



American Planning Association
California Chapter

Creating Great Communities

APA CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

MARCH 2022

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Policy Committees Begin Moving a Flurry of Bills

The Legislative Session is in full swing with hundreds of bills being set in their respective policy committee(s), where they will need pass to meet the May 6 policy committee deadline. APA California is currently [tracking over 400 bills](#), including some two-year bills carried over from 2021. In addition, the APA California Legislative Review Team met on March 10 to review several bills of interest. Over the next month, APA California will share [position letters](#) on important bills moving through the Legislature so stay tuned!

Legislative Themes, Old Ideas and New Proposals

While the Legislature continues to focus on housing and homelessness, the state more broadly has zeroed in data and accountability, both in enforcement of new housing laws and recent statewide audits of various agencies. In addition, there are several bills dealing with streamlining for specific types of developments, such as co-housing, as proposed in a two-year bill [AB 682 \(Bloom, 2021\)](#), post entitlement permit streamlining [AB 2334 \(R. Rivas\)](#) and a reintroduction of AB 1401 (Friedman, 2021) to prohibit the imposition of parking minimums for residential and commercial developments located near transit [AB 2097 \(Friedman\)](#). In addition, California's proposed budget focuses on funding for infill development and increasingly, steering growth away from high fire hazard areas, as highlighted in the Governor's budget proposal released in January. With that in mind, we will also see bills dealing with wildfire mitigation and new development standards for housing in hazard areas, like [SB 12 \(McGuire, 2021\)](#) and [AB 2705 \(Quirk-Silva\)](#). The Legislature is also focused on climate change and related impacts such as developing more ZEV infrastructure, broader coordination at the state, regional and local level for transportation planning and improving non-vehicular transportation options, such as [SB 932 \(Portantino\)](#) and [SB 922 \(Wiener\)](#).

ICYMI the Legislature recently passed and the Governor signed emergency legislation to address the recent UC Berkeley decision, which would have required UC Berkeley to cut its incoming student enrollment, in addition to ensuring that student enrollment at a college campus is not singled out as a project under CEQA in the future – [SB 118 \(Skinner\)](#).

APA California's Work in the Legislature

APA California is actively engaged in many bills. In fact, we often work closely with legislative and committee staff on amendments and clarifications to bills of concern before taking a position and we also look forward to supporting several as they move. In addition, we frequently partner with other organizations to advocate on bills and continue to look forward to expanding our partnership network.