



May 24, 2023

The Honorable Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur  
1021 O Street, Room 4350  
Sacramento, California 95814

**RE: AB 1176 (Zbur) Local Electrification and Decarbonization Plans– NEUTRAL AS AMENDED**

Dear Assemblymember Zbur:

The American Planning Association, California Chapter (APA California) will remove opposition to AB 1176, as proposed to be amended on the Assembly Floor. The bill, as amended, will require on or after January 1, 2025, but no later than January 1, 2028, a city or county to prepare and adopt a climate action electrification plan, decarbonization plan, community energy plan, other similar plan or shall integrate into the next adoption or revision of the city or county's General Plan, strategies to decarbonize/electrify buildings and the transportation sector.

APA California is supportive of the intended goals behind AB 1176, however our organization took an oppose unless amended position based on the level of detail prescribed in the bill, which would have required a new General Plan element or otherwise required a General Plan Update. Climate action planning is important, and many local governments are working hard to prepare and implement climate action plans and other related efforts to reduce emissions. However, APA California believes that flexible approaches are necessary, especially for those jurisdictions who have already done relevant planning work.

As proposed to be amended, AB 1176 will now allow local governments the flexibility to implement plans to meet the requirements of the bill, without having to amend the General Plan, unless a jurisdiction chooses that option. Amendments will also remove some of the prescriptive language mandated in the bill, while still achieving the same overarching goals, and will allow jurisdictions who have already adopted plans to meet the requirements of the bill by incorporating that information by reference into the General Plan.

Finally, while we understand the current fiscal conditions the state is facing and must contend with on any new funding commitments, local agencies are also struggling at the local level to keep up pace with many of the planning mandates passed in the Legislature. In the future, where there are opportunities to support local agencies, we urge consideration of state tools and resources that locals can use to help develop local programs to meet the goals of AB 1176 and other future planning work that help to address state climate goals.

We greatly appreciate the time you and you staff have spent with APA California to discuss concerns and to allow our organization, along with others, to put forward amendments to the bill. **Based on those amendments that will be in print before the bill is taken up for a vote on the Assembly Floor, APA California is removing opposition to AB 1176 and will move to a neutral as amended position.**

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: Assembly Local Government Committee  
Assembly Republican Caucus  
The Governor  
The Office of Planning and Research