



American Planning Association  
**California Chapter**

*Creating Great Communities for All*

April 12, 2023

The Honorable Assemblymember Buffy Wicks  
1021 O Street, Room 4240  
Sacramento, California 95814

**RE: AB 1657 (Wicks) The Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2024 – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Wicks:

The American Planning Association, California Chapter (APA California) is pleased to **support** your AB 1657, which would enact the Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2024, which, if adopted, would authorize the issuance of bonds to be used to finance programs to fund affordable rental housing and homeownership programs.

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. As adopted in APA California's Legislative Platform, *Plan California*, our organization is supportive of efforts that provide dedicated resources to fund and finance affordable housing throughout the state.

As the Legislature continues to discuss options to streamline housing, provide for zoning reform and consider discussions around other constraints to building housing in the state, it is equally important to consider the need for a reliable funding stream to support existing and new affordable housing opportunities. While APA California appreciates the substantial funding sources provided over the last few years through state budget surpluses, that funding was all only one-time. With the loss of redevelopment agencies, voter thresholds for local funding initiatives, and limitations on current local tax-increment financing tools, ongoing and sustainable financing is critical, especially as the state continues to face a severe housing crisis and a mounting lack of affordable housing.

We appreciate your dedication to this important issue and for the reasons outlined above, APA California is pleased to support AB 1657. If you have any questions, please contact Lauren De Valencia, Stefan/George Associates, APA California's lobbyist, at 916 443-5301, [lauren@stefangeorge.com](mailto:lauren@stefangeorge.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'ED'.

Erik de Kok, AICP  
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