DATE: May 25, 2018

TO: Peter Parkinson, AICP - President

APA California Executive Board

FROM: Stephen M. Haase, AICP – Commission and Boards Representative 

SUBJECT: Chapter Policy to Require Sections to Include a Commission and Boards Representative

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**Recommendation**

Approve a California Chapter Policy for all Sections to provide in their Bylaws the inclusion of a required Board position titled “Commission and Boards Representative” for so long as the Chapter includes this position on the State Board.

**Background**

The American Planning Association recognizes the importance and value of decision makers in the planning process. Volunteers appointed to planning commissions, design review panels, and historic review boards, among other public bodies, contribute to furthering high quality decision making and planning principles in both policy development and project review. As enumerated in the Chapter Bylaws, the duties of the C&B Representative shall include the responsibility “to increase planning commissioner participation in APA and APA California.” I believe this duty can be furthered by the formal support from all the Sections of the Chapter.

The California Chapter is comprised of eight Sections to represent the geographic expanse of the State of California. However, currently not all Sections include a C&B Representative on their Board. Below is a table with the current status of C&B Representatives at the Section level:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Section** | **C&B Position** | **Status** | **Comment** |
| Central | No | N/A |  |
| Central Coast | No | N/A | Optional per Bylaws |
| Inland Empire | Yes | Yes |  |
| Los Angeles | Yes | Yes |  |
| Northern | Yes | Yes | Combined with AICP Director |
| Orange County | Yes | Yes |  |
| Sacramento Valley | Yes | Yes |  |
| San Diego | No | N/A |  |

The good news is those Sections with a C&B representative have filled those positions. Those Sections without a C&B position represent slightly more than 19% of the total Chapter membership. Most likely appointed officials in these Sections avail themselves of other opportunities for professional development, such as that offered by the League of California Cities. However, CA APA has the opportunity to speak to these officials from a planning perspective which is the value added of the Chapter and Sections outreach to public officials.

Thank you for your consideration of this request to fully support the Chapter C&B Representative and ensure these efforts are available to all Sections and their respective appointed officials.