



American Planning Association
California Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

APA CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FEBRUARY 2024

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Bills, Bills, Bills!!!

February 16 was the deadline for legislators to introduce bills to be considered for the 2024 legislative session. To date, over 2,100 bills were introduced, and more than 400 planning related bills have been identified. Members can access the full list of planning-related bills at any time on the [Legislation page](#) of the APA California website. This comprehensive list serves as a resource for members to stay up to date with what the Chapter is tracking and includes summaries, status updates and direct links to language for bills of interest to planners. While we are currently reviewing proposed legislation at this time, a key theme continues to dominate –addressing the housing and homelessness crisis. However, while the Legislature has been focused on streamlining housing development, we are also now seeing a shift to look at other perceived constraints to housing development. Proposals have been introduced related to impact fees this year, and this is also the focus of a US Supreme Court Case (*Sheetz v. County of El Dorado*), which will likely be decided this summer and could drastically impact the ability for local governments to assess legislatively adopted development exactions. We know the Legislature is also watching for the outcome of this case.

In addition to proposals that look to expand already passed streamlining opportunities, a continued discussion on funding for affordable housing also remains. While a proposed housing bond that APA California supports remains in play for 2024 ([AB 1657, Wicks](#)), a proposed budget cut to the REAP 2.0 grants and other housing related programs funded through the budget are also on the chopping block, which is certainly concerning to planners. We expect several organizations to engage on this and we will be highlighting this concern as we have conversations with the Legislature on broader topics. Given the current projected budget deficit, many important funding sources related to housing, climate and others important programs will be a big discussion in the Legislature. And as we highlighted last month, legislative proposals with new state costs will likely face a challenging path forward, given fiscal realities.

APA California Legislative Review Team (LRT) and Section Legislative Representatives (SLR) Engagement

APA California's LRT will be meeting on March 7 to discuss a prioritized list of bills that are likely to have impact on planners statewide. Additionally, standing meetings have been initiated with SLRs to strengthen Chapter-Section engagement.

APA California's work in the Legislature – Making the Rounds in the Capitol

APA California is always actively engaged in many bills. As we begin this legislative session with several new chairs of important committees where planning-related bills are typically heard, and new Senate and Assembly Leadership, we will be meeting with these members and others to highlight the work planners are doing at the local level to implement and keep up with all the planning related bills that pass year over year. And will be looking for tangible ways, absent fiscal resources at the state level, that the Legislature can help to make implementation more successful and support the planning community, while also recognizing the pressure the Legislature faces to balance the budget and address critical needs across the state.

Additionally, we are always working closely with legislative and committee staff on amendments and clarifications to bills before taking positions and we also look forward to supporting several. As an organization, APA California is often asked to provide feedback on planning related bills and provide technical expertise, giving a voice to planners and an opportunity to help shape legislation. This is a valuable role that the Chapter works hard to maintain and as we speak, several discussions on proposed bills are ongoing. In addition, we frequently partner with other organizations to advocate on bills and continue to look forward to expanding our partnership network.