



American Planning Association  
**California Chapter**

*Creating Great Communities for All*

## **APA CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

**MARCH 2024**

By Erik de Kok, AICP, Vice President for Policy and Legislation  
Lauren De Valencia, APA California Lobbyist

### **Work Begins on Several Planning Related Bills**

With nearly [400 planning related bills](#) identified post the bill introduction deadline, APA California has initiated outreach to legislators and committee staff to gather more information and provide initial feedback on several legislative proposals. To help inform these discussions, the APA California Legislative Review Team met on March 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss a [prioritized list of bills](#) that we anticipate engaging on and are likely to have broad impact on planners statewide. This list is only a subset of the bills we expect to work on this year. Additionally, meetings continue with the Section Legislative Representatives and the Vice President for Policy and Legislation, Legislative Technical Advisor and Chapter Lobbyist are reviewing legislation, member feedback and consulting the Chapter's [Legislative Platform](#) to help shape our work in the Legislature this year. Policy hearings on bills are ramping up and we will provide more specific bill updates in April as they make their way through the legislative process.

Additionally, several meetings were just completed with the new chairs of important committees where planning-related bills are typically heard, and new Senate and Assembly Leadership. While these meetings were mainly a high level overview of 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, we also took the opportunity to suggest tangible ways, absent fiscal resources at the state level, that the Legislature can help to make implementation more successful and support the planning community.

### **Proposed Budget Cuts to REAP 2.0**

As we noted last month, a proposed “reversion” to the REAP 2.0 grants and other housing related programs funded through the budget are on the chopping block under the Governor’s January budget proposal. APA California recently issued a [letter](#) to express our concerns and are urging the Legislature to reject these proposals. We also flagged this issue during our meetings with members, as noted above. If you are interested in sharing your own city/county or professional concerns, we encourage members to share on the ground experiences, particularly on how REAP funding has helped your jurisdiction and the types of projects that would be impacted with the proposed cuts.