

# APA CALIFORNIA 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



American Planning Association  
**California Chapter**

*Creating Great Communities*

[www.APACalifornia.org](http://www.APACalifornia.org)

# A Brief History of APA California

*By Betty Croly, FAICP, Chapter Historian and  
Steven A. Preston, FAICP, Anniversary Event Chair*

The American Planning Association California Chapter traces its history back more than 75 years: to the California Planners Institute, which existed at least as early as 1933. The organization that we know today is actually the result of a 1948 merger between the California Planners Institute and the American Institute of Planners. With that merger, the fledgling American Institute of Planners could, for the first time, be said to have a 'national' reach. Prior to that, the national organization had only about 250 members and a budget of \$5,000. The addition of a California Chapter, adding between 100 and 150 members, was a significant accomplishment—indeed, creating a truly national organization.

## Mission Statement

The Mission of APA California: Making great communities happen through good planning.

Toward that end, APA California will:

- Provide vision and leadership that fosters better planning for California.
- Build public and political support for sound planning.
- Provide its members with the tools, services and support that advance the art and science of planning.

The Chapter's 2019-20 Strategic Plan has three objectives:

1. Define the vision and values of the organization and use them to guide our decisions.
2. Identify both short and long term goals and actions to achieve those outcomes.
3. Define activities that can be accomplished in the during the time frame of the plan that either achieve our short term objectives or advance our long term goals.





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# Chapter President

## Julia Lave Johnston



### 2020 Hindsight

If we needed proof that planners are resilient and adaptable, we got it in 2020. Planners are used to problem solving but the pandemic presented unique challenges.

As an organization and as professionals supporting our communities, planners found themselves pivoting so constantly it was dizzying. But as any dancer knows, the key to successful spinning is to keep your focus on the spot where you want to end up. I believe that APA California succeeded in doing so.

I am grateful to the APA California Board and Section leadership for their dedication to our members. For almost 75 years, APA California has developed programs that support our members and their professional excellence. Our local Sections and the state Chapter reached out immediately in March 2020 after sheltering in place to learn how the pandemic was impacting our members and to see if we could do anything to help. In the months after lockdown, we “Zoomed” in and the Sections and Chapter collaborated to host over 35 virtual professional and networking events. We moved our popular annual conference online, reworking the agenda to include 100 sessions and events relevant to the times. Several Sections reached out to students and young planners to offer both professional and financial support.

No matter how successful our 2020 programming, the communal sense of loss often felt overwhelming as it

impacted both our personal and professional lives. To different degrees, we all felt it. We watched our communities and families suffer and our worlds get increasingly smaller as we shed gatherings with family and friends and interactions with colleagues, or experienced job loss, illness, and fear. The pandemic also brought into sharp relief the inequities and discrimination that had and continues to harm many of our communities—deferring dreams, shortening lives, and squandering potential. While APA California had made a commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion for several years, events in 2020 compelled us to start asking uncomfortable questions about our profession: how have planning and planners contributed to systemic racism, and what can we do to change the systems that make us complicit?

As an organization, APA California needs to keep asking these hard questions and challenging our members to be open to the conversation. We need to adapt but also be agents for positive change. As we struggle with the seemingly intractable issues facing our communities from affordable housing to climate change to equity, we need to be respectful of each other and stay focused on where we want to end up.

Planners have the knowledge and experience to be leaders in our communities and help find sustainable and equitable solutions. Let’s plan to lead.



## Chapter Officers

Julia Lave Johnston  
President

Ashley Atkinson, AICP  
President Elect

Derek Wong, AICP  
VP Administration

Hanson Hom, AICP  
VP Conferences

Marc Yeber, ASLA  
VP Marketing & Membership

Eric Phillips  
VP Policy & Legislation

Sharon Grewal, AICP  
VP Professional Development

Ellie Fiore, AICP  
VP Public Information

Miroo Desai, AICP  
VP Diversity & Equity

Juan Borrelli, AICP  
CPF President

Jay Higgins, AICP  
Commission and Board Representative

Elizabeth Owen  
Student Representative

## Local Section Directors

Jennifer Clark, AICP  
Central Section

Rachel C. Raynor  
Central Coast Section

John E. Hildebrand  
Inland Empire Section

Tony Mendoza  
Los Angeles Section

Jonathan Schuppert, AICP  
Northern Section

Amy Vazquez  
Orange County Section

Yassaman 'Yassi' Sarvian  
Sacramento Valley Section

Nancy Graham, AICP  
San Diego Section

## Appointed Members

Asha Bleier, AICP  
AICP Exam Coordinator

J. Laurence Mintier, FAICP  
Chapter Historian, Northern

Steven A. Preston, FAICP  
Chapter Historian, Southern

Tess Harris  
Conference Program Coordinator

Greg Konar, AICP  
Distance Education Director

Nicholas P. Maricich  
National Policy & Legislative Representative

Pamela Wu, AICP  
Statewide Program Coordinator

Shane Burkhardt, AICP  
State Awards Coordinator, Southern

Richard M. Kos, AICP  
University Liaison, Northern

Mirle Rabinowitz Bussell  
University Liaison, Southern

## Non-Voting Members

Kristen Asp, AICP  
APA Board Director, Region 6

Francisco Contreras, AICP  
AICP Commissioner, Region 6

Alexander Yee  
APA Student Representative Council  
Region 6

Robert Paternoster, FAICP  
Planner Emeritus Network, President

William Anderson, FAICP  
California Planning Roundtable, President

## Management Association and Contract Staff

Sande George  
Executive Director and Lobbyist

Lauren de Valencia y Sanchez  
Executive Assistant and Lobbyist

Francine Farrell  
Association and Conference  
Management Services ATEGO Resources

Laura Murphy  
Association and Certification  
Maintenance Services  
New Horizon Enterprise

Dorina Blythe  
Association and Conference Graphic  
Design Services, GranDesigns, Inc.

Laura Dee  
Association and Conference Accounting  
Services, Simply Bookkeeping Pro

Marco A. Martinez  
APA California Attorney  
Best, Best & Krieger, LLC

Heffman Insurance Brokers  
Professional Liability Insurance

Dick Lemon  
Insurance Agent McClatchy Insurance

Christopher Jaime  
Website Management  
Digital Gear, Inc.

Deene Alongi  
Conference Management Business  
Event Strategist

Carol Malin  
Proofreading and Editing Services

# Vice-President for Administration

## Derek Wong, AICP



### What did you accomplish in your position in 2020?

This board position is responsible for several important tasks including budgeting, helping maintain our Chapter's financial health, coordinating and producing the Chapter Awards Ceremony for the Annual Chapter Conference, and developing a Chapter Annual Report, among other administrative-related duties throughout the year. We did not miss a heartbeat by pivoting to virtual in continuing these activities through the help of several Chapter volunteers and our contract staff.

The Chapter's finances remained sound in 2020 despite some reduced revenue. This was coupled with cost-savings measures employed by the Chapter Board. These actions contributed to a healthy ending income statement and balance sheet and ensured continued valuable programming for our planners. The Awards Ceremony and celebration of planning projects statewide enabled the visibility and broadcast of great planning during a difficult period while also highlighting the positive changes in our communities influenced by planning.

Continuation of the Chapter Annual Report provides a medium for APA California to report on its yearlong efforts to have conversations and develop solutions that further diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). The Annual Report, developed through key contributions from Board, Section, and affiliated members, provides a summary of activities impacting DEI including legislative positions, diversity actions, and educational workshops and webinars.

### What did APA California do well in 2020?

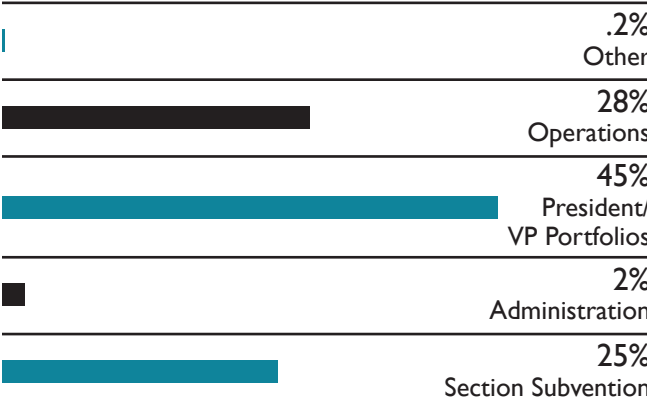
The Chapter addressed the pivot to virtual as both a challenge and opportunity to rethink how we provide services to our members. Through the power of online communication technology and support by contract IT staff, the Chapter built a foundation to offer virtual services that reach out to our greater membership.

During this challenging year, the Chapter made key decisions to invest in infrastructure that benefits all members and begin the process of strategically thinking of priorities and actions that will carry the Chapter and the planning profession forward in uncertain times.

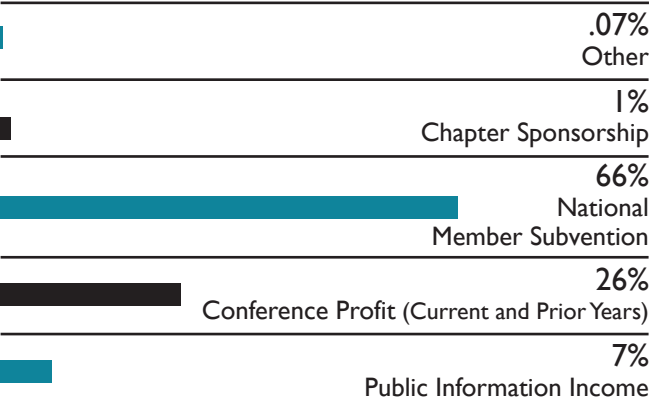
The Chapter addressed diversity head-on and provided a strong platform for open discussion. Both Chapter and Section programming focused on bringing the planning profession together along with other groups to hold meaningful dialogue on planning's historical and current roles regarding DEI issues.

