expansion of the freeway system in the Bay Area has reinforced low-density vehicle-dependent suburban development and more congestion. While funding priorities have shifted in recent years, public transit systems throughout the Bay Area are not sufficiently coordinated and do not provide adequate service, which is especially a hardship in low-income areas.
4. **San Francisco Bay, habitats, farmland, open space and other natural assets.** Prevailing low-density patterns of development separate homes from job centers, services and other destinations. These patterns are wasting resources, eating up open space, wildlife habitat and farmland, and threatening San Francisco Bay, the region's biodiversity and human health through the degradation of air and water quality.
5. **Resource use.** Inefficient practices of production and consumption cause pollution and threaten the future prosperity of the economy.
6. **Neighborhood integrity.** The movement of job centers away from inner city neighborhoods and older suburbs is resulting in concentrations of poverty, deteriorated housing, a lack of adequate job training, public transit and other services, and a growing disparity of incomes between the rich and poor.

*"We are located at the intersection of growing metropolitan regions.*

*The principles of sustainable development are guiding our efforts to both preserve the rural heritage and environmental resources of our county and provide good jobs and affordable housing in our cities."*

Supervisor Barbara Kondylis  
Solano County

*"Our Bay Region environment is in jeopardy and in some ways declining. The Bay Area Alliance Compact makes a promising start on addressing these challenges in ways that are consistent with economic prosperity and social equity."*

Sherman Lewis  
Regional Alliance for Transit

*"Mounting traffic congestion and housing prices beyond the reach of most Bay Area households threaten the long term economic prosperity of the Bay Area. The Compact for A Sustainable Bay Area provides a framework to bring affordable housing closer to jobs. The Compact offers a path for the business community and other stakeholders in the region to achieve long term economic prosperity and success."*

Nelson C. Rising  
Chairman and CEO, Catellus  
Development Corporation and  
Chair, Bay Area Council

7. **Educational system.** The quality of the K-12 education system has deteriorated to the point where the region is no longer among national educational leaders. The current educational system no longer provides an adequately-prepared workforce, and the future of the region's children is at risk.
8. **Community health and safety.** Declining inner city neighborhoods and older suburbs have experienced increasing crime and safety concerns. These issues are often exacerbated by environmental degradation in the same areas leading to increasing levels of health-related problems. People move away from unsafe and unhealthy communities, thereby increasing the rate of decline of the community.
9. **Local government finance.** Because of unreliable and inadequate funding sources, local governments often plan for and compete with other jurisdictions for land uses that increase tax revenues to meet growing demands for social and other municipal services. The result is a growing financial challenge, particularly for inner cities and older suburbs.
10. **Civic engagement.** Increasing geographic and cultural separation among people of different races, classes, and cultures and a lack of understanding of the dynamics of growth have resulted in a decline of a common civic conscience. People who are stressed by poverty, long commutes, and lack of support networks have little time for involvement in their neighborhoods and communities. Without established mechanisms for ongoing dialogue and policy development, we cannot address emerging regional challenges effectively and equitably.

If present trends continue, the quality of life in the Bay Area will deteriorate. But trends are not destiny. A more sustainable future is possible through the cooperation of the constituencies of the Three **Es**—**e**conomy, **e**nvironment, **e**quity—working in partnership with government at all levels.

This *Compact for a Sustainable Bay Area* contains specific Commitments to Action to address the major challenges to achieving a more sustainable region.

## Implementation

The overall goal of the Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Communities is for the region to grow more sustainably with a smarter land use pattern. Thus, although reaching regional consensus on this *Compact for a Sustainable Bay Area* is an important milestone, there must be an ultimate focus on implementation.

The impact of implementation will be measured regularly using the indicators first identified in the *Draft Compact*. The inaugural report, *Bay Area Indicators: Measuring Progress Toward Sustainability* is available on the website [www.BayAreaAlliance.org/indicators.html](http://www.BayAreaAlliance.org/indicators.html).

To demonstrate more sustainable practices, the Bay Area Alliance is publishing the *Faces of Sustainability* series, also available at [www.BayAreaAlliance.org](http://www.BayAreaAlliance.org). The first installment highlights how residents of Napa County are making their community a better place to live, protecting their natural environment, and conducting business in ways that promote quality of life for subsequent generations. Future installments will feature profiles of other Bay Area counties.

Two exciting implementation activities have already been launched. First, in cooperation with the five regional agencies (Association of Bay Area Governments, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Bay Conservation and Development Commission, Metropolitan Transportation Commission San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board) the Bay Area Alliance has co-managed the **Smart Growth Strategy/ Regional Livability Footprint Project**. The first phase of the Project consisted of an extensive public workshop process throughout the nine-county Bay Area. What came out of this phase was a "vision" of the Bay Area as it might look in 2020 and beyond if land use planning was based on sustainable or smart growth principles and an "alternative growth scenario." Close to 2,000 people participated in the workshops. It is anticipated that the "alternative growth scenario" will be considered in developing the Regional Transportation Improvement Plan and in other planning efforts. In the second phase, the Project will identify and work to obtain the regulatory changes and incentives that will be needed to implement the vision in the Bay Area. For more information, contact the Bay Area Alliance at (510) 464-7978 or check the website at [www.BayAreaAlliance.org](http://www.BayAreaAlliance.org).

