



## **California Chapter of the American Planning Association Regional Government Partnerships**

### **Background**

Regional governments in California hire large numbers of planners to perform planning work in a variety of transportation and air quality arenas and are a key component of a larger statewide effort to attain a balanced built environment. Their work follows typical planning processes involving analysis and public outreach. They have also been on the forefront of addressing climate change and integrating land use and transportation planning. They have been supportive of APA in the past and many of them maintain membership and AICP status.

Having crossed over into Regional Planning from a career in land use planning, I see better the challenges that they face and the needs that they have from a professional organization. It is often the case that regional planners attending APA conferences and events have a difficult time finding material that is relevant to their work and feel that APA is, in some ways, out of touch with their issues.

As APA continues to improve its delivery of services, the timing is right to find ways to better reach and include this group of planners.

### **Discussion**

How can APA CA build a stronger relationship with COG and regional transportation planners?  
Is there a model that we can use for other affiliated organizations?

Here are some options:

1. Designate a Board Liaison from these groups.
2. Create a working group with members who are affiliated with both groups.

3. Develop stronger services to benefit regional organizations including more conference sessions on their topics, more AICP exam questions along the lines of their work, and more focus on legislative efforts that affect them.
4. Establish a stronger connections with similarly aligned groups like the California Association of Councils of Government, Self Help Counties Coalition, National Association of Regional Councils, Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations and various state commissions and agencies in order to establish better coordination of services and outreach.
  - a. Meet with CalCOG, Self Help Counties Coalition and other similar groups to coordinate legislative matters. Develop a legislative advisory group on transportation, similar to our housing group
  - b. Invite CTC or similar transportation movers and shakers to Speak at Conferences.
  - c. Work together with conference committee to line up more regional government
  - d. Grow learning opportunities for issues surrounding transportation and regional government.
5. Help elevate APA's presence in ongoing discussions of Climate Change Legislation and Implementation, as it involves regional government
  - a. Air Resources Board
  - b. California Transportation Commission
6. Give update of efforts at the annual APA Board meeting at the state conference.