



American Planning Association  
**California Chapter**

*Creating Great Communities for All*

**TO: APA California Chapter Board**

**FROM: Eric Phillips, Vice President for Policy and Legislation**

**DATE: June 25-26, 2020**

**SUBJECT: Update re: Plan California Legislative Platform for 2021-2022 Session**

Recommended Action:

Direct the Vice President for Policy and Legislation to (1) prepare draft revised Plan California; (2) circulate revised draft to Sections' representatives and Legislative Review Team members; and (3) provide revised draft for Board of Directors review and approval.

Background:

In October of 2018, the APA California Board of Directors approved "Plan California," which is the Chapter's official legislative platform for the 2019-2020 Legislative Session (the "Platform," attached). The Platform outlines our professional views on priority issues, and it informs the positions we take with respect to specific legislative proposals and for advocacy positions taken by the Chapter.

The Chapter adopts a new Platform prior to the start of each two-year Legislative Session. Accordingly, we have the opportunity to update the Platform in advance of the 2021-2022 Legislative Session to reflect current Chapter priorities and incorporate insights related to our work over the past two years and beyond.

The current Platform identifies eight topics. Each topic include one or more "Planning Principles" that establish general outcomes that the Chapter supports, as well as specific actions and positions that advance the Planning Principles. The eight topics are:

1. Housing
2. Density
3. Hazards
4. Infrastructure, Services, and Fees
5. CEQA
6. Neighborhood Vitality and Healthy Communities
7. Inclusion and Social Justice

## 8. Coordinated Planning

In my view, there are several ways to refine the Platform. First, “Inclusion and Social Justice” should be elevated as a topic and enhanced with more specific recommendations to improve equity in our communities, promoting responsible development that learns from planning’s past and reverses institutional and structural barriers some planners helped create. Second, the “Housing” and “Density” topics may be able to be combined and should reflect evolving positions on by-right and streamlining requirements. I also suggest that our support for increasing context-sensitive density be amplified in light of the anti-density and anti-housing arguments that certain interest groups are beginning to foment in the wake of COVID-19. Third, the Platform should discuss transportation and mobility issues, particularly as they relate to COVID-19, remote working, and California’s climate goals.

Finally, and most importantly, I would like to include Planning Principles and actions that help affirmatively make the case for why planning matters. As the state continues to override local development regulations, it can be easy to succumb to cynicism about the planning profession and the value of certain planning exercises. It is incumbent on us to articulate and promote the value planning (and planners) brings to communities, especially during times of crisis (of which we are in no short supply).

I propose the following schedule to update the Platform:

- 7/20/20 Initial Board comments due to the Vice President for Policy and Legislation  
Board feedback and Vice President for Policy and Legislation edits incorporated into Draft Platform
- 8/17/20 Draft Platform sent to Legislative Review Team and Sections
- 9/21/20 Comments from Legislative Review Team and Sections due  
Legislative Review Team’s and Sections’ comments incorporated into Revised Draft Platform
- 10/16/20 Revised Draft Platform presented to Board for approval

### Fiscal Impact:

No cost to Chapter beyond Board and staff time.

### Attachments:

Plan California: Legislative Platform 2019-2020 Legislative Session