Another high-priority implementation strategy for the Bay Area Alliance is the **Community Capital Investment Initiative** to attract private investment into the poorest neighborhoods in partnership with the community. The Community Capital Investment Initiative is simultaneously tackling poverty with market-based solutions and promoting smart growth. Work on this initiative will provide valuable real-time information and practical lessons on the potential for infill, land recycling, and neighborhood revitalization as strategies for sustainable development. For more information, contact the Bay Area Alliance at (510) 464-7978 or [www.BayAreaAlliance.org](http://www.BayAreaAlliance.org).

*"The Smart Growth strategy is about selectively and thoughtfully changing development patterns in the Bay Area. It is essential to maintaining economic vitality and opportunity in the area, and it is ultimately the best way to protect the environment and quality of life that is so important to everyone who lives here."*

Thomas Sullivan  
President, Wilson Meany  
Sullivan LLC  
Chair, Economic Caucus  
Workgroup on the Regional  
Livability Footprint Project



# 10 Commitments to Action

**T**his *Compact for a Sustainable Bay Area* contains specific Commitments to Action to address the major challenges to achieving a more sustainable region. The commitments are not intended to be the responsibility of any one jurisdiction, agency or organization. Rather they are actions that could be pursued individually or collectively. Some jurisdictions, agencies or organizations may not be in a position to take action on specific commitments. But, it is especially important for everyone to consider the perspectives of all Three Es—economy, environment, equity—and promote a more sustainable future in all their decisions and actions.

The members of the Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Communities propose the following framework for bold action. The ten strategic commitments are inextricably interconnected, and they are directly linked to the previous ten challenges. The order of listing is not intended to imply a priority.

- 1. Enable a diversified, sustainable and competitive economy to continue to prosper and provide jobs in order to achieve a high quality of life for all Bay Area residents.**
- 2. Provide housing affordable to all income levels within the Bay Area to match population increases and job generation.**
- 3. Target transportation investment to achieve a world-class comprehensive, integrated and balanced multi-modal system that supports efficient land use and decreases dependency on single-occupancy vehicle trips.**
- 4. Preserve and restore the region's natural assets -- San Francisco Bay, farmland, open space, other habitats.**
- 5. Improve resource and energy efficiency, reduce pollution and waste.**
- 6. Focus investment to preserve and revitalize neighborhoods.**
- 7. Provide all residents with the opportunity for quality education and lifelong learning to help them meet their highest aspirations.**
- 8. Promote healthy and safe communities.**
- 9. Support state and local government fiscal reforms.**
- 10. Stimulate civic engagement.**

These Ten Commitments to Action form the centerpiece of the *Compact for a Sustainable Bay Area*. The *Compact* sets forth an overview statement and specific actions associated with each of the ten commitments.

*"The Compact for A Sustainable Bay Area will provide us with a way to re-vitalize and maintain a strong regional economy that achieves the objectives across our broad stakeholder groups."*

Robert L. Duffy  
Vice-President,  
A.T. Kearney, Inc.

*"We need to provide housing for all people at all income levels. As property values have soared, many people can not afford housing, including our public service employees such as teachers and police officers. We need to pay more attention to those who are working and trying hard. People don't want a handout. They want decent, affordable housing."*

Mayor Gwen Regalia  
City of Walnut Creek  
President, Association of  
Bay Area Governments

## 1. Enable a Diversified, Sustainable and Competitive Economy to Continue to Prosper and Provide Jobs in order to Achieve a High Quality of Life for All Bay Area Residents.

The Bay Area Alliance will work to strengthen the regional economy to reduce the aggregate effect of future global, national, state or regional recessions. We will seek to ensure that all sectors of the Bay Area population have the opportunity to participate in the region's growing economic prosperity. We will work for an economy that does not jeopardize the welfare of future generations.

We commit ourselves to:

- Support and lead collaborative actions to enhance the region's economic strengths and minimize its weaknesses while ensuring its comparative advantage, protecting the environment and improving social equity.
- Encourage businesses in environmental technologies, material recycling, energy efficiency, brownfields reuse and those that employ the disadvantaged.
- Participate in discussions on: growth and sustainability; the nature and quality of jobs in the region; the relationship of a living wage and sustainability; and strategies to promote a living wage without affecting competitive position.
- Encourage a better balance of jobs and housing.
- Link employer-based workforce development to the schools, including technical and vocational schools.
- Support efforts to provide needed services, such as child care, youth programs and elder care to facilitate employment.

## 2. Provide Housing Affordable to All Income Levels within the Bay Area to Match Population Increases and Job Generation.

