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CALIFORNIA PLANNER

Show Me the Money! APA California Chapter Budget

By Virginia M. Viado, APA California, Vice President, Administration

To address questions regarding the APA California Budget, the State Board is providing the membership with additional details about how our Chapter's funds are distributed and the challenges we faced in 2010.

The *Mission Statement* of APA California is: *Making great communities happen through good planning.* Toward that end, APA California has committed to the following:

- Provide the Vision and Leadership that fosters better planning for California;
- Build public and political Support for sound planning; and
- Provide its members with the *Tools, Services and Support* that advance the art and science of planning.

Our budget is structured to achieve those goals through a variety of services and programs provided at the State and Local levels, as well as through the efforts of the various elected and appointed Board members. The bulk of our expenses are distributed to Membership Services, which include the following:

- Annual State Conference
- Professional Development and AICP Certification Maintenance Support
- Policy and Legislative Program
- Chapter and Section Awards Programs
- Membership Financial Support (Dues and State Conference Registration)

Other expenses of the Chapter include the following:

- Communications (APA California website, e-blasts, CalPlanner)
- Section Services (membership revenue to the Chapter's 8 Local Sections)
- Administration (Board and Committee Meetings, executive administration, Chapter Board member and operating support)

The breakdown of our expenses in actual dollars is provided at right. Total expenses of the Chapter (through December 2, 2010) were slightly over \$419,000.

During recent years, the economic downturn has made a significant impact to our budget in both revenues and expenses. The Chapter's total revenue (through December 2, 2010) was just under \$320,000. The following factors have contributed to reduced revenues:



- Overall Decline in APA membership;
- Less Money from APA National Membership Revenue sharing;
- Increased fees and service charges from APA National;
- Decrease in advertising revenues; and
- Annual Conference profits less than previous years from lower attendance and fewer sponsors.



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APA California Annual Budget

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The breakdown of our revenue sources in actual dollars is provided below.

As illustrated above, the Chapter experienced a budget deficit in 2010 and took a number of measures to reduce expenses to the extent feasible, while still maintaining exceptional member service. Major efforts to reduce the budget deficit included:

> • Local Sections agreed to surrender their membership revenue funds for 2010.



- Our administration and communications services contractors reduced their budgets by 5%.
- The Board reduced its travel-related expenses by changing some Board and Committee meetings to conference call and/or WebEx format.

While these efforts somewhat reduced the deficit, there was still a need for more funds to cover expenses. To that end, the Board approved the use of the Chapter's Reserves Account to cover the remaining deficit.

Looking ahead, the Chapter will continue to experience a budget deficit this year. The Board was unable to adopt a budget at the Board meeting-a number of additional measures were identified and suggested during the meeting, resulting in the appointment of a special Budget Committee to discuss and recommend further measures to reduce expenses and increase revenues. This is not an easy task; however, the Board is committed to maintaining our member services and will work towards adopting a budget that meets those needs.

We encourage you to view the Chapter's budget related materials, which are available on the APA California website, in the materials for Board Meeting Agendas, under the 'Board Activities' link. We also welcome any feedback from the membership, including any questions you may have, by contacting Virginia Viado, Vice President of Administration by e-mail at Virginia_Viado@urscorp.com or by phone at 909.980.4000.

Planners on the Move

Mogavero Notestine Associates, Sacramento based Architects and Planners, is pleased to announce that **John H. Nicolaus, FASLA** has joined the firm as Planner/Principal Landscape Architect.

John and MNA also share a long history of frequent and substantial involvement in community initiatives as advocates in local and regional debates regarding land use and sustainable development as well as supporting a variety of community organizations.

For more information on this please contact David Mogavero or John Nicolaus at 916-443-1033 or swalsh@mognot.com.



John H. Nicolaus, FASLA

Gannett Fleming, an international planning, design, and construction management firm, celebrated its 95th anniversary in 2010. ounded on Aug. 1, 1915, the firm has grown from a two-person office in Harrisburg, Pa., to an international, ISO 9001:2008 Certified company with more than 2,100 professionals in more than 60 offices. During the past 95 years, the firm has completed projects in every U.S. state and more than 50 countries.



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