



American Planning Association  
**California Chapter**

*Making Great Communities Happen*

## **APA CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

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### **2018 Legislative Predictions**

The Legislative Session will resume on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018. While 2017 was a very active year for housing and many other planning-related bills, we expect 2018 to be another busy year for APA California. APA California is aware of various proposals that will be of interest to members – potential legislation is already being discussed on the following issues: impact fee reductions, clean up legislation for the housing package bills that were signed into law this year, further restrictions on accessory dwelling unit requirements, further limitations on parking minimums for housing developments, and a possible return of the small cell permitting bill. There are also a number of two-year bills (listed below) that will likely be moving again next year.

### **Housing Package Implementation Webinar**

APA California recently hosted a webinar to assist members in implementing the bills included in the Governor's Housing Package. The PowerPoint slides are available online at the APA California website and the video recording is available at: <https://www.gotostage.com/channel/075a5c61776c4057a6cd60732adf6db0/recording/beb9bd0bf5b24f64a3506c06eb883de1/watch>.

### **OPR Guidelines on CEQA**

The Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) recently released updated CEQA Guidelines (sent to APA members by a previous e-blast). Among other things, the updated Guidelines include proposed amendments related to analyzing transportation impacts pursuant to SB 743 -- moving to vehicle miles traveled from level of service -- and proposed updates to the analysis of greenhouse gas emissions. Under the SB 743 changes in the Guidelines, the focus of transportation analysis will shift from driver delay to reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, creation of multimodal networks and promotion of a mix of land uses.

The following guidance documents related to the Guidelines are also now available:

- ) A "Thematic Responses to Comments" document explaining some of the major themes in the comments that OPR received on this package and the thematic responses to those concerns, and all of the public comments received during the public review process.
- ) A "Frequently Asked Questions" document answering some specific questions that OPR commonly received during the public review process.
- ) A technical advisory on evaluating transportation impacts.
- ) The technical research supporting the proposal.

All of these documents and additional information are available on OPR's website at <http://opr.ca.gov/ceqa/updates/guidelines/>. Specific information about SB 743 is available at <http://opr.ca.gov/ceqa/updates/sb-743/>.

According to OPR, the next steps will be the start of the formal administrative rulemaking process by the Natural Resources agency under the Administrative Procedure Act. That rulemaking process will entail additional public review, and may lead to further revisions. After completing the rulemaking process, the Secretary for the Natural Resources Agency may adopt the changes. Changes would only go into effect after the Office of Administrative Law reviews and approves the changes.

Notice of future activity on the CEQA Guidelines will be posted on OPR's website and distributed through the CEQA Guidelines [List Serve](#). The Natural Resources Agency will also post updated information about the rulemaking process on its [website](#).

### **How You Can Get Involved in Shaping APA California's Legislative Positions**

Next year, as bills are making their way through hearings and floor votes, APA California will be lobbying and sending letters to the authors and other members in support of or opposition to their measures. We encourage you to participate in APA California's Legislative Review Teams, whose members advise APA on legislative positions, potential amendments and key planning policies. Information on the Review Teams and sign up information are located on the APA California website legislation page. As always, we would also appreciate letters to legislators and the Governor from APA California members or their employers that are consistent with those positions. To review the letters, and for an alert on APA's positions on all of the major planning-related bills, please go to the legislative tab on APA's website at [www.apacalifornia.com](http://www.apacalifornia.com). All position letters will be posted on the APA California website "Legislation" page, which can be found here: <https://www.apacalifornia.org/legislation/legislative-review-teams/position-letters/>. Position letters will continue to be posted here as they are written and updated – APA encourages you to use these as templates for your own jurisdiction/company letters.

### **2017 TWO-YEAR BILLS EXPECTED TO MOVE IN 2018**

#### **AB 565 – Alternative building standards for artists**

*Position: Watch*

#### **AB 686 – California "Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing" law**

*Position: Support if amended*

#### **AB 865 – Amnesty for non-compliant live/work buildings**

*Position: Oppose*

#### **AB 1250 – County services contract restrictions**

*Position: Oppose*

#### **AB 1404 – CEQA infill exemption for counties**

*Position: Support*

#### **SB 431 – Accessory dwelling code compliance for permitting**

*Position: Concerns*

#### **SB 697 – Development impact fee reporting and restrictions**

*Position: Opposed*

### **All Hot Bills**

To view the full list of hot planning bills, copies of the measures, up-to-the minute status and APA California letters and positions, please continue to visit the legislative page on APA California's website at [www.apacalifornia.org](http://www.apacalifornia.org).