The Bay Area Alliance will work to protect and expand the supply of housing that is needed by and affordable to all residents. Actions will be taken to promote housing for the most needy and current and future workers of all income levels that is in locations near transit, community services and places of employment. We will coordinate these efforts with regional agencies, local, state and federal governments, employers, community organizations, developers, non-profits, business associations, economic development organizations, foundations, community members and lenders.

The Bay Area Alliance supports optimizing the potential for meeting land use needs for new housing and jobs through increasing average densities with infill, refill, land recycling, transit villages, development of closed military bases, and revitalization of poor and older neighbor-

hoods while avoiding displacement. However, we recognize that even with optimizing these strategies to achieve more efficient land-use, there might likely need to be growth in Bay Area urban and suburban communities, but not in identified environmentally sensitive areas, in order to meet the regional housing needs. The Bay Area Alliance encourages management of growth in a way that uses land efficiently, reduces automobile dependency, minimizes inter-regional impacts and provides housing opportunities to all income levels.

We commit ourselves to:

- Reach out to financial institutions to encourage diverse housing types and mixed-use investments at transit-supportive densities within urban areas, near transit, which reuse underutilized or deteriorated areas.
- Encourage financial institutions to improve access to capital by underserved and disadvantaged communities and individuals.
- Work with local community organizations to learn about their needs for housing and services, including needs of the homeless, and encourage community organizations to participate in planning, advocacy, ownership and implementation.
- Advocate in support of mixed-density and mixed-income residential development, including adequate affordable housing, particularly in areas with transit and other services.
- Support efforts to use existing housing stock efficiently, by encouraging second units, group housing and similar mechanisms.
- Support community-based efforts to retain the existing and build additional affordable housing.
- Advocate local, state and federal governments adopt or amend policies to prevent and compensate for displacement.
- Advocate local government actions, such as amending general plans and zoning ordinances, and providing incentives, such as permit fast tracking, to encourage affordable housing development, especially near transit.
- Advocate changes in federal and state legislation to provide incentives for the development of resource-efficient, affordable housing near transit, community services and places of employment, and to address barriers such as construction defect litigation.
- Support the establish of an Affordable Housing Trust Fund to assist jurisdictions in providing their fair share of affordable housing.
- Support state legislative reform to improve the fair share housing process and provide financial and other incentives to strengthen local jurisdictions' abilities to meet their fair share responsibilities.
- Support preservation and conservation of existing housing stock such as housing at closing military bases, single room occupancy hotels and other affordable housing.
- Support existing fair housing laws and support enforcement of prohibitions against discrimination in housing.

*"One need look no further than the Bay Area's overcrowded homeless shelters and the sprawl overwhelming the Central Valley to see the impact of our inability to address regional growth and equity needs. Only through regional cooperation and aggressive action will be able to meet the basic housing needs of low and moderate income people. "*

Doug Shoemaker  
Policy and Program Director,  
The Non-Profit Housing  
Association of  
Northern California

*"We now have a common vision of the Bay Area's future. Smart growth is the key. We need affordable housing near thriving job centers to keep our cities livable. This will ensure a healthy environment, prosperous economy and long-term quality of life."*

Bob Fisher  
Trustee,  
Natural Resources  
Defense Council

### 3. Target Transportation Investment to Achieve a World-Class Comprehensive, Integrated and Balanced Multi-modal System that Supports Efficient Land Use and Decreases Dependency on Single-Occupancy Vehicle Trips.

To increase the effectiveness of investments, the Bay Area Alliance will work with transportation planning agencies and all advocacy groups to maintain and preserve existing transportation facilities and to invest in an integrated transportation system which improves access and mobility of people, goods and services throughout the region, and minimizes environmental impacts, particularly on air and water resources.

The Bay Area Alliance supports maximizing alternatives to single-occupant vehicle travel with incentives and priorities for the development of a comprehensive, integrated, seamless public transit system. To achieve such a viable public transit system, there must be better coordination among transit agencies as well as increased funding. To improve mobility, simultaneous strategic investments must be made in key roadway systems. All investments should be subject to a comparative mobility and access evaluation of the performance of similar investments in other transportation modes.

In addition, the Bay Area Alliance will work with others to promote improved linkages between transportation investments and land use planning to help ensure effective and efficient use of transportation funds.

