



American Planning Association
California Chapter

Creating Great Communities

May 2, 2022

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 4240
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: Support for ACA 14 (Wicks) Housing Opportunities for Everyone (HOPE) Act - Ongoing Funding for Affordable Housing

Dear Assemblymember Wicks:

The American Planning Association, California Chapter (APA California) is pleased to **support** your ACA 14, which would create the Housing Opportunities for Everyone (HOPE) Act. The Act establishes a ten-year funding commitment in the Constitution that dedicates five percent from California's general fund to the state's affordable housing and homelessness crisis. Investments under the Act will be based on a funding strategy with specific accountability metrics to measure outcomes and progress.

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. We know that California has a severe housing crisis, lacking at least 1.2 million homes affordable to lower-income households and on any given night, roughly 160,000 people in California experience homelessness. As California continues to face this ongoing crisis, further compounded by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, our organization is supportive of efforts to provide critical funding that will allow communities to address this deficit in a meaningful way.

While commitments from both the Legislature and the Governor to allocate budget surpluses to support state housing programs are much appreciated, future budget surpluses remain uncertain. More importantly, funding provided from the state continues to remain one-time investments. With the elimination of redevelopment agencies, local jurisdictions do not have all the financial resources to provide affordable housing at the levels needed. ACA 14 comes at a critical time to provide a permanent, ongoing source of funding for affordable housing and APA California appreciates your efforts on this important issue. If you have any questions, please contact Lauren De Valencia, Stefan/George Associates, APA California's lobbyist, at 916 443-5301, lauren@stefangeorge.com.

Sincerely,

Eric Phillips
Vice President Policy and Legislation
APA California

cc: Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee
Assembly Republican Caucus
The Governor
The Office of Planning and Research
The Department of Housing and Community Development