



American Planning Association
California Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

July 29, 2020

Assembly Member Laura Friedman
State Capitol, Room 2137
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: **Support for AB 3279 (Friedman) – Streamlining for CEQA Litigation** – In Senate Environmental Quality Committee

Dear Assembly Member Friedman:

The American Planning Association, California Chapter (APA California) is pleased to support your bill, AB 3279. AB 3279 would assist in streamlining California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) litigation by authorizing a public agency to deny a request of the plaintiff or petitioner to prepare the record of proceedings and would require the court to schedule a case management conference within 30 days of the filing of an action to review the scope, timing, and cost of the record of proceedings. The bill would also delete obsolete and duplicative provisions from CEQA.

APA California supports efforts to streamline CEQA litigation. Like your bill AB 2323, which APA California is also supporting, we appreciate efforts to improve the CEQA process so that important land use projects can proceed without unnecessary delays. The change proposed to allow a lead agency to control preparation of the administrative record could substantially reduce the likelihood of pre-trial delays that may occur due to disputes over the record. APA California appreciates your interest in making these provisions in CEQA more workable to encourage the types of developments that are supportive of California's environmental policies. If you have any questions, please contact Lauren De Valencia, Stefan/George Associates, APA California's lobbyist, at 443-5301, lauren@stefangeorge.com.

Sincerely,

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

Eric Phillips
Vice President Policy and Legislation
APA California

cc: Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Senate Republican Caucus
The Governor
The Office of Planning and Research