We commit ourselves to:

- Support transportation services, regulations, facilities and information technology infrastructure that enable telecommuting, complement compact land-use patterns, and reduce single-occupant vehicle trips.
- Support linking land use planning to transportation by locating new residential and commercial development in close proximity to existing or planned mass transit and by designing for walking and bicycling.
- Encourage transit ridership with more express routes to existing high volume destinations and developments.
- Support efforts to improve the efficiency, speed, coordination and affordability of transit services, including high-speed water transit, BART, CalTrain and other trains, light rail and buses, and the linking of existing high-occupancy vehicle lanes in order to achieve an integrated, comprehensive, region-wide, seamless public transit network.
- Encourage the restoration and expansion of transit service during both commute and non-commute times to under-served neighborhoods and populations (e.g., seniors, schoolchildren, etc.).
- Advocate that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) continue to give priority to the repair, maintenance and improvement of existing freeways while addressing new or expanded facilities with a

*“The Bay Area has a choice in how we shape the future of our region. We can achieve a healthier result that will benefit all of our diverse population economically as well as environmentally. To do so, we must be making local decisions today that also reflect the needs of our region going forward. We should not squander this opportunity.”*

Supervisor Steve Kinsey  
Marin County  
Chair, Metropolitan  
Transportation Commission

comparative evaluation of surface transportation to public transit alternatives in order to increase total system efficiency.

- Consider the implementation of congestion pricing and other auto use pricing reforms that provide an incentive for high occupancy vehicle trips. These measures should be equitably applied so that they do not unduly burden vulnerable populations. Additional financial resources will be used for transportation system improvements, with a priority on improving public transit service in congested corridors.
- Advocate for a safe, convenient network of bicycle and pedestrian facilities which serve and/or link residential, employment, commercial, recreational and transit service areas.
- Support the integration of new surface transportation and transit improvements to relieve key bottlenecks and maximize efficiency of movement for the Bay Area population.
- Support investment in transportation infrastructure for the efficient movement of people and commerce using seaports, airports, rail, and highways, at a level sufficient to maintain the competitiveness of the region.
- Support the continuing efforts of MTC to conduct an equity analysis of the Regional Transportation Plan process and to consider the social equity impact of new transportation investments.
- Support linking jobs and housing with convenient, affordable, environmentally-friendly transit service.

*“Improving air quality for Bay Area residents requires comprehensive planning and a collaborative, integrated approach. Growth patterns that support a wide array of cost-effective transportation alternatives will help reduce vehicle emissions. Through partnerships with business we can identify and implement solutions to industrial pollution.”*

Supervisor Scott Haggerty  
Alameda County  
Chair, Bay Area Air Quality  
Management District

#### 4. Preserve and Restore the Region’s Natural Assets -- San Francisco Bay, Farmland, Open Space, and Other Habitats.

The Bay Area Alliance will work with others to identify and protect high-priority lands, waterways and the San Francisco Bay. We will seek resources to develop a region-wide plan and map showing which lands should be considered for restoration and preservation and which could be considered for development, consistent with sustainability criteria. These criteria must include the encouragement of compact, mixed-use, mixed-income development in existing developed areas to ensure that land is used efficiently (including the reuse of brownfields). The criteria should also include matching jobs with housing, linking homes, jobs and services, and reducing dependence on motor vehicles. Recognizing that the Bay Area already has lost extensive habitat, we will work to obtain funds for land protection, restoration and management, through acquisition and other means, to protect the Bay, wetlands and associated upland habitat, watersheds, agricultural land, woodland, wildlife habitat, other natural resources and public open space. We will work with local and Regional Park and open space agencies, the agricultural community, environmental organizations, and local governments to identify priority areas. We will coordinate efforts to obtain funds from federal and state governments, foundations, and other sources.

*“The Bay Region’s goals for a more sustainable future will be advanced when all government entities, companies, nonprofits and citizens advocate for and adopt the best available practices that assure that we live within a healthy ecological carrying capacity while guaranteeing a more enhanced quality of life for all.”*

Michele Perrault  
International Vice President,  
Sierra Club

*“Economically viable agriculture is a vital component of a sustainable region. Working farms and ranches contribute significantly to our economy and help to define our identity. By working collaboratively, we can preserve our agricultural heritage; protect watersheds and other resources; and at the same time ensure that our residents have decent, affordable housing.”*

Supervisor Mike Rippey  
Napa County

*“Open space protection has to be part of our vision. The preservation of a viable agricultural base must be undertaken. Buy local agricultural products. Connections to the land must be part of all of our lives.”*

Councilmember Jake MacKenzie  
City of Rohnert Park

We commit ourselves to:

- Support efforts to protect and restore the Bay-Delta Estuary such as the Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Report (1999) and the CalFed Bay-Delta process.
- Support an open space initiative/regional bond measure.
- Address needs for open space, environmental cleanup, and resource/habitat protection in urban areas, particularly in low-income neighborhoods, and including improved landscaping of parks, daylighting creeks, and street trees.
- Develop and implement plans for restoration and preservation of wetlands and associated uplands, informed by best available science.
- Support coordinated advocacy efforts to obtain funds for planning, acquisition, restoration, stewardship and appropriate public access.
- Advocate incentives for landowners to practice good environmental stewardship.
- Work with farmers to develop policies and incentives that promote environmentally-responsible agricultural practices.
- Coordinate land acquisition efforts with environmental and community-based organizations.
- Link land protection/management programs to support for the economic viability of agriculture, including assistance to family farmers and farm workers.
- Support zoning parcel sizes in agricultural areas consistent with agricultural viability and protection of biodiversity based on best available economic analysis and science.
- Support urban growth boundaries, provided that complementary policies and incentives are adopted that ensure that new jobs generated and needed housing are accommodated within the boundaries in a manner emphasizing revitalization and reuse.
- Support the study of the relationship of long-term carrying capacity to growth.

