



American Planning Association  
**California Chapter**

*Creating Great Communities for All*

April 5, 2023

The Honorable Senator Tom Umberg  
1021 O Street, Room 6530  
Sacramento, California 95814

**RE: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): exemption: supportive and transitional housing: motel conversion – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Umberg:

The American Planning Association, California Chapter (APA California) is pleased to **support** your SB 91, which would eliminate the January 1, 2025, sunset date on a provision of state law that exempts from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) certain projects that convert a motel, hotel, residential hotel, or hostel to supportive or transitional housing.

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 streamlining for housing, encouraging the use of CEQA solely for its intended purposes, while eliminating CEQA abuse.

Since the passage of SB 450 (Umberg 2019), the CEQA exemption for streamlining hotel and motel conversions has proved to be a successful tool for developing supportive and transitional housing for people experiencing homelessness. Our organization believes this exemption is one tool among many that are needed to address the severe housing and homelessness crisis that the state continues to face. We appreciate your dedication to this important issue and for the reasons outlined above, APA California is pleased to support SB 91.

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,

Erik de Kok, AICP  
Vice President Policy and Legislation  
APA California

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

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