



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: Legislative Position Letters on APA California Website**

Recommended Action:

Move to make Legislative Position Letters available from the public-facing section of the Chapter website.

Background:

Each year, the Chapter drafts and sends scores of legislative position letters providing analysis of, and comments on, pending legislation relevant to our members and the planning field in general. Currently, these position letters are only accessible to members.

While understanding that the Chapter seeks to provide value to its members by including exclusive content to those members, having our legislative positions and analysis be accessible publically may help broaden our reach and expose more people to the breadth of our positions. Keeping positions private to members leaves the Chapter vulnerable to criticisms of being non-transparent and can be misinterpreted as trying to hide something. Moreover, it appears to be common practice for advocacy groups to make their positions and letters public. For example, the League of Cities' positions are viewable here: <https://www.cacities.org/Policy-Advocacy/Bill-Search>; and California YIMBY's are available here: <https://cayimby.org/policy/>.

I propose making our positions letter public as well, potentially in connection with a larger conversation about what, if any, content on our website should be reserved for our paying members.

Fiscal Impact:

Propose to incorporate into budgeted website maintenance tasks.

Attachments:

None.