#### 5. Improve Resource and Energy Efficiency: Reduce Pollution and Waste.

To improve resource and energy efficiency and reduce pollution and waste, the Bay Area Alliance will work to support leadership by utilities, manufacturers, builders, other businesses, institutions, public agencies and consumer groups that encourage the efficient use and reuse of resources, including water and energy, and the reduction of pollution and waste.

We commit ourselves to:

- Encourage more resource and energy efficiency, less polluting production and construction processes, including providing tax and other incentives and removing disincentives.
- Encourage the packaging, transportation and consumer use of goods and services in an environmentally and socially responsible fashion.
- Support, through a cooperative effort with industry, government and community organizations, development and adoption of cost-effective standards for the design of, and materials used in, "green buildings" to reduce pollution, operating costs, and power consumption.
- Encourage the substitution of renewable for non-renewable energy resources, and reduction in energy use.
- Encourage the use of energy and water efficient technologies in new building design and retrofit of residential, business and institutional facilities.
- Support public-private partnerships to improve the efficiency of environmental regulation while improving environmental performance and enforcement of existing environmental laws and regulations.
- Support local and regional reuse, recycling and resource recovery programs; support incentives for the use of recycled materials.
- Encourage households, industry, government and agriculture to reduce the use of harmful pesticides, fertilizers and other potential pollutants.
- Implement strategies to reduce water pollution, especially non-point source run-off, and promote improved watershed management practice for the Bay and associated waterways.
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Reduce air pollution, especially from mobile sources.

*"We can accommodate growth and still protect our creeks and watersheds. But it's not easy, and that's where smart growth comes in."*

Bruce Wolfe,  
Executive Officer,  
San Francisco Bay Regional  
Water Quality Control Board

## 6. Focus Investment to Preserve and Revitalize Neighborhoods.

The Bay Area Alliance will work to promote the Community Capital Investment Initiative (CCII) which supports neighborhood revitalization efforts while encouraging compact, efficient development patterns. The program is intended to complement existing efforts and promote significant community involvement. The CCII will focus on job development and training, community and environmental improvement, and social services in the 46 most impoverished and other neighborhoods experiencing decline in inner cities and older suburbs in the Bay Area. The program will provide assistance to community-based entrepreneurs and encourage other employers to locate in these areas and use local vendors for needed services to the extent possible. This program will be operated in a manner that maximizes the benefits to the community, its residents and businesses.

*"Attracting private investment to revitalize poor and older neighborhoods—in partnership with the existing residents and businesses, not displacing them—is a key smart growth strategy that relieves pressures for development at the edge of the urbanized areas."*

Sunne Wright McPeak  
President & CEO,  
Bay Area Council

*"It is critical that low-income communities and communities of color engage in regional planning and decision making. Through their leadership we can achieve a region that supports the needs of all its residents."*

Juliet Ellis  
Executive Director,  
Urban Habitat

*"Schools are a vital part of every community. Their facilities and programs are as essential as transportation, public safety, recreation and other services. Schools should be integrated formally into community planning processes and need ongoing support from residents and leaders."*

Robert C. Nichols  
Boardmember, California  
Teachers Association

We commit ourselves to:

- Recruit community and Bay Area business leaders to participate in developing and implementing the Community Capital Investment Initiative.
- Support investments by economic development organizations that invest in local entrepreneurship in low-income neighborhoods.
- Support policies to minimize the adverse impacts of gentrification and displacement of low- and moderate- income residents and small businesses.
- Work to assure that environmental, housing and infrastructure problems that discourage investment in these neighborhoods are addressed, including training and incentives for self-help neighborhood projects.
- Promote timely provision of public infrastructure—the streets, utilities, parks and schools—needed to encourage private investment in neighborhood redevelopment.
- Support the clean-up and reuse of brownfields and abatement of other environmental hazards.
- Promote local parks, street landscaping, and recreation programs to enhance neighborhood livability.
- Support and strengthen community-based financial institutions to facilitate neighborhood revitalization in low-income communities.
- Work with service providers to assure adequate job training and support programs for local residents.
- Encourage business incubators, and vendors and suppliers to regional growth-industry clusters, to locate in impoverished neighborhoods to complement local entrepreneurship.
- Support and strengthen the efforts of employers who recruit, hire, and train the currently unemployed or underemployed, welfare recipients and the working poor for jobs with career and income growth potential.
- Ensure that new industrial development is compatible with neighborhood and community needs.