*“Progress occurs when there is a collection of individuals who have passion, diligence, and desire to be of service. APA California continued to make progress in 2020 and chart a course for enhanced and expanded services to our members.”*

### Expenses



### Revenue





## 2020 Awards of Excellence

### 2020 Implementation (Small Jurisdiction)

Yolo County Cache Creek Parkway Plan,  
Open Space Inventory and Baseline Improvements

### 2020 Planning Advocate

Sherry Ryan, PhD

### 2020 Opportunity and Empowerment

SFMTA Bayview Community Based Transportation Plan

### 2020 Implementation (Large Jurisdiction)

City of San Diego Climate Action Plan  
Consistency Checklist

### 2020 Communications Initiative

Santa Clara LAFCO Communications and Outreach Plan

### 2020 Best Practices

Centralizing Active Transportation Data Collection Tools  
with the SCAG Active Transportation Database

### 2020 Comprehensive Plan (Large Jurisdiction)

City of Long Beach General Plan Update -  
Land Use Element

### 2020 Academic

UC San Diego Designathon 1.0 & 2.0: Civic Engagement  
for the Improvement of University Public Spaces

### 2020 Transportation Planning

Morongo Basin Active Transportation Plan

### 2020 Economic Planning and Development

Contra Costa County Northern Waterfront Economic  
Development Initiative Strategic Action Plan

### 2020 Emerging Planning and Design Firm

Kounkuey Design Initiative

### 2020 Innovation in Green Community Planning

South San Francisco Collect & Connect –  
Resilient South City

### 2020 Planning Agency

City of Salinas, Community Development Department

### 2020 Planning Firm

SWA Laguna Beach

### 2020 Urban Design

San José Downtown Design Guidelines and Standards

### 2020 Public Outreach

Southern California Association of Governments Climate  
Adaptation Communication Strategies

### 2020 Advancing Diversity and Social Change in Honor of Paul Davidoff

Tamika L. Butler, Esq

### 2020 Comprehensive Plan (Small Jurisdiction)

City of Mountain View East Whisman Precise Plan

### 2020 Grassroots Initiative

The Eagle Rock Association Rock the Boulevard

### 2020 Planning Pioneer

Michael Woo

### 2020 Planning Landmark

UCLA Department of Urban Planning

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## 2020 Awards of Merit

### 2020 Academic

Parking? Lots! Parking over the Minimum in the  
City of Los Angeles

### 2020 Comprehensive Plan (Small Jurisdiction)

City of Rancho Santa Margarita Local Hazard  
Mitigation Plan

### 2020 Urban Design

SteelCraft Garden Grove

### 2020 Innovation in Green Community Planning

Yolo Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community  
Conservation Plan

### 2020 Opportunity and Empowerment

Health, Wellness, and Environmental Justice Element of the  
Placentia General Plan

### 2020 Transportation Planning

City of San Diego Parking Reform in Transit Priority Areas  
for Multifamily Residential Developments

### 2020 Public Outreach

Transform Fresno Community Engagement Plan

### 2020 Comprehensive Plan (Large Jurisdiction)

City of San Diego Mission Valley Community Plan

### 2020 Implementation (Small Jurisdiction)

Del Mar Civic Center

### 2020 Advancing Diversity and Social Change in Honor of Paul Davidoff

City of Salinas Alisal Vibrancy Plan

### 2020 Best Practices

County of Ventura Resilient Coastal Adaptation Project

### 2020 Economic Planning and Development

City of Los Angeles Exposition Corridor  
Transit Neighborhood Plan

### 2020 Planning Agency

City of Walnut Creek, Planning Division

## Vice-President for Conferences

### Hanson Hom, AICP



#### What did you accomplish in your position in 2020?

After the Board made the decision to pivot to a virtual conference in May, the VP for Conferences worked with the Chapter President to form a Chapter-level Conference Planning Committee that included participation from all eight Sections. The conference was planned in less than four months and included close to 100 sessions, networking events, and sponsor-hosted sessions. The conference attracted over 1,100 participants and received very positive reviews in the post-conference survey.

The primary responsibility of the VP for Conferences is to organize a Chapter conference each year that offers educational sessions covering a range of relevant planning topics of interest to members throughout the state. Close to 100 sessions and events were offered at the virtual conference, with about half of the sessions eligible for AICP-CM credits. Additionally, because networking is traditionally an important conference activity for planners, the Conference Planning Committee made a concerted effort to offer opportunities for attendees to interact by programming virtual networking events using the Remo meeting platform.

With the horrific events in 2020, systemic racism was a prominent topic of public discourse with reflection and acknowledgement of the deep-seated inequalities in our society and a call for change. Not lost in the dialogue was the planning profession's historical role in contributing to institutionalized segregation and social and economic disparities. The 2020 Virtual Conference explored the multiple facets of systemic racism in planning through three Big Conversations, the annual Diversity Summit, and other sessions.

The Chapter changed to Cvent for event management to integrate three primary conference features to improve the delivery of conferences to participants, speakers, and sponsors:

- online registration
- the conference website
- the conference mobile app



#### What did APA California do well in 2020?

APA California pivoted successfully to a virtual conference with a committed Conference Planning Committee. In addition to the success of the conference, essential income was generated to financially support other Chapter activities and functions that benefit APA California members.

APA California maintained its commitment to offer timely professional development opportunities to its members by planning a virtual conference. In addition to the conference, many virtual workshops and networking events were offered by the Chapter and Sections.

Well-received sessions at the virtual conference explored and reflected on systemic racism in community planning and the planning profession. There was an emphasis on ensuring that session panels reflect the diversity of the APA Chapter membership.

Other Chapter highlights for 2020 included:

- a dedicated Board of Directors.
- updated Chapter contractor contracts.
- expanded posting of eNews newsletters to provide timely communication to members.
- an excellent *CalPlanner* periodical.

*“It has truly been an honor to serve as the VP for Conferences for the past four years. I am very pleased to have delivered four highly attended and well-received conferences to APA California members. Each conference was unique and I am proud to have implemented technology improvements, process efficiencies, and program changes in response to input from members. It has been an amazing and rewarding learning experience. I have especially enjoyed working collaboratively with the many planners and contractors that were responsible for making the conferences a success. I highly applaud everyone's creativity, dedication, and time commitment.”*



## Vice-President for Diversity and Equity

### Miroo Desai



#### What did you accomplish in your position in 2020?

We organized the virtual Diversity Summit as part of the annual conference: “Lessons from COVID-19, Racial Inequities in Public Health, Housing, and Transportation.”

A webpage was set up to provide resources on racial justice and social equity. The webpage includes a list of books, podcasts, articles and toolkits, which I update on a regular basis.

We supported Section DEI officers by holding monthly meetings and addressing issues faced at the Section level.

In summer 2020, we put out a statement in response to the Black Lives Matter movement. This statement, along with statements of Section DEI officers, has been posted on the APA website. These statements collectively ensure to our members our stand on racial justice and social equity.

We implemented a mechanism—a demographic survey—that will allow us to assess the diversity in our APA leadership both at the state level as well as at the Section level. The survey was conducted in 2020 and constitutes the baseline. The surveys will be sent out every year so that we can track Board leaderships over time.

*“As a Board, we were able to navigate multiple crises effectively, and put up a virtual conference that spoke directly to the issues at hand.”*



## Vice-President for Policy and Legislation

### Eric Phillips, JD



#### What did you accomplish in your position in 2020?

Although I missed attending in-person events, I am pleased we were able to host Chapter-wide and Section-focused webinars on legislative updates to keep our members informed about new developments in Sacramento.

I worked closely with the Chapter lobbyists on bills important to planners. We sponsored legislation to address a streamlined subdivision process for "missing middle" housing, which unfortunately did not pass. However, we also supported a number of bills that did become law, including revisions to make it easier for planners to work as independent contractors, changes to hearing and CEQA requirements during the pandemic, and other planning process bills.

In anticipation of the new two-year legislative term, APA California updated our legislative platform to prioritize policies regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The 2020 Legislative Session was upended, like everything else in our world, by the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, many fewer bills moved through the session than in a typical year. Nevertheless, APA California remained an active

participant throughout the process, providing support for bills addressing housing production, wildfire planning and recovery, and tenant protections, while watching other bills and revising SB 35, density bonus, and RHNA methodologies.

#### What did APA California do well in 2020?

APA California offered chances for virtual engagement and networking throughout the year, providing crucial information and opportunities for fun for its members.

*“Serving as part of the APA Board continues to be enjoyable and engaging. Even during exceptionally trying years, planners never shy away from discussing big ideas, thinking through issues, and working to identify ways to support their communities. It is great to be part of the process in supporting their work throughout the state!”*





# Distance Education Coordinator

## Greg Konar



### What did you accomplish in your position in 2020?

Prior to COVID-19, livestreaming and recorded materials were especially helpful in reaching planners who found it challenging to attend in-person events due to distance or other factors. During COVID-19, when in-person events were no longer available, the webinars and recorded materials became even more important. Planners took advantage of the new virtual platforms to share experiences on how they and their organizations were coping during the COVID-19 lockdown. For those preparing for the AICP exam or needing CM credits, the availability of distance education became a lifeline.

Achievements included:

- Successfully livestreaming and recording a 12-hour, four-part AICP exam training course with the first three sessions taking place in person and the final session delivered as a webinar.
- Assisting the Sections in making available non-conference webinar recordings on YouTube—a first for the Chapter.
- Providing support to the conference planning team in organizing the 2020 Virtual Conference.
- Editing and posting all conference session recordings to YouTube for on-demand viewing by conference registrants.
- Adding the conference sessions to the Chapter's on-demand catalog and setup registration process.

Following the Black Lives Matter movement, event content shifted heavily to issues of diversity, equity, and social justice. Discussion on these topics was facilitated throughout the year by thoughtful and engaging webinar events hosted by the Sections and later during the Chapter's virtual conference.

### What did APA California do well in 2020?

APA California pivoted sharply to distance education platforms as soon as the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Because the virtual platforms were available to all, a greater level of cooperation and accessibility developed. All Sections participated. The shift to virtual helped level the playing field for smaller Sections and, in some cases, such as the Central Section, dramatically increased event participation. Additionally, experience gained with the Section events gave

the Chapter great confidence that the virtual conference would be a success—and it was.

The shift to virtual required by COVID-19 created an opportunity for the Chapter to showcase an existing but underutilized communication tool in support of planners. While the COVID-19 emergency has abated, all planners have become familiar with the strengths and challenges of distance education. Its legitimacy has been established. The Chapter and Sections are now in much stronger positions to use it for the benefit of the planning profession.

Given the exceptional effort by the Sections to create virtual workshops on diversity, inclusion, and social justice throughout the year, and because these themes pervaded the entire virtual Chapter conference, 2020 will be remembered as an extraordinary year.

*“For the first time in Chapter history, nearly all Section and Chapter professional development events in 2020 were made available live to anyone who chose to attend. The pivot to virtual ushers in a new era of more inclusive and accessible professional development opportunities. As a result, Chapter members can now look forward to a robust set of virtual options even after live events resume.”*



Below is a list of all non-conference, distance education events recorded in 2020. Most are posted on the Chapter YouTube site. This list does not include the 32 recordings from the 2020 Conference.

## NON CONFERENCE WEBINARS

ATTENDEES*	# OF WEBINARS	VIEWS OF RECORDINGS
January - June: Estimate 3,480	14 webinars	1,836
July - December: Estimate 1,395	12 webinars	723

\*Zoom statistics shown for the second half of 2020.

## WEBINARS

EVENT	HOST	LINK AND STATUS	DATE
Planning and Health in the Time of COVID-19	Northern and Planners4Health	<a href="https://youtu.be/gzEtAlxVEs4">https://youtu.be/gzEtAlxVEs4</a> Unlisted	4-1-20
AICP Study Session	Los Angeles, Orange, Inland	Not posted on YouTube	4-4-20
Planning Through The COVID-19 Crisis: How Are We Adapting in These Uncertain Times?	Sacramento Valley	<a href="https://youtu.be/uuSWXdl-4VI">https://youtu.be/uuSWXdl-4VI</a> Unlisted	4-30-20
Impacts of COVID 19 in the Central Section	Central	<a href="https://youtu.be/w7zrU8tUoPo">https://youtu.be/w7zrU8tUoPo</a> Unlisted	5-5-20
CFP Scholarship Informational Webinar	Los Angeles and CPF	<a href="https://youtu.be/wkh8QtDyXzU">https://youtu.be/wkh8QtDyXzU</a> Unlisted	5-8-20
Planning and Health in the Time of COVID-19: Transportation and Public Spaces	Northern and Planners4Health	<a href="https://youtu.be/oePYs9WJVNE">https://youtu.be/oePYs9WJVNE</a> Unlisted	5-12-20
Developing SB 743 Guidelines	Orange	<a href="https://youtu.be/w3_zapWW3FE">https://youtu.be/w3_zapWW3FE</a> Unlisted	5-20-20
When Everything Breaks #1: Conversations on Challenge, Opportunity and Equity in Uncertain Times	Los Angeles	<a href="https://youtu.be/abPCA_Ycz7g">https://youtu.be/abPCA_Ycz7g</a> Public	5-20-20
Becoming AICP: An AICP Application Preparation Webinar	San Diego	<a href="https://youtu.be/mn8AufM8I-E">https://youtu.be/mn8AufM8I-E</a> Unlisted	6-4-20
When Everything Breaks #2: Conversations about Realism, Idealism, and the Planning Profession in Uncertain Times	Los Angeles	<a href="https://youtu.be/kFtdVzZkj4">https://youtu.be/kFtdVzZkj4</a> Public	6-10-20
Addressing Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Our Local Communities	Central	<a href="https://youtu.be/yx-VsuvNB0c">https://youtu.be/yx-VsuvNB0c</a> Unlisted	6-18-20
Planning and Health in the Time of COVID-19: Homelessness and Affordable Housing	Northern and Planners4Health	<a href="https://youtu.be/oECULhOK8tg">https://youtu.be/oECULhOK8tg</a> Unlisted	6-18-20
When Everything Breaks #3: Conversations about the Role of Transportation Equity amid COVID-19 Response and Recovery Efforts	Los Angeles	<a href="https://youtu.be/kAFoa90uX9o">https://youtu.be/kAFoa90uX9o</a> Public	7-8-20
Community Engagement 2020: Reevaluating How We Collaborate with Communities	Sacramento Valley	<a href="https://youtu.be/OJl_gwwRf568">https://youtu.be/OJl_gwwRf568</a> Unlisted	7-9-20
Planning in the Era of Preemption	Northern	<a href="https://youtu.be/c58hSquolPs">https://youtu.be/c58hSquolPs</a> Unlisted	7-10-20

Two Proposed Visions for the San Diego Sports Arena Property	San Diego	<a href="https://youtu.be/IIWo7Oh24NTQ">https://youtu.be/IIWo7Oh24NTQ</a> Unlisted	7-17-20
SB 743: Reflections on LOS, Transition to VMT, and the Potential for VMT Mitigation Banks	Sacramento Valley	<a href="https://youtu.be/eVB_hiQJ3DE">https://youtu.be/eVB_hiQJ3DE</a> Unlisted	7-31-20
Planning for Change in Orange County	Orange	<a href="https://youtu.be/eYnKEhAGcQU">https://youtu.be/eYnKEhAGcQU</a> Public	7-31-20
When Everything Breaks #4: How Can Digital Public Spaces Equitably Serve Communities	Los Angeles	<a href="https://youtu.be/-BoWB7ukCdY">https://youtu.be/-BoWB7ukCdY</a> Public	8-19-20
Developing Urban Resilience	Sacramento Valley	<a href="https://youtu.be/OgmMg0zborA">https://youtu.be/OgmMg0zborA</a> Unlisted	8-28-20
Our County - Equity in Sustainability	Los Angeles	<a href="https://youtu.be/ipuktFb6IKc">https://youtu.be/ipuktFb6IKc</a> Unlisted	9-8-20

## CONFERENCE BREAK SEPTEMBER 14 - 16, 2020

Town and Country Hotel Redevelopment and San Diego River Park	San Diego	<a href="https://youtu.be/LVw9Zz8urrc">https://youtu.be/LVw9Zz8urrc</a> Unlisted	10-29-20
Reflecting Back and Looking Forward on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Planning	Sacramento Valley	<a href="https://youtu.be/RiFzcLI1uR0">https://youtu.be/RiFzcLI1uR0</a> Unlisted	10-30-20
The APA California Membership 'State of the Profession' Survey, Part 2	Chapter	<a href="https://youtu.be/XVNrwc-egPk">https://youtu.be/XVNrwc-egPk</a> Unlisted	11-6-20
Visualizing Density	Chapter	<a href="https://youtu.be/vaFxPDdaqSo">https://youtu.be/vaFxPDdaqSo</a> Unlisted	11-12-20
Views on Post-COVID Planning World	San Diego	<a href="https://youtu.be/COMWY_iKuso">https://youtu.be/COMWY_iKuso</a> Unlisted	11-19-20
Paving the Way: Safe Mobility and Active Transportation Alternatives for the Future	Sacramento Valley	Not posted on YouTube	11-20-20
When Everything Breaks: Food Systems & COVID-19	Los Angeles	To be determined	12-16-20

## LIVESTREAMS

EVENT	HOST	LINK AND STATUS	DATE
AICP Exam Training Course (8 parts: 6 livestreams and 2 webinars) Additional information available on APA California website at: <a href="https://www.apacalifornia.org/professional-development/on-demand-aicp-exam-training-course/">https://www.apacalifornia.org/professional-development/on-demand-aicp-exam-training-course/</a>	San Diego and Central Sections	All unlisted except Part 2 is public  Part 1: Planning History, <a href="https://youtu.be/2LimlfjJnZQ">https://youtu.be/2LimlfjJnZQ</a> Part 2: Overview, <a href="https://youtu.be/8T9GYqclcl">https://youtu.be/8T9GYqclcl</a> Part 3: Plan Making, <a href="https://youtu.be/hp3W4e-dh_8">https://youtu.be/hp3W4e-dh_8</a> Part 4: Regulatory Law, <a href="https://youtu.be/gtvNO-BTCS0">https://youtu.be/gtvNO-BTCS0</a> Part 5: Ethics, <a href="https://youtu.be/WV1wAyWKbEo">https://youtu.be/WV1wAyWKbEo</a> Part 6: Public Participation, <a href="https://youtu.be/8yrKZUaxfRo">https://youtu.be/8yrKZUaxfRo</a> Part 7: Planning Trends, <a href="https://youtu.be/Y9e_ZEHXgmM">https://youtu.be/Y9e_ZEHXgmM</a> Part 8: Leadership, <a href="https://youtu.be/U4UT110WPFk">https://youtu.be/U4UT110WPFk</a>	4-25-20

## Commission and Board Representative

### Jay D. Higgins, AICP



#### What did you accomplish in your position in 2020?

In May 2020, we pushed out one of our first virtual and interactive webinars for Commission and Board members. It was a straightforward subject that highlighted best practices for online hearings, back when they were relatively new.

During the virtual state conference, we doubled down again on the subject of online engagement and hearing protocols. But so much had changed up to September that our panel shifted away from the logistics of virtual proceedings and onto something different: how to leverage the virtual platform to reach our underserved communities.

It was a real eye opener to have one of our conference panelists take over the session with an example of how virtual hearings could be conducted. John Parke, a County of Santa Barbara Planning Commissioner, took the time to show us all a video of one of his recent hearings where the applicant team provided comments about a project—from the project site via video. The video was not “production

quality” but it provided context to what was being asked for, and why it mattered.

*“Think about your audience and who your customers really are. They are more than those at the hearing—they are the underrepresented community members who are working hard and cannot devote the time to decode your policies and procedures. Consider the applicant video example—and then expand it to reach our unusual suspects—those that are underserved and don’t typically participate. Since virtual proceedings are here to stay, we can leverage it to more productively create great communities for all.”*

## University Liaisons (Northern and Southern California)

### Richard Kos, AICP, and Mirle Rabinowitz Bussell, Ph.D.



#### What did you accomplish in your position in 2020?

Two University Liaisons connect APA California with California’s many urban planning schools and academic programs. We began our ex officio appointments in 2018, with Mirle representing Southern California and Rick representing Northern California. Our most recent achievement was management of a member survey to ascertain the state of the planning profession in California.

Close to 800 planners completed the survey. We worked with a graduate student team to analyze and evaluate the survey findings. We then shared these findings at the APA California virtual conference in September 2020 as well as during a webinar that we organized and held in November 2020. The written report has been completed and will be shared with the entire APA California community.

The survey included numerous questions related to the demographics of practicing planners in the state of California. These findings were shared with several APA California board members for marketing and membership purposes.

We had a very positive experience during our tenure as University Liaisons. We hope that APA California will continue to work closely with the academic community (both faculty and students) in California.



## Co-Chapter Historians

Steven A. Preston, FAICP, and J. Laurence Mintier, FAICP



### What did you accomplish in your position in 2020?

We launched our first-ever historical lecture program—the Betty Croly Memorial Lecture—as a virtual history event, featuring Dr. Meredith Drake Reitan from the University of Southern California. Reitan presented “More than Municipal Housekeeping,” documenting the Women’s Clubs movement and the advancement of planning in Los Angeles.

We maintained a diverse Planning History Awards jury and continued our work uncovering the history of planners and communities of color.

We provided historical research assistance to APA members, our Sections and affiliates, staff, and contractors. We expanded the Chapter’s historical archives significantly—continuing to expand the wealth of California planning history—and maintained our levels of activity

despite the pandemic. Our archival and records maintenance procedures were updated.

We initiated the planning process for APA California’s 75th anniversary in 2023.

### What did APA California do well in 2020?

The annual Planning History Awards was conducted remotely and successfully. The awards recognized Michael Woo, former dean of Cal Poly Pomona’s College of Environmental Design, and UCLA’s planning program as our Planning Pioneer and Planning Landmark Award winners, respectively, for their strong histories of fostering diversity.

*“We are grateful for the continued support of our members, donors, and awards jurors, who continue to help tell our story. We are thrilled to uncover the back story of our organization as we work with a wonderful group of planners to prepare for our 75th anniversary in 2023.”*

## Planning Pioneers



**T.J. Kent, Jr.**

T.J. Kent, Jr. (1917-1998) was the first chairman of the first graduate planning program on the West Coast at the University of California at Berkeley (1948). He also authored *The Urban General Plan* (1964). Designated a National Planning Pioneer in 1990.



**John Nolen, Sr.**

John Nolen, Sr. (1869-1937) was a prolific planner. Known for his master plans for the cities of Knoxville, Tennessee (1913), Venice, Florida (1926), and Mariemont, Ohio (1926). In 1907, he produced a city beautiful plan for the town of Roanoke, Virginia. His *General Plan for the Remodeling of Roanoke*, initiated by the Women’s Civic Betterment Club, provided a blueprint for developing the town’s street grid and parkway system. Designated a National Planning Pioneer in 1997.



**Save San Francisco Bay**

Sylvia McLaughlin, Esther Gulick, and Catherine Kerr founded the San Francisco Save the Bay Association in 1961 with the goal of halting a City of Berkeley plan to fill more than 2,000 acres of the Bay. By 1949 the association had 17,000 members. These early efforts led to the establishment of the San Francisco Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) in 1965 and adoption of the Bay Plan in 1965. BCDC has not only halted the shrinking of San Francisco Bay but has presided over enlargement of the Bay through restoration of formerly filled bay lands to functioning tidal marsh habitat.



**Margarita Piel McCoy, FAICP**

An early advocate for planning, Margarita Piel McCoy (1923-2016) brought a strong female voice to the profession at a time when men dominated the field. She became the first woman appointed to a full professorship of urban planning at a major university, and the first woman to chair a planning department in the U.S. Even after her teaching career ended, McCoy remained involved in the planning profession, working in private practice advising communities on comprehensive plans and advocating for changes in the planning process so that citizens and community groups had greater input. Designated a National Planning Pioneer in 2016.



**Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.**

Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. (1827-1903), a landscape architect, designed many well-known urban parks, most notably Central Park in New York City. He produced plans for entire systems of parks and parkways that connected cities to green spaces, such as the park system he designed for Buffalo, New York. Designated a National Planning Pioneer in 1990.



**Corwin R. Macine**

Corwin R. Macine, whose firm developed the Petaluma Plan of 1971, had a lifetime commitment to planning. In 1940, he helped found Toltec, an organization of San Francisco Bay Area architects and planners that is often credited with laying the foundations of post-World War II planning efforts in the region. He was active in the American Planning Association’s two predecessor organizations, the American Society of Planning Officials and the American Institute of Planners. He served as AIP president in 1960-61. Designated a National Planning Pioneer in 1997.



**Harvey S. Perloff**

Harvey S. Perloff (1915-1983) was dean of the School of Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of California at Los Angeles from 1948 until his death. In 1982, he received the first distinguished planning educator award of the Association of Colleges and Schools of Planning. In the 1950s, Perloff headed the planning school at the University of Chicago. He is known for a series of books, including *Planning the Post Industrial City*, published by the American Planning Association in 1980. Designated a National Planning Pioneer in 1992.



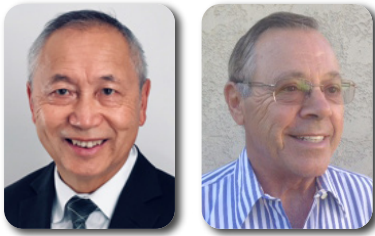
**Ladislav Segoe**

Ladislav Segoe (1894-1983), a native of Hungary who came to the U.S. in 1922, had a distinguished career as a private planning consultant from 1928 to 1948. Segoe was an unwavering advocate of independent, professional planning and is most well-known as editor of *The Local Planning Administration*, also known as the “green book.” First published in 1941, it was the most influential planning book in the country during the first half of the 20th century. Designated a National Planning Pioneer in 1991.



**Mel Scott**

Mel Scott (1906-1980) authored *American City Planning Since 1890*, published in 1969 and now a planning history classic. Designated a National Planning Pioneer in 1990.



### What did you accomplish in your position in 2020?

Due to the pandemic, PEN was not able to offer its programs in 2020, but planned to pivot to virtual formats and events in 2021 for its 2021 Planner Exchange and Community Planning Assistance (CPAT) programs.

While PEN's Cross Generational Planning Exchange Program was curtailed in 2020 due to the pandemic, we planned to partner with CPF to offer several virtual events in 2021 to connect seasoned professionals with students and young and emerging planners.

Through the CPAT program, PEN is seeking to assist lower-income cities and communities and tackle critical planning issues that could address social justice, economic development and equity, public health, or empowerment of underrepresented populations.

PEN is ensuring that its Board of Directors reflect the diversity of California's population and the planning profession with the appointment of several new Board members moving forward.

PEN is taking the lead and has prepared and presented guidelines to APA California to launch the Planner Memorial Program that will be presented at future conferences beginning in 2021.

PEN is participating on the Planning Committee, led by the Chapter Co-Historians, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of APA California in 2023 with a focus on events and activities for that year's annual conference to be held in Fresno.

PEN selected several distinguished planners to receive a PEN Honor Award in 2020, but the awards were deferred to 2021, with the plan to honor both the 2020 and 2021 awardees at the virtual conference.

### What did APA California do well in 2020?

APA's pivot to virtual was particularly successful in:

- pivoting to a virtual conference and other virtual events offered by the Chapter and Sections, which were successfully received by members.
- creating opportunities for young planners and students to be involved in APA, such as at the conference.

- pivoting to provide virtual professional development and networking events.

Social equity and systemic racism in planning was a central theme of the 2020 APA Conference, with multiple sessions offering a robust dialogue on various aspects of this theme.

Also significant was the transition to an expanded eNews form of communication, with links to the Chapter's social media platforms to provide timely information, articles, and announcement of events to members. *CalPlanner* continues to be an excellent periodical for the Chapter, with the conference issue particularly notable.

*Hanson Hom: "I am privileged to serve as PEN President for the next two years. We have a dedicated 12-member Board composed of seasoned and newly appointed Directors. PEN is an ancillary and resource support group for APA California. We further a core mission of the Chapter to pass on senior-level planning expertise and mentoring to the next generation of planners.*

*PEN is refreshing the CPAT, which offers planning support to challenged communities that do not have the financial resources to contract for planning and related services.*

*PEN embraces its role in preserving, recognizing, and celebrating the history of planning and the contribution of planners to the profession through several programs:*

- *honoring planners that have made significant contributions to planning in California.*
- *launching the Planner Memorial Program in 2020 to recognize planners that have passed away during the year.*
- *supporting the Chapter Co-Historians in preserving and documenting the history of California planning."*

# California Planning Foundation

## Juan F. Borrelli, AICP, CPF President



Since 1970, the California Planning Foundation (CPF) has been a nonprofit, charitable corporation established to further the professional practice of planning in California. CPF achieves this goal primarily by providing scholarships to California university students. All members of APA California are members of CPF and there are no separate dues to belong to CPF. This report highlights the CPF scholarship program, fundraising activities, ongoing efforts to further diversity, and its Board.

### Helping Planners – 2020 CPF Scholarships

CPF's major and named scholarships are awarded each year to students in accredited and non-accredited schools based on an application and selection process by the CPF Board. These scholarships are designed to help California planning students entering their final year of an undergraduate or master's degree program. Scholarship criteria include academic performance, financial need, increasing diversity in the profession of planning, and a commitment to serve the planning profession in California. Section-funded scholarships are also awarded to students with the same selection criteria and process by the CPF Board. [See a complete list of CPF's 2020 Scholarship recipients.](#)

In 2020, the CPF's Student Scholarship Program broke all past records for new accomplishments beyond any past year! In total, 45 scholarships totaling \$70,000 were awarded to 44 deserving students (34 graduate students and 10 under-graduate students)—more scholarships and

more money awarded than ever before. Scholarship recipients came from 14 different colleges/universities in California, which was also the highest number of schools participating in the program. Scholarships were awarded to students at the CPF Scholarship Awards Presentation and Professional Learning Session that was held as a Zoom event during the APA California 2020 Conference; the event included an interactive panel discussion titled "If I'd Only Known Then What I Know Now: Learning From Our Failures" led by CPF Board Member **Lisa Wise, AICP**, and several invited seasoned professionals. The event was once again named and held in honor of **Richard H. Weaver**, a long-time California planner and past president of CPF. In 2015 and 2016, CPF received generous endowment donations from Richard's estate to establish an annual \$2,000 CPF scholarship in his honor.

Overall, CPF could not have had the success of its 2020 CPF Student Scholarship Program and fundraising efforts without the assistance and tremendous generosity of the APA California Board, its staff, the Conference Committee, and all of the CPF donors. Thank you!

### Pivoting to Virtual – 2020 CPF Fundraising Activities and Scholarship Application Webinar

In lieu of hosting in-person live and silent auctions and raffle fundraisers in 2020 (since the planning conference was completely virtual), CPF kicked off an online fundraising/donation effort at the APA California Virtual Conference from September 14 to 16, which continued until the end of the year, and raised \$20,000 in 2020.

### CPF Board of Directors and Meeting Schedule

CPF is governed by a small but nimble all-volunteer Board of Directors. Members of APA California elect CPF Board members to four-year terms. The APA California Vice-President for Professional Development and the APA California University Liaisons also serve on the CPF Board in ex officio capacities. The CPF President also serves as a member of APA California's Board of Directors. The CPF Board establishes the annual budget, develops annual fundraising events and professional development programs, and annually selects CPF scholarship recipients from across the state.

The CPF Board and Section Liaisons met monthly in 2020. Meetings were held virtually via Zoom both due to the

pandemic and as a cost-savings measure to ensure administrative costs were kept to less than 10 percent of funds raised, to continue ensuring that the majority of CPF donations go directly to student scholarships.

#### 2020 CPF Board of Directors

Juan Borrelli, AICP  
President

Hing Wong, AICP  
Vice President and Scholarship Committee Member

Lisa Wise, AICP  
Treasurer



As part of this new fundraising effort and as a direct result of the upheaval and losses experienced due to the pandemic, CPF Section Liaison **Edgar Maravilla** and CPF Board members led a new and heartwarming 2020 Fall Positivity Campaign where California planners could go to the Section's website and describe what they were especially grateful for and what they were still positive about; they were then encouraged to donate to the CPF Scholarship Program. Support from conference attendees, Chapter members, and many "Friends of CPF" was strong in 2020, and I am delighted to report that by the end of the year, CPF exceeded its overall 2020 fundraising goal!

In 2020—for the fourth consecutive year—CPF hosted a free online CPF Scholarship application training webinar via Zoom, available to all California students. At the webinar on May 8, CPF Section Liaison **Chelsea Richer, AICP**, discussed scholarship opportunities offered by CPF to help students prepare their applications, reviewed application requirements, offered strategies for writing competitive essays, and answered questions.

## Furthering Diversity – Ongoing and New Diversity-Focused CPF Scholarship Endowments

In 2018, CPF kicked off a new endowment fundraising effort to create a second Diversity Scholarship to enhance our ongoing efforts to foster diversity and inclusion in the profession and be responsive to the increasing needs of California's planning students. The scholarship is in keeping with APA's "Diversity and Inclusion Vision, Mission and Strategy" and the AICP's "Code of Ethics" and includes the

following qualification criteria: minority race, minority ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, gender, age, tribal affiliation, first in family to attend college, and like all CPF scholarships, financial need and academic excellence. By the end of 2020, CPF had raised almost \$6,000 toward this new scholarship. This endowment is expected to be completed shortly.

In 2019, a new CPF scholarship endowment was established to honor **Stanley R. Hoffman, FAICP**, after his untimely passing in July that year. By the end of 2020, CPF had raised almost \$15,000 toward this new scholarship. This endowment is expected to be completed shortly.

In 2020, thanks to generous donor **Dr. Isaac Martin**, CPF was able to establish and fully fund at the minimum \$20,000 endowment level a new scholarship, the Black Voices in Planning at UC San Diego Scholarship. This endowment fund is structured to allow continued growth with future donations so that it might someday award one or more scholarships in amounts larger than \$1,000. Eligibility for this scholarship includes students identifying as Black or African American who are enrolled and entering their final year at UC San Diego, whose major is one administered by the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, and, as with all CPF Scholarship recipients, have demonstrated academic excellence, financial need, and a commitment to serve the planning profession in California after graduation.

Lastly, in 2020, the CPF Board increased the number of schools and programs throughout California eligible to apply for CPF scholarships, thus allowing for a more diverse

### 2020 CPF Board of Directors (cont.)

Hilary Nixon, Ph.D.  
Secretary and Scholarship  
Committee Member

Erik Mumm  
Social Media and Webmaster

Aaron Pfannenstiel, AICP  
Board Member

Brian McGinnis  
Student Representative

Questa Gleason  
Student Representative  
(September 2020 onward)

### 2020 APA California Ex Officio Board Members

Sharon Grewal, AICP  
Vice President for  
Professional Development

Mirle Rabinowitz Bussell, Ph.D.  
University Liaison –  
Southern and Scholarship  
Committee Member

Rick Kos, AICP  
University Liaison – Northern

### 2020 CPF Section Liaisons

Ralph Kachadourian  
Central Valley Section

Chelsea Richer, AICP  
Los Angeles Section

Edgar Maravilla  
Northern Section

Dana Privitt, AICP  
Orange Section

Dave Schlegel, AICP  
Sacramento Valley Section

Mirle Rabinowitz Bussell, Ph.D.  
San Diego Section

Central Coast Section  
and Inland Empire Section  
Liaison positions  
were vacant

range of applicants. As a result, 32 colleges and universities with planning or planning-related programs are on CPF's scholarship eligibility list, a significant increase from past years. Additionally, each year, all eight California Sections generously provide funding to award CPF Section Scholarships. In 2020,

the CPF Board began discussions with a number of Section Liaisons and Section Boards to define and include more specific diversity- and equity-focused criteria for some CPF Section Scholarships to be able to be awarded to more planning students in underrepresented categories.

## CPF Major and Named Scholarship Awards

### Outstanding Student Award (\$5,000)\*

Questa Gleason, Cal Poly Pomona

### Outstanding Student Award, Runner-Up (\$3,000 each)\*

Kevin Dumler, University of California, Berkeley

Whitney Heller, California State University, Northridge

Carline Hua, University of California, Irvine

### Diversity in Planning Award (\$3,000)\*

Laura Elaine Daza-Garcia,

University of California, Los Angeles

### Merit Scholarships (\$3,000 each)

Jazmin Amini, University of California, Berkeley

Felicia Jiang, University of California, Berkeley

Natalie Tran, University of California, San Diego

### Richard H. Weaver Scholarship (\$2,000)

Alejandro Gonzalez, University of California, Los Angeles

### California Planning Roundtable (CPR)

#### Memorial Scholarships (\$1,000 each)

Gerrlyn Gacao, University of California, Los Angeles

Emmanuel Lopez, University of California, Berkeley

Maribel Sandoval Contreras,

California State University, Northridge

### APA California Scholarship in honor of Frank Wein (\$1,000)

Dori Ganetsos, University of California, Berkeley

### David Wilcox Scholarship (\$1,000)

Matt Phillips, University of California, Los Angeles

### Ken Milam Scholarship (\$1,000)

Reaghan Murphy, University of Southern California

### Paul Wack Cal Poly SLO Scholarship (\$1,000)

Josephine Buchanan, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

### Paul Wack Sustainability Scholarship (\$1,000)

Irene Takako Farr, University of California, Los Angeles

### Planners4Health Scholarship (\$1,000)

Honora Montano, University of California, Berkeley

### Ted Holzem Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)

Rasheed Shabazz, University of California, Berkeley

### Virginia Viado Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)

Khristian Decastro, University of California, Los Angeles

\*Included a full conference registration to the 2020 APA California Conference, held virtually.

## Section Scholarship Awards

### Russell Fey / Central Valley Section (\$1,000)

Antonio Olea, Fresno State University

### Central Coast Section (\$1,500 each)

Josephine Buchanan, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

Wesley Wong, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

### Inland Empire Section (\$1,500 each)

Norma Flores, Cal Poly Pomona

Dominic Gonzalez, Cal Poly Pomona

### Los Angeles Section (\$1,000 each)

Sabrina Alonso, University of Southern California

Brian De La Ree, Cal Poly Pomona

Danielle Dirksen, University of Southern California

Serena Lin, University of Southern California

Daniel Luu, University of California, Los Angeles

Edgar Mejia, University of California, Los Angeles

Roxan Rivas, California State University, Northridge

Lena Rogow, University of California, Los Angeles

Nathan Romine, California State University, Northridge

Matthew Vu, Los Angeles Trade-Technical College

### Northern Section (\$1,500 each)

Haeseo Choi, San Jose State University

Ethan Ebinger, University of California, Berkeley

Hannah Meeks, Sonoma State University

Karl Reinhardt, University of California, Berkeley

Rafael Velazquez, University of California, Berkeley

### Orange Section (\$1,000 each)

John Maldonado, University of California, Irvine

Veronica Morones, University of California, Irvine

### Sacramento Valley Section (\$1,500)

Evangelina Chavez, Sacramento State University

### San Diego Section (\$1,000 each)

Samantha Diaz, University of California, San Diego

Samuel Solis, San Diego State University

## Central Section

### Jennifer Clark, AICP, Section Director



The Central Section covers eleven counties in the central interior of California and serves over 200 planning professionals and students in a wide variety of backgrounds and settings, including urban, suburban, small town, and rural. Some call this area the Final Frontier for growth in California.

To keep up with member needs, the Central Section expanded its programs, offering more services and events as well as reaching out to students to build a relationship and member base in the Section area's universities. This is particularly critical given the return of a bachelor's degree in planning once again being offered within the Central Valley, as Fresno State relaunched its City and Regional Planning Degree (bachelor of science).

### Section Activities

In 2020, the focus was on providing no-cost virtual and inclusive opportunities to interact with the Section. This included a newsletter, training, book club, and mixers. The Central Section was acknowledged for these efforts with the APACA 2020 Section Activity Award. A summary of activities is below.

- **January 28, 2020:** 2019 APA Californian Legislative Update and Happy Hour (Cancelled-lack of registration)
- **May 5, 2020:** A Conversation about the Impacts of COVID-19 on the Local Planning Profession (CM Credits)
- **May 12, 2020:** Webinar: Vehicle Miles Traveled Implementation in Fresno (CM Credits)
- **June 18, 2020:** Addressing Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in our Local Communities: What is the Role of Planners? (CM Credits)
- **September 3, 2020:** Virtual Happy Hour - Promoting APACA's upcoming 2020 "State of Change" Virtual Conference
- **September 29, 2020:** Book Discussion: "The Color of Law" (hosted by Equity Co-Chairs)
- **October 30, 2020:** Virtual Half-Day Equity Workshop - Promoting a Deeper Awareness and Understanding of the History and Impacts of Racial Inequities and Exploring Actionable Steps that Planners can Take Moving Forward, Hosted by the Central Section (CM Credits)
- **December 2020:** CPR Leadership Academy (promoted state chapter's effort)

### December 9, 2020: Virtual Holiday Party Happy Hour

**Newsletters:** Beginning in April, the Section started a regular newsletter blast with information regarding upcoming events, board members, and highlighting accomplishments. Since that date, the newsletter has been sent out to all 200 members plus interested local and regional agencies, averaging 376 deliveries. The Central Section newsletter achieved an average 27 percent open rate from members.

### AICP Training

- Offered remote AICP training, February and March 2020, in conjunction with San Diego APA Chapter and State Chapter (3 Central Chapter members participated: Amy Wilson, Mario Anaya, Dawn Marple).
- Offered remote trainings online for a reduced fee via state Chapter.
- Offered AICP scholarships; no statements of interest were received.
- Offered state assistance due to COVID-19 (added information to website).





## Central Section Awards

For 2020, three public agencies, and their consultation partners, were recognized for outstanding achievement in land use planning and best practices. The California Chapter Central Section made the following awards:

- **Excellence and Achievement in Planning – Best Practices Category:** To the City of Arvin, Collins & Schoettler & Holloway, Planning Consultants, and Arvin Community Services District for the “Arvin Water Resources Element”
- **Excellence and Achievement in Planning – Public Outreach Category:** To the City of Fresno and Raimi + Associates for the “Transform Fresno”
- **Award of Merit in Planning – Public Outreach Category:** To the County of Merced and RRM Design Group for the “Le Grand Community Plan”

## 2020 Central Section Board

Jennifer Clark, AICP  
Section Director

Eric VonBerg, MRP  
Director for Administration and Finance

Carolina Ilic, AICP  
Director for Professional Development

Ricky Caperton, AICP  
Director for Membership and Public Information

Rob Terry, MPA, AICP  
Immediate Past Section Director and Webmaster

Ralph Kachadourian, AICP  
2023 Conference Liaison

Nicole Hoke  
Young and Emerging Planner (YEP) Coordinator

*In addition, several new faces were introduced onto the Board mid-year including:*

Victoria Chung  
Director for Marketing and Communications

Casey Lauderdale, AICP  
Co-Director Equity and Diversity

Mario Anaya, AICP  
Co-Director Equity and Diversity

Jenna Chilingirian, MCRP  
Director for Membership and Public Information

Tiffany Ho  
YEP Coordinator and Student Programs Manager

*The inclusion of these new members has reinvigorated long-standing activities and traditions within the Section, while leading to several new and progressive ideas that improved outreach, professional development, and networking among APA members and fellow planning professionals.*

*The Sierra Retreat was cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19 concerns. The growing emphasis on distance learning really assisted the Section in 2020 due to an inability to meet or host activities due to COVID-19.*



### Central Coast 2020 Happenings

The APA Central Coast Section hosted its first Celebrating Cities series (inspired from the Los Angeles Section), highlighting the cities of Morro Bay and Oxnard. Our Diversity, Equity, and Membership Officer held the Section's first virtual reading group in October 2020, reading "The Color of Law" by Richard Rothstein in several hour-long group discussions. The Professional Development Officer refocused on working with prospective AICP candidates to prepare for the AICP examination process in fall 2020. As a Section Board during our retreat in summer 2020, we shared ideas and brain-stormed how to encourage backing anti-racism and increasing diversity through events and content. As COVID-19 demanded shifting even more to an online presence for communication and promotion, we allocated funds in our 2021 budget to help update the Section's website.

### San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Subsections

The San Luis Obispo Subsection assisted with the expansion of the Section's overall presence on social media, particularly as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Representing APA, one of our members presented on "Planning for the Future" at UCSB's Bren School 50th anniversary event in February 2020. In June 2020, a Virtual Career Panel for students and members was hosted. The Santa Barbara Subsection, in partnership with AEP Channel Counties, hosted a CEQA trivia night in November and a holiday party for the entire

Section membership. The Ventura County Subsection hosted, in partnership with the Davenport Institute, a two-part Public Participation and Community Engagement Seminar, as well as the following events:

- **January 2020:** Resume Writing and Professional Headshot Event hosted by the Young & Emerging Planners
- **March 2020:** APA-AEP Joint Mixer and Game Night
- **April 2020:** APA Planner Talks with Robin Elander about Reopening the State in the Face of COVID-19
- **September 2020:** Service Day with The Nature Conservancy
- **October 2020:** APA Planner Talks with Russell Galipeau about Open Space Management
- **November 2020:** Vulnerable Communities Event co-hosted with California Lutheran University
- **December 2020:** APA Planner Talks with Gabe Teran about Public Participation and Dialogue

The APA Central Coast Board is looking forward to more events and activities planned. We are excited to embrace this virtual/digital age and will be able to engage with other professionals across our Section's geographic boundaries, as well as with other APA sections. Cheers to a new year ahead!



### 2020 Central Coast Section Board

Rachel Raynor, AICP  
Director

Spencer Johnson, CNU-A  
Subsection Director, San Luis Obispo  
CPF Liaison

Tess Harris  
Subsection Director, Santa Barbara

Clay Downing  
Subsection Director, Ventura

Jessica Metzger, AICP  
Public Information Officer

Tanner Shelton, AICP  
Professional Development Officer

Selena Evilsizor, AICP  
Finance Officer

Steve Welton, AICP  
Past Finance Officer

Amy Sinsheimer, AICP  
Legislative Officer

Lilly Rudolph, AICP  
Diversity, Equity and Membership Officer

Hollee King Winegar, AICP  
Awards & Events Officer

Michelle D'Anna  
Programs and Social Officer

Matt Wilkins  
Webmaster

Ethan Stan  
EPP, San Luis Obispo County

Lexi Journey  
EPP, Santa Barbara County

Dillan Murray  
EPP, Ventura County

*Student Representatives*  
Alex Brown (graduate), Camila Bobroff  
(graduate), Alejandro Sanchez  
UCSB Bren

Nick Johnston and Kristie Woo  
Cal Poly - Undergraduates

Ethan Stan  
Cal Poly - Graduate

## Inland Empire Section

### John E. Hildebrand, Section Director



#### Who We Are

The IES Board is composed of approximately 25 elected and appointed members, representing a diverse background, including the public, private, and education sectors. The IES Board has a strong commitment to host meaningful workshops and events for our membership each year and provide resources to help planners in the region. The Section Director, John Hildebrand, concluded two consecutive terms at the end of 2020 and handed over Director duties to Christine Saunders starting in 2021.

Needless to say, 2020 was a challenging year and forced us to reevaluate our business-as-usual model. The Inland Empire Section, along with each California Section, looked for opportunities to continue providing services, training, and support to our members, during this unprecedented pandemic. In several cases, Sections collaborated on workshops, marketing, and other efforts to leverage our collective resources and bring our services to a wider audience. As we move ahead, still unclear when normalcy will regain its foothold, the IES-APA will continue to be creative in its approach to business and will continue to partner with other Sections.

#### Young Emerging Planners

Our Young Emerging Planners (YEP) group continues to engage new planners in the workforce and coordinate with the universities in our Section. Despite the pandemic, the YEP group hosted a couple virtual workshops and collaborated with other Sections. Moving forward, we look to build on all the great work and momentum our YEP group has achieved.

#### Events

2020 hit us with a particularly challenging set of circumstances related to any kind of in-person workshop or training. As a result, our Section's traditional workshop series was unable to be fully achieved. However, responding to the circumstances, the IES partnered with other organizations to provide promotion, marketing, and registration services. This collaborative effort enabled our members to access a broad range of topics and workshops. In addition, the IES hosted the following workshops:



- **February 27:** Lunch and Learn – RHNA
- **August 27:** Planning Challenges in the OC & IE
- **May:** Section Awards Recognition
- **May 28:** AICP Information Session
- **June 18:** Planner Social Hour
- **November 12:** IE Planner Showcase

#### 2020 APA California Conference

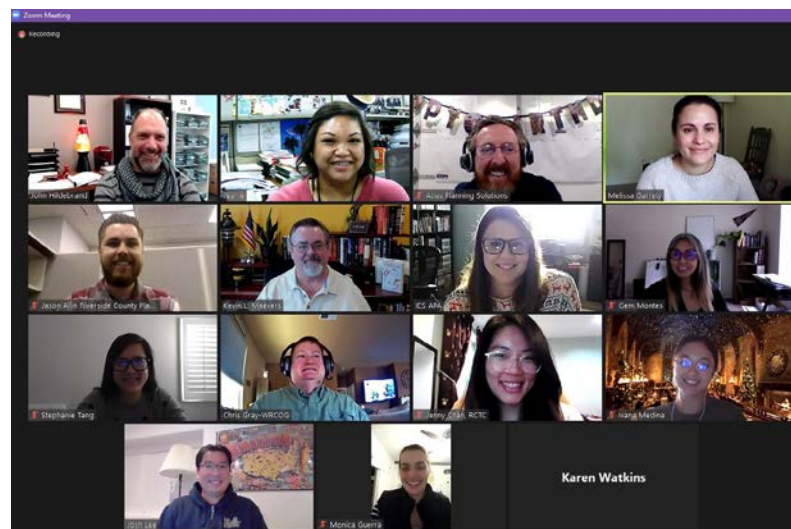
Downtown Riverside was the selected location for the 2020 Chapter Conference; however, due to the pandemic, the conference shifted from being in-person to virtual only. We look forward to implementing the traditional conference format again, but also recognize that the conference format may still need adjustments, as we emerge from this pandemic.

#### Endowment

This Section has placed a greater focus in connecting with our student and emerging planners over the past couple of years. In implementing this focus, the IES partnered with the CPF to establish a permanent IES-APA student scholarship endowment. We continue to fund this endowment annually, intending for it grow into multiple scholarships in the future.

#### Summary

Looking ahead, we will continue to provide services and resources to the best of our ability, engage our membership, and hopefully be fully prepared when the pandemic subsides. As the outgoing Section Director for Inland Empire, a thank you goes out to all our Board members for your volunteer commitment to this organization and embodying the spirit of the APA.





## Orange Section

### Amy Vazquez, Section Director



#### What did you accomplish in your position in 2020?

We offered all Section events free of charge with an option to donate to our scholarship fund.

We started a fund to distribute funds to Section planners who were struggling due to COVID-19, to help offset professional development related costs such as APA membership, AICP testing fee, etc. Funds were scheduled to be distributed in 2021.

Our Section hosted a webinar in July 2020 titled "Planning for Change." We partnered with Santa Ana Active Streets, People for Housing OC, and APA California. It was broadcast live on the Chapter Facebook and YouTube channels.

Other achievements included:

- legislative updates.
- PEEL Mentorship Program connecting emerging and seasoned planning professionals.
- donating to Sacred Places Institute.

#### What did APA California do well in 2020?

Offering tech help (Ben Morrison) was much appreciated.

**Planning for Change in Orange County**  
July 31, 11:30am

Land use and transportation planning have long been used to perpetuate racial and economic segregation and disinvestment in communities of color. The impacts of those collective decisions are clearer today than ever before.

How do we as planners unpack those policy choices and make more informed, more just decisions today?

Join us for a discussion of how we can plan for the change we want to see and create more equitable, welcoming communities.

**Panelists:**  
Marlon Regisford, Caltrans; OC-APA  
Peter Garcia, Santa Ana Active Streets  
Manny Escamilla, Santa Ana Historian  
Angela Mooney D'Arcy, Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples

Marlon Regisford  
Peter Garcia  
Angela Mooney D'Arcy  
Manny Escamilla

*“The Orange County Section board believes that even though we had the resources for virtual events, meeting in-person is so valuable.”*

### 2020 Orange Section Board

Amy Vazquez  
Section Director

Leila Carver, PTP  
Vice Director for Administration and Finance

Stephanie Roxas, AICP  
Vice Director for Professional Development

Amy Stonich, AICP  
Vice Director of Programs

Surabhi Barbhaya, AICP, LEED AP  
Vice Director for Public Information

Eddie Torres  
Vice Director for Membership

Starla Barker, AICP  
Vice Director for AICP Certification

*Appointed Positions*

Ajay Garde, Ph.D.  
Charles Smith, AICP, LEED AP  
Academic Liaisons

Patrick Cruz  
Amber Gregg  
Legislative Liaisons

Laurel Reimer, AICP  
Awards

Lindsay Ortega, AICP  
Webmaster

Veronica Morones  
Student Representative

Marlon Regisford  
Diversity Chair (Membership Inclusion)

# Sacramento Valley Section

## Yassaman “Yassi” Sarvian, Section Director

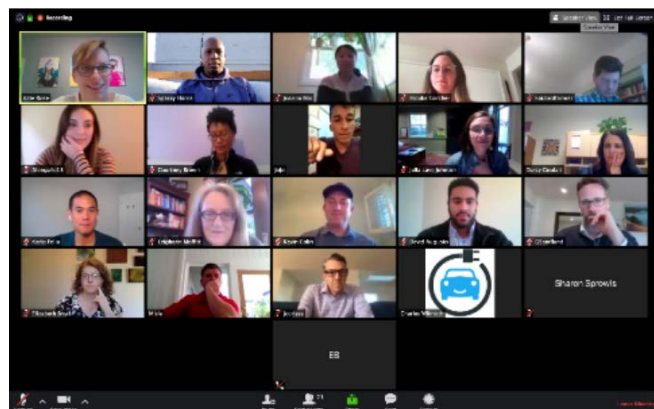


The Sacramento Valley Section (SVS) covers the 21 northeastern-most counties in the state and is divided into four divisions: Cascade, North Valley, Sierra, and Sacramento. Together, these counties include over 40,000 square miles, representing over a quarter of the land area in California. Approximately 62 percent of the Section’s population lives in cities, with 38 percent living in unincorporated areas. In 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, SVS virtually hosted a variety of activities for its approximately 500+ members, who represent not only a dramatically diverse geography, but also diverse economies and cultures. The Section’s 2020 accomplishments in serving SVS members included the following:

### Speaker Series

2020 was the 13th year for SVS’s signature educational program; however, for the first time, it was completely a webinar format. The series theme was “Vision 2020: Reflecting on the Past to Focus on the Future,” and it was co-sponsored by Caltrans and hosted in partnership with APA, AIA, Caltrans, OPR, SACOG, and ULI, with contributions from outstanding speakers representing a range of subject matter expertise. Panels included:

- “SB 743: Reflections on LOS, Transition to VMT, and the Potential for VMT Mitigation Banks”
- “Developing Urban Resilience”
- “Regulating Change: The Impact of CALGreen on Achieving California’s Sustainability Goals”
- “How Do We NOT Go Back to Normal? Reflecting Back and Looking Forward on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Planning”
- “Paving the Way: Safe Mobility & Active Transportation Alternatives for the Future”



### Membership Events

While much of the Section Board’s energy was spent transitioning to a virtual environment in light of the pandemic, SVS was able to host a few events, both social and educational, for the members:

- **January 16:** 2019 Awards Ceremony: Over 90 people gathered (pre-pandemic!) to celebrate successful planning projects and initiatives and recognize the contributions and achievements of SVS members, including Tim Snellings (PEN Honoree) and Claudia Stewart, AICP (SVS Legacy Award).
- **April 30:** “Planning Through the COVID-19 Crisis: How are we adapting in these uncertain times?”
- **July 9:** “Community Engagement 2020: Reevaluating how we collaborate with communities”

In partnership with the APA California, SVS held two free webinars to hear how planning practitioners are adapting to the disruption associated with COVID-19. The first webinar attracted over 200 participants and discussed tools, best practices, and strategies for working through the “temporary normal,” while the second webinar examined how to safely engage communities and collaborate through virtual meeting forums.



**VISION**  
planning  
in focus  
**2020**



- **October 13:** 2020 Virtual SVS Awards Ceremony and Student Scholarship Fundraiser: Attended by around 40 participants, this virtual awards ceremony celebrated successful planning projects and recognized Bob Lagomarsino, AICP (SVS Legacy Award), and the 2020 SVS Emerging Planner Awardees (Greta Soos, Molly Wagner, and Amy Yang) who are outstanding individuals, involved in APA, and exemplify a commitment to good planning, knowledge sharing, innovation, and creative approaches.

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (DEIC) remained active working on internal structure and hosting program activities. In 2020, DEIC established its Mission, Objectives, and Community Guidelines and Committee structure. Programs provided a safe space to discuss DEI in planning, in addition to networking and activities such as (virtual) Drinks and Diversity Happy Hour, a socially distanced bike tour of affordable housing, and partnering with YPG's Book Club on "The Color of Law."

## Young Planners Group (YPG)

In light of the pandemic, YPG took a different approach to 2020 events, focusing on recurring programming compared to single events. In its 11th year, there were 11 sub-committee members, 6 events, and continued social media presence. Here's a snippet of what was offered:

- Planners Pint Nights: Planning on the Census, Food Systems and Sustainability, and Professional Development in Uncertain Times
- Statewide YEP Trivia Night
- PLANNERDS Books Clubs

## PLAN Mentoring Program

PLAN continued to fulfill its mission, adjusting to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic with a 2020 class of 11 mentor-mentee pairs in an all virtual environment of meetings and interaction.

## 2020 Sacramento Valley Section Board

### *Elected Officers*

Yassaman (Yassi) Sarvian  
Section Director

Evan Wasserman  
Secretary

Jennifer Welch  
Treasurer

Brent Gibbons, AICP  
Professional Development Officer

Dan Cucchi, AICP  
Programs Director

Bob Lagomarsino, AICP  
Past Section Director

### *Appointed Officers*

Dan Amsden, AICP  
Sponsorship Director  
Sponsorship Chair

David Schlegel, AICP  
CPF Liaison/Sierra Division Director  
Cascade Division Director

Amy Yang  
Awards Coordinator

Tricia Stevens, AICP  
Historian

Raul Tovar Gonzalez  
News and Information Director

Russ Liebeg  
Planning Commissioner Representative

Claudia Stuart, AICP  
North Valley Division Director and  
University Representative

Heidi Gen Kuong, AICP  
Sacramento Division Director

Bennett Smithhart  
Sierra Division Director

Molly Wagner  
Young Planners Group Chair

Mike Parker, AICP  
Legislation Director

Rick Rust, AICP  
Website Director

Katie Green, AICP  
PLAN Director

### *Staff*

Jeni Tickler  
Professional Events

### *Emeritus Board Members*

Julia Lave Johnston  
Terry Rivasplata, AICP  
Bruce Baracco, AICP





### What did you accomplish in your position in 2020?

The San Diego Section worked diligently to recreate our training and social opportunities in a virtual format. We found ways to create dynamic programs and events that people could enjoy as they practiced social distancing.

Using the cost savings from events and activities that were re-envisioned due to COVID-19, we created a scholarship program to give needy students hit hard by the pandemic. We were able to give to each of the 54 students who applied for a scholarship, awarding over \$35,000.

APA San Diego formed a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion subcommittee to identify programs, events, and services that the Section should be delivering to our membership locally. Since that time, we have focused on creating opportunities to include diverse representation and perspectives in our programming.

### What did APA California do well in 2020?

APA California provided many ideas on how to pivot to a virtual environment and gave all Sections access to software and staff resources to help make more programs possible.

By quickly pivoting to a totally virtual conference, APA California was able to open the event to people who might not have had the means or ability to travel to a multi-day conference. The 2020 Conference will always be remembered as the one that was able to serve many people in a tough time.

The Big Conversations of the 2020 Conference set out a strong vision and framework of ideas for planners to consider as we all try to tackle social justice issues.

*“In February 2020, a person helping to organize our annual awards program asked if APA San Diego would offer refunds if the event was cancelled due to COVID-19. My response was that the event was not until May and I could not imagine that the virus would be an issue by then. I feel like that may have been the biggest understatement I have ever made. The months that followed were filled with many personal and professional challenges for all of us. I could not be prouder of both the APA California Chapter and the San Diego Section for the efforts that helped make professional growth possible in a pandemic. The events of 2020 will have a profound impact on our future, from the redefinition of what is possible through remote work to the recognition of the importance of public outdoor space. Most importantly, our national awakening to the injustice experienced by our BIPOC community members has created a moment of opportunity for planners to be leaders in our society. As we begin to resume a life more similar to that of pre-pandemic times, let us challenge ourselves to not allow the lessons learned in 2020 to be fleeting. Planning plays a critical role in shaping our social structures and our collective continued focus on resiliency and equity can help make all communities stronger.”*

### Virtual Brownbag

#### A “New” CEQA Exemption for Transit Oriented Development

Learn more about the first SB 375 Sustainable Communities CEQA exemption granted in San Diego.

Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> | 12 PM - 1:15 PM

#### CEM Credit

\$10 registration fee for contribution to Feeding San Diego  
\$0 for part-time, unemployed, student, and retired



## 2020 San Diego Section Events

- **January 16:** January Luncheon: Overview of 2019 Mission Valley Community Plan and Tour of the Legacy Center
- **January 22:** Mentorship Program Kickoff
- **January 29:** Trivia for Planners
- **January 30:** Better Buzz Series: Planning for Arts + Culture
- **February 7:** Communications Skills for Planners
- **February 12:** Urban, Diverse, Invisible: The Paradigm of Social Housing after Welfare State Transformation in Germany
- **February - March:** 2020 AICP Exam Training
- **March 5:** Pint with a Planner Lara Gates
- **May 26:** Virtual Trivia for Planners
- **June 4:** AICP Application Preparation Webinar
- **June 24:** Land Use Law Refresher for Planners Webinar
- **July 17:** Visions for the Future of San Diego's 48-acre Sports Arena Property Webinar
- **August 27:** "Gentefied"—Virtual Discussion on Gentrification + Inequity in Planning
- **October 16:** APA Virtual Brownbag: A New CEQA Exemption
- **October 29:** Better Buzz Series: Town and Country Hotel Redevelopment and San Diego River Park in Mission Valley Webinar
- **December 14:** Movie Monday: The Pruitt-Igde Myth
- **December 17:** Home for the Holidays

## 2020 San Diego Section Board

Nancy Graham, AICP  
Section Director

Tara Lake  
Incoming Section Director

Tara Lieberman, LEED AP  
Secretary

Pete Ruscitti  
Treasurer

Sue Peerson, AICP  
Academic & CPF Liaison

Elizabeth Ocampo Vivero  
Awards Chair

Elizabeth Dickson  
Communications Director

Jerry Rivero  
DEI Membership

Mike Fellows, AICP  
Membership/Marketing

Regina Ochoa  
Planning Journal Editor

Lorena Cordova, AICP  
Professional Development Officer

Joan Isaacson  
Professional Development Officer

Bill Figge, AICP  
Programs Co-Chair

Kimiko Lizardi, AICP  
Programs Co-Chair

Eric Henson  
Website Coordinator

Jana Schwartz, AICP  
Young Planners Group Co-Chair

Ricky Williams, AICP  
Young Planners Group Co-Chair

Jose Cervantes  
SDSU Student Representative

Natalie Tran  
UCSD Student Representative





American Planning Association  
**California Chapter**

*Creating Great Communities*

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