



American Planning Association
California Chapter

Creating Great Communities

APA CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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Policy and Budget Deadlines Finish and Summer Recess Begins

Over the month of June, the Legislature was busy passing bills out of policy committees to meet the second house policy committee deadline. The Legislature is now on summer recess until August 1, when they will return to take final action on bills that remain active before the end of the session on August 31. Over 300 planning related bills remain active, so we anticipate a very busy August here in Sacramento!

Several high-profile planning bills will continue to move. Both [AB 2011 \(Wicks\)](#) and [SB 6 \(Caballero\)](#), which include similar streamlining provisions to allow housing development on commercial properties, passed through their respective committees. Likewise, two bills that would eliminate parking requirements on qualifying developments, [AB 2097 \(Friedman\)](#) and [SB 1067 \(Portantino\)](#), advanced. During the Legislature's summer recess, APA California will remain active on these bills to provide feedback about redundant or conflicting provisions and focusing on implementation while remaining supportive of policies that promote adaptive reuse and infill development opportunities.

A few noteworthy bills will not continue in 2022. [AB 2053 \(Lee\)](#) would have created a social housing authority in California, [AB 1778 \(Garcia C.\)](#) would have prohibited state funds from being used to fund or permit freeway widening projects in areas with high rates of pollution and poverty and [SB 12 \(McGuire\)](#) would have enacted new development standards and planning requirements for permitting housing in VHFHSZs. Each of these bills failed to advance out of their policy committees, and they are done for the year.

2022-2023 Budget Signed

As if the policy committee deadline didn't keep the Legislature busy enough, this year's budget negotiations were equally intense. On June 13, the Legislature sent the main budget bill, [SB 154 \(Budget Act of 2022\)](#), to the Governor, however several key issues were negotiated through the final weeks of June. At the end of the month, the Governor and Legislative Leadership reached a final agreement on the details and the budget bill was signed. Several budget trailer bills were quickly put into print and passed as well. Budget trailer bills implement the details of the budget and there will likely be more forthcoming in August.

The entire 2022-2023 Budget totals \$300.7 billion, relying on a \$97.5 billion surplus, which the Governor said is "without precedent" for the State. Overall and of interest to planners, there are several new funding sources supporting:

- Drought and water resilience
- Wildfire mitigation
- Regional transit, high-speed rail, ports and bicycle and pedestrian projects
- Affordable housing investments in the Multifamily Housing Program, the Housing Accelerator Program, the Farmworker Housing Program, ADU financing, the Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program
 - The housing trailer bill also includes a statutory change to grant jurisdictions whose housing element deadline was in the 2021 calendar year more time to complete the required rezoning of sites if they were not able to obtain a certified Housing Element from HCD.

In addition, the Governor and Legislative Leadership approved a \$17 billion inflation relief package, which will offer tax refunds to millions of Californians through direct payments, assistance to pay rent and utility bills and support for small businesses and nonprofits. For more details, you can view the Governor's [press release](#) on the budget.

Wondering what other planning related bills are still moving in the Legislature? The summary above is just a brief snapshot of our current work. For more details, we've compiled a list (attached) to help members keep track of bills we are watching. 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.

Please reach out with questions to policy@apacalifornia.org and lauren@stefangeorge.com.