#### **7. Provide All Residents with the Opportunity for Quality Education and Lifelong Learning to Help Them Meet Their Highest Aspirations.**

To improve educational performance, the Bay Area Alliance will establish a "support for schools" program, working with local school districts, community organizations, residents and employers. One focus will be on investment in and improvement of the quality of public education performance at the primary, secondary, and post-secondary levels. Performance indicators will include levels of achievement and rates of graduation, especially for low-income youth and those living in impoverished neighborhoods. Another focus will be on upgrading skills of adult workers to meet the job requirements of the new economy.

We commit ourselves to:

- Support school reform programs and state and local school bond measures, consistent with sustainable community development.
- Support mentoring programs.
- Encourage parental and community involvement.
- Support efforts that help pre-school, K-12, the college system and trade/vocational schools work together with businesses and community organizations to ensure graduating students are prepared with basic education and appropriate and diverse skill sets for the workplace.
- Advocate education on the environment, sustainable living, and environmentally-responsible consumption throughout the region, within inner city and suburban communities alike.
- Advocate adequate, stable and equitable funding for all schools for programs, the facilities and competitive pay for teachers.
- Support targeted efforts, including increased funding, to improve school performance in the poorest neighborhoods.
- Support a broad program of investment in human capital to improve the education and job skills of the disadvantaged and the middle class for the new economy.

## 8. Promote Healthy and Safe Communities.

To break the cycle of community decline leading to increased crime, which in turn leads to more community decline, the Bay Area Alliance will work to enhance the safety and health of inner city and older suburban neighborhoods. In this effort, we will work with the United Way of the Bay Area, Northern California Council for the Community and others to build on the assets of families, neighborhoods and individuals rather than focusing on deficits.

We commit ourselves to:

- Work with the United Way of the Bay Area, Northern California Council for the Community and others to help ensure that residents of all communities have access to adequate health care and community facilities.
- Encourage community policing where police officers have longer-term assignments on specific beats in order to facilitate closer relations between police and community residents.
- Support efforts that lead to toxic-free communities.
- Seek opportunities to support and participate in local neighborhood social and cultural events.
- Support and strengthen efforts that facilitate community access to clean, healthy food supplies and enhance food security.

*"Through a collaborative multi-stakeholder process, the Bay Area Alliance has created the Compact to help guide our plan for growth by integrating housing, the economy, equitable opportunity, transportation, environmental protection, parks, and open space—all needed to create sustainable communities. People and our regional economy are only as healthy as the communities and environment we live in. If implemented, the commitments in this Compact will help this region achieve sustainable development."*

Candace Skarlatos  
Senior Vice President -  
National Alliances,  
Bank of America

- Advocate for performance-based “good neighbor agreements” that ensure worker and neighborhood health and safety.
- Continue to support the Bay Area’s leadership in family planning services, with particular attention to meeting the needs of underserved populations.
- Support enhancing human services for families, youth and children.

## 9. Support State and Local Government Fiscal Reforms.

*“Fiscal reform will allow local governments to make land use decisions that are based on what’s best for the long-term future of our communities, not on what brings in the most tax revenue. This would stabilize our local economies and our local city budgets by encouraging smart growth in our cities.”*

Mayor Ron Gonzalez  
City of San Jose

To address local government finance and fiscal inequity and uncertainty, which can frustrate local government efforts to plan and zone for balanced communities, and to fund transportation and other infrastructure needed to address social, economic and environmental objectives, the Bay Area Alliance will advocate changes in legislation and practices at the state, regional and local level. The goals will be to reduce competition between jurisdictions for development, reduce economic polarization in the region, provide incentives for smarter land use, improve public services and increase cooperation. We will work to identify and support reforms that ensure adequate and stable revenues for all jurisdictions, with particular attention to improving the fiscal health of economically-distressed inner cities and older suburbs.

We commit ourselves to:

- Advocate changes in state legislation to provide all local governments with adequate and stable tax revenues.
- Establish cooperative, rather than competitive, economic development programs at the subregional and regional levels.
- Support expansion and strengthening of sub-regional and regional cooperative land-use planning and implementation efforts.
- Support legislative reforms that promote “smart growth,” more sustainable land use and balanced communities and the reduction of the fiscalization of land use.

## 10. Stimulate Civic Engagement.

To improve civic engagement, the Bay Area Alliance will celebrate the diversity of the Bay Area, and will work to establish means of conversing and cooperating across racial, ethnic, cultural, age and class lines, and jurisdictional boundaries. We will also seek to assure that people have the access, support and services they need in order to participate in community activities and decision making. To address emerging regional challenges we will promote the establishment of appropriate forums for ongoing policy discussions and development.

