



ENVISION CONTRA COSTA 2040

Economic Development Focused Meeting: Workforce Development Board of Contra Costa County

4071 Port Chicago Highway, Suite 250
Concord CA 94520
Tuesday, August 6, 2019

At the regular meeting of the Workforce Development Board of Contra Costa County on August 6, 2019, County staff and consultants presented an overview of Envision Contra Costa 2040, along with targeted information about economic conditions and trends. Following the presentation, staff and consultants facilitated a discussion with Workforce Development Board members about how the General Plan update can positively impact the county's business climate. Board member input and ideas are summarized below in response to specific questions that were asked.

Is there a need for additional land designated for different types of commercial, office, or industrial development?

- Promote vertical mixed use with first floor commercial uses, surrounded by parks and open space.
- Promote job-generating uses near where people live. Long commutes are sometimes not worth the jobs.

Does the General Plan need to plan for new or improved infrastructure (e.g., roads, utilities) to support economic development?

- Provide more bike lanes to improve bicycle commuter safety.
- Improve infrastructure to accommodate e-bikes.

Are there sufficient programs and facilities distributed around the county for workforce training? If not, are there specific areas where the General Plan should ensure there are locations that can accommodate these uses?

- Job training often occurs in school buildings, so there isn't a lack of facilities available for training. However, public transportation options are essential, since many participants lack a personal vehicle. Bus service needs to be improved, particularly with regard to reliability.
- More community college campuses are needed throughout the county.

Are there other opportunities for the General Plan to support economic development?

- Streamline the development/permitting process, especially for uses that provide good-paying jobs.
- Coordinate with cities to promote a regional approach to economic development, including promoting more job growth in the eastern part of the county.
- Economic development should be addressed as part of a larger, more holistic approach that also considers other important factors, like health, equity, and well-being (i.e., "multisolving").