



American Planning Association
California Chapter

Creating Great Communities

March 17, 2021

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

SUBJECT: **Support as Amended for AB 819 (Levine) Online CEQA Noticing Requirements**

Dear Assembly Member Levine:

The American Planning Association, California Chapter (APA California) is pleased to support your bill, AB 819, as amended March 17. Your bill requires lead agencies to post various California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) notices and/or exemptions on its internet website and submit electronically to the State Clearinghouse. Recent amendments remove the requirement that the project applicant also be held responsible to post these documents on their own private website.

APA California supports the goal of the bill, which would ensure that CEQA notices are accessible on the internet. This would bring current CEQA noticing requirements into the modern age, where the public generally receives their information. This is also especially helpful given the impacts of COVID-19 and increased reliance on access to electronic information. APA California was concerned with previous language that required project applicants to also post notices on their own website because it could create technical legal issues and opportunities for confusion in the public eye about who is responsible for CEQA compliance, which is the public agency. There is also no similar responsibility under existing law.

Based on the recent amendments, APA California is pleased to move to a full support position on the bill. 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 Natural Resources Committee
 Assembly Republican Caucus
 The Governor
 The Office of Planning and Research