We commit ourselves to:

- Engage local residents and community organizations as equal partners in planning, development, and investment decisions.
- Support efforts to provide needed services, such as child care, youth programs and elder care in neighborhoods and at places of employment so that people have time to participate in community events, planning and decision-making.
- Encourage efforts to increase public participation by improving both physical and internet-based access to information and planning and decision-making processes.
- Continue to actively engage in ongoing multi-stakeholder dialogue to address regional sustainability issues.
- Work with others, including the school community, to enhance understanding of the concept of sustainability, civic engagement and the interdependence of the economy, environment and social equity, including the equity impact of public investments.
- Support a continued analysis of other metropolitan regional models.
- Encourage and support ongoing models of cooperation in the Bay Area.
- Encourage local governments to consider the regional impact of their local decisions.
- Encourage inter-regional dialogue on sustainable development issues.
- Advocate for campaign finance reform to encourage a more diverse range of qualified candidates.

*"The Bay Area Alliance has a balance of perspectives to address the environmental, economic, and social equity problems confronting our region. With such an alliance, the Bay Area's long-term livability could be protected. We must engage more residents in adopting policies that will support balanced communities, shaped by environmental context and linked by good transit. We must also improve regional planning and governance to implement policies that promote transit-oriented development with adequate supplies of affordable housing."*

Eva Alexis  
President,  
League of Women  
Voters of the Bay Area

## Appendix

### Historical Perspective of the Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Communities

The Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Communities (Bay Area Alliance) is a multi-stakeholder coalition established in 1997 to develop and implement an action plan that will lead to a more sustainable Bay Area. It is founded on the principle of the Three **E**s of Sustainable Development—prosperous **e**conomy, quality **e**nvironment, and social **e**quity—and embraces e-vision—a vision of the future which integrates the Three **E**s into a balanced, inclusive, collaborative approach to achieving a more sustainable region. The Bay Area Alliance adopted the definition of sustainable development endorsed by the United Nations' World Commission on Environment and Development: *“Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”*

In late 1996, Richard Clarke, retired Chairman and CEO of Pacific Gas & Electric Company and Michele Perrault, International Vice President of the Sierra Club, both members of the President's Council on Sustainable Development (PCSD), presented the idea of a regional sustainable development initiative to the General Assembly of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and to representatives of business, environment, and social equity organizations in the Bay Area. In order to ensure that all Three **E**s and government were represented in the leadership of the Bay Area Alliance, Carl Anthony, Executive Director of the Urban Habitat Program (representing equity), Charlotte Powers, President of ABAG (representing government) and Sunne Wright McPeak, President and CEO of the Bay Area Council (representing business) were recruited to join Richard Clarke (representing economy) and Michele Perrault (representing environment). These five individuals constituted the original Steering Committee of the Bay Area Alliance. Mr. Clarke transitioned his leadership role to Mr. Robert Harris, Vice President Environmental Affairs, Pacific Gas & Electric Company. Ms. Powers transitioned her leadership role in the Bay Area Alliance as she transitioned her presidency of ABAG to her successors, most recently Gwen Regalia. The current Steering Committee are the individuals who signed the introductory letter in this document.

The first meeting of the Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Communities was convened on March 31, 1997. At that time, and through 2002, the Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Communities was known as the Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Development. Quarterly meetings have been held since then. In order to carry out an adopted work plan and to develop the *Draft Compact* and ultimately this final *Compact*, the Bay Area Alliance established five working caucuses and six working groups to include a broad cross-section of perspectives and representation. The caucuses ensure ongoing input from the perspectives of each of the Three **E**s, local government, and local community-based sustainability initiatives. The caucuses are:

- Social Justice
- Environment
- Business-Employer and Economic Development
- Local Government/Regional Agencies
- Local/Sub-regional Sustainability Programs Roundtable

The working groups included balanced participation from each of the caucuses and provided initial input and recommendations for the *Draft Compact*. The working groups are:

- Housing, Jobs and Access
- Environmental Quality and Biodiversity
- Public Education and Media Strategy
- Tax and Fiscal Policy
- Sustainable Development Indicators
- Best Practices

More than 200 people have participated in the caucuses and working groups. Each member organization of the Bay Area Alliance, all of which are listed on the inside front cover, affirms the vision and direction of this *Compact for a Sustainable Bay Area*. However, this *Compact* is not an end, but to paraphrase Winston Churchill, merely the end of the beginning. Focus now turns to implementation.

The Bay Area Alliance is founded on the premise that the people of the Bay Area want to preserve the environmental, economic, and social attributes of the region for generations to come. There has already been much work to preserve and enhance these attributes. The Bay Area Alliance acknowledges the contributions of the people and groups that have worked and continue to work for sustainability and seeks to build on these efforts to develop a broad, effective constituency of support for actions that will promote a more sustainable region. The Bay Area Alliance also acknowledges the interdependence of the Bay Area's sub-regions and strives to make the concept of "region" a value for all Bay Area residents. Additionally, it recognizes the inter-relationship of the Bay Area with adjoining regions in California.

