



APA CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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To say that the Legislature has been very busy is an understatement! First up, the floor deadlines: All bills had to pass out of their respective house to meet the first major deadline at the end of May. Any bill that did not pass its house of origin is now done, but of course many of the bills of interest to planners will continue to move. The next major deadline is for bills to pass out of second house policy committee hearings before July 1. After that, the Legislature will recess for their summer break from July 1 – August 1 before returning to take final action on bills that remain active before the end of the session on August 31.

APA California has been busy working on several important bills, meeting with committee and legislative staff and providing technical feedback on many bills currently moving. We have been pleased to support a number of bills that are in-line with our Chapter’s Legislative Platform.

For example, one of APA California’s priority actions related to encouraging housing production is to “allow developers to build at higher densities and on commercial properties with a range of housing types while maintaining vibrant and sustainable communities.” Accordingly, we are supporting [AB 2011 \(Wicks\)](#), which would allow housing to be built by right in infill areas currently zoned for office, retail and parking uses, while requiring developers to make significant labor commitments. Also note that the May-Revise Budget proposed \$500 million to accelerate redevelopment of qualifying projects, like those proposed in AB 2011.

To support efforts that promote walkable communities, reduce private automobile reliance, and advance GHG reduction, APA California is also supporting [AB 2097 \(Friedman\)](#), which would eliminate parking minimums for residential and commercial developments located near transit. This bill would help reduce development costs that can sometimes provide a barrier to infill housing production, and we are continuing to work with the author on strategies to promote affordable housing in connection with the bill.

As a complementary measure to enhance a range of high-quality multimodal transit options, APA California is supporting [SB 922 \(Wiener\)](#), which would extend an existing CEQA exemption to streamline the construction of sustainable transportation projects, including implementation of bicycle plans, pedestrian plans, and other active transportation plans.

Wondering what other planning related bills are still moving in the Legislature? The summary above is just a brief snapshot of our current work. There are over 300 bills related to planning we are continuing to track! For more, including two-year bills still eligible to move this year, we’ve [compiled a list](#) to help members keep track. If you’re interested in all the planning related bills and their status, please visit the APA California website for a [comprehensive list](#) with links to bill language.



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Next up, budget negotiations are heating up: Governor Newsom released his [May-Revise](#) to the 2022-2023 Budget, first proposed in January, on May 13. Over the next two weeks, the Governor and the Legislature will need to work together to reach a final agreement on the budget, which must be passed by June 15. Trailer bills to implement the details of the budget must pass by the end of session on August 31. The entire budget proposal currently totals \$300.7 billion, relying on a \$97.5 billion surplus, which has substantially increased since January and is a figure the Governor said is "without precedent" for the State. Of interest to planners, substantial one-time funding proposals are being discussed as it relates to housing, homelessness, transportation, and climate change.

As we enter a very busy June, stay tuned to *eNews* announcements and the [APA California website](#) for updates and position letters. And as always, please reach out with questions to policy@apacalifornia.org and lauren@stefangeorge.com.