



American Planning Association
California Chapter

Creating Great Communities

March 26, 2021

Assembly Member Mark Levine
State Capitol, Room 5135
Sacramento, California 95814

SUBJECT: **Support for AB 1409 (Levine) Identification of Evacuation Locations in the Safety Element**

Dear Assembly Member Levine:

The American Planning Association, California Chapter (APA California) is pleased to support your bill, AB 1409, which would require the safety element to be reviewed and updated to identify evacuation locations, under a range of emergency scenarios.

Unfortunately, California faces a daunting task in contending with prolonged wildfire seasons and natural disasters facilitated by climate change. These new threats will require communities to reassess evacuation options and, as this bill requires, ensure that viable evacuation locations are identified for residents to shelter in place, in the event of an emergency.

APA California supports efforts to better prepare communities for unexpected emergencies and we appreciate your ongoing efforts on this important issue. 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: Assembly Emergency Management Committee
Assembly Local Government Committee
Assembly Republican Caucus
The Governor
The Office of Planning and Research