Inspired by the work of the PCSD, the Bay Area Alliance operates within a national context and seeks to exemplify the theme in the two PCSD reports: *Sustainable America: A New Consensus* (1996), and *Towards a Sustainable America: Advancing Prosperity, Opportunity, and a Healthy Environment for the 21st Century* (1999), that a sustainable America can only be achieved by creating sustainable communities. While recognizing that they may not sufficiently address the specifics of the Bay Area region, the Bay Area Alliance used as a guide in formulating its work plan the principles set forth by the PCSD as follows:

1. To achieve our vision of sustainable development, some things must grow—jobs, productivity, wages, capital and savings, profits, information, knowledge, and education—and others—pollution, waste, and poverty—must not.
2. Change is inevitable and necessary for the sake of future generations and for ourselves. We can choose a course for change that will lead to the mutually reinforcing goals of economic growth, environmental protection, and social equity.
3. Steady progress in reducing disparities in education, opportunity, and environmental risk within society is essential to economic growth, environmental health, and social justice.
4. The United States has made great progress in protecting the environment in the last 25 years, and must continue to make progress in the next 25 years. We can achieve that goal because market incentives and the power of consumers can lead to significant improvements in environmental performance at less cost.
5. Economic growth based on technological innovation, improved efficiency, and expanding global markets is essential for progress toward greater prosperity, equity, and environmental quality.
6. Environmental regulations have improved and must continue to improve the lives of all Americans. Basic standards of performance that are clear, fair, and consistently enforced remain necessary to protect that progress. The current regulatory system should be improved to deliver required results at lower costs. In addition, the system should provide enhanced flexibility in return for superior environmental performance.
7. Environmental progress will depend on individual, institutional, and corporate responsibility, commitment, and stewardship.
8. We need a new collaborative decision process that leads to better decisions; more rapid change; and more sensible use of human, natural, and financial resources in achieving our goals.
9. The nation must strengthen its communities and enhance their role in decisions about environment, equity, natural resources, and economic progress so that the individuals and institutions most immediately affected can join with others in the decision process.
10. Economic growth, environmental protection, and social equity are linked. We need to develop integrated policies to achieve these goals.
11. The United States should have policies and programs that contribute to stabilizing global human population; this objective is critical if we hope to have the resources needed to ensure a high quality of life for future generations.
12. Even in the face of scientific uncertainty, society should take reasonable actions to avert risks where the potential harm to human health or the environment is thought to be serious or irreparable.
13. Steady advances in science and technology are essential to help improve economic efficiency, protect and restore natural systems, and modify consumption patterns.
14. A growing economy and healthy environment are essential to national and global security.
15. A knowledgeable public, the free flow of information, and opportunities for review and redress are critically important to open, equitable, and effective decision making.

16. Citizens must have access to high-quality and lifelong formal and non-formal education that enables them to understand the interdependence of economic prosperity, environmental quality, and social equity, and prepares them to take actions that support all three.

The Bay Area Alliance also operates within an international context. The Earth Charter Initiative ([www.earthcharter.org](http://www.earthcharter.org)) is an outgrowth of the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro and has many principles similar to the visions and commitments contained in this Compact.

In 1999 the Bay Area region and the Bay Area Alliance were selected as one of four regional pilots in the nation by the Partnership for Regional Livability, a consortium of major foundations and federal agencies dedicated to advancing sustainable development and smart growth. The Bay Area Alliance has been significantly enhanced by the association with the Partnership for Regional Livability and its contributions to the Community Capital Investment Initiative and the Regional Livability Footprint Projects.

The following cities and counties took actions supporting the work of the Bay Area Alliance and the process of developing the *Compact for a Sustainable Bay Area*.

### Alameda County

Alameda  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
Albany  
Berkeley  
Hayward  
Livermore  
Newark  
Oakland  
Pleasanton  
Union City

### Contra Costa County

Antioch  
Clayton  
Concord  
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
El Cerrito  
Lafayette  
Martinez  
Richmond  
San Ramon  
Walnut Creek

### Marin County

Fairfax  
MARIN COUNTY  
Novato  
San Anselmo  
San Rafael  
Sausalito

### NAPA County

NAPA COUNTY  
St. Helena  
Yountville

### San Francisco County

San Francisco  
SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY

### San Mateo County

Atherton  
Belmont  
Burlingame  
Colma  
Daly City  
East Palo Alto  
Half Moon Bay  
Hillsborough  
Millbrae  
Pacifica  
Portola Valley  
Redwood City  
San Bruno  
San Carlos  
San Mateo  
SAN MATEO COUNTY  
South San Francisco  
Woodside

### Santa Clara County

Campbell  
Cupertino  
Gilroy  
Los Gatos  
Milpitas  
Monte Sereno  
Morgan Hill  
Mountain View  
Palo Alto  
San Jose  
Santa Clara  
SANTA CLARA COUNTY  
Saratoga  
Sunnyvale

### Solano County

Benicia  
Rio Vista  
SOLANO COUNTY

### Sonoma County

Cloverdale  
Cotati  
Petaluma  
Rohnert Park  
Santa Rosa  
Sebastopol  
Sonoma  
SONOMA COUNTY  
Windsor

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