



American Planning Association  
**California Chapter**

*Creating Great Communities for All*

May 7, 2020

Assembly Member David Chiu  
State Capitol, Room 4112  
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: **Support for AB 2734 (Chiu) – Office of Planning and Research California Environmental Quality Act Mapping Tools**

Dear Assembly Member Chiu:

The American Planning Association, California Chapter (APA California) is pleased to support your bill, AB 2734, which increases the ability for local jurisdictions and project proponents to utilize existing CEQA exemptions through a soon to be released mapping tool developed by the Office of Planning and Research (OPR).

This interactive, online tool will map geographic criteria of existing CEQA exemptions in the state, which will be beneficial both to local jurisdictions and project proponents to help easily identify parcels of land that meet the criteria for a CEQA exemption. AB 2734 specifically requires that if OPR's mapping tool shows a site meets the criteria for a CEQA exemption, a local agency cannot make a contrary finding unless it is supported by a preponderance of evidence.

APA California believes this will help expedite and encourage development in a time when California continues to face an unprecedented housing crisis, compounded by the recent and ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. We applaud your efforts on this important issue and if you have any questions, please contact Lauren De Valencia, Stefan/George Associates, APA California's lobbyist, at 443-5301, [lauren@stefangeorge.com](mailto:lauren@stefangeorge.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Eric Phillips'.

Eric Phillips  
Vice President Policy and Legislation  
APA California

cc: The Governor  
The Office of Planning and Research