



American Planning Association
California Chapter

Creating Great Communities

February 22, 2022

The Honorable Senator Bill Dodd
1021 O Street, Room 6620
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: Support for SB 852 (Dodd) Climate Resilience Districts

Dear Senator Dodd:

The American Planning Association, California Chapter (APA California) is pleased to support SB 852, which would permit the establishment of local climate resilience districts to raise funds to plan and implement projects and programs developed to address climate change through adaptation and mitigation.

APA California is a non-profit organization made up of practicing planners, citizens and public officials committed to advancing the practice of local, regional, and statewide planning throughout urban, suburban, and rural California. The planning community has been focused on climate adaptation and mitigation for some time and is supportive of efforts to create local and regional partnerships to implement important climate related projects. From devastating fires that many communities in California face year over year, to flooding, droughts and extreme heat, timing is critical to better prepare our communities. While the state has taken several important actions over the years to address climate change, local communities still face incredible challenges. And while recent and unprecedented budget allocations are helpful, there is no ongoing and dedicated source of funding to implement important climate related projects.

Through this bill local governments will be permitted to establish climate resilience districts to raise revenue through tax increment financing and voter-approved supplemental property taxes, property benefit assessments, or fees. The districts would have the authority to plan and implement projects and programs to address climate change either through mitigation or adaptation. The bill will also create the ability to channel local, state, federal, and private funds in a coordinated manner within a jurisdiction or across jurisdictional boundaries to have the greatest and most effective impact. We appreciate your efforts on this important issue and if you have any questions please contact Lauren De Valencia, lauren@stefangeorge.com, APA California's lobbyist.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Eric Phillips' with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eric Phillips
Vice President Policy and Legislation
APA California

cc: Senate Governance and Finance Committee
The Governor
The Office of Planning and Research

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