



Presented by
Sacramento Valley Section APA
and Caltrans

In an era defined by unprecedented challenges – from shifting political landscapes and climate-driven disasters to housing crises and technological disruption – we as planning, design, and community development professionals find ourselves at the intersection of mounting pressures and uncertainty. Yet it's precisely during these uncertain times that we need to double down on our commitment to our work and building resilient and equitable communities. This Speaker Series will bring together diverse voices from across disciplines and industries to explore how we can transform these challenges into opportunities for positive change. Join us as we share our stories and innovative solutions that are helping communities thrive in the face of uncertainty and discover how we can work together, and be leaders to create meaningful and lasting change in the places we serve.

All sessions will be held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Please check in prior to 9:30 a.m.
Join us for networking after each session from 11:30 a.m. to Noon
West Sacramento Community Center, 1075 West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento
Free parking at 1271 West Capitol Avenue (behind Walgreens)

We hope you can join us in person, but we will have a live streaming option for all sessions at the same price as attending in person.



Friday, June 27 – Hosted by APA

Planning in a Shifting Landscape: Practicing Inclusiveness When it Matters Most

Panelists: Allison Joe, Deputy Secretary for Equity & Workforce, California State Transportation Agency; APA California Board VP for Diversity & Equity; Kacey Lizon, Deputy Executive Director for Planning & Programs, SACOG; Raul Martinez, Assistant Director of Health & Human Services, Placer County

Moderator: Celia Yniguez, Director of Membership, Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion, Sac Valley Section APA

In today's shifting political landscape, planning professionals face new challenges in advancing inclusive practices amid growing scrutiny of diversity. Join us to explore how agencies and organizations are adapting their equity-focused planning strategies to navigate complex political and community environments without compromising their core principles or abandoning planning best practices. Hear directly from practitioners who are successfully threading this needle across different jurisdictions and sectors and maintaining their commitment to professional excellence and community engagement, even as terminology and approaches evolve. This interactive session will provide opportunity for attendees to exchange ideas and collectively brainstorm practical solutions for implementing truly representative planning in uncertain times.



Friday, July 25 – Hosted by SACOG

Advancing Equity Through Mobility Zones

Panelists: Kiara Reed, Executive Director, Civic Thread; Lovedeep Baines, Community Engagement Coordinator, California Health Collaborative

Panelist/Moderator: Kathleen Aziz, Principal Planner, SACOG

SACOG's Mobility Zones uses a co-creation model and place-based approach to improve transportation within the Sacramento region's diverse communities. The structure empowers community members as experts in the transportation needs of their neighborhoods, and fosters community-government partnership by bringing those leaders together to guide the direction of projects. Hear from the program leaders on how they've built this project from the ground up and the lessons learned along the way.



Friday, August 22 – Hosted by ULI

Safe and Equitable Transportation

Panelists: Simeon Gant, Executive Director, Green Technical Education & Employment; Chris Flores, Chief of Staff/VP Real Estate & TOD, Sacramento Regional Transit District; Rosie Ramos, External Relations Lead, SACOG

