



April 4, 2019

Assembly Member Marc Berman
State Capitol, Room 6011
Sacramento, California 95814

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT FOR AB 782 (BERMAN) CEQA – PROPERTY LAND TRANSFERS**

Dear Assembly Member Berman:

The American Planning Association, California Chapter (APA California) is pleased to support your bill, AB 782. This bill will codify the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) categorical exemption for transfers of ownership of interests in land in order to preserve open space, habitat, or historical resources, thereby eliminating the exceptions for project-specific effects which apply to a categorical exemption.

APA California is supportive land preservation efforts and appreciates your efforts on this issue. This bill will strengthen and clarify the existing regulation that a public agency can fund and acquire property to preserve open space, habitat, or historical resources without a CEQA analysis. Further, it will clarify ambiguity when a jurisdiction is entering a Disposition and Development Agreement (DDA) earlier on in the process.

APA California would however suggest that the bill clarify that the new PRC S. 21080.28 doesn't expand or diminish any other exemptions regarding transfer of land in the PRC or the CEQA Guidelines.

If you have any questions, please contact Lauren De Valencia, Stefan/George Associates, APA California's lobbyist, at 443-5301, lauren@stefangeorge.com.

Sincerely,

Eric Phillips
Vice President Policy and Legislation
APA California

cc: Assembly Natural Resources Committee, the Governor, OPR, Republican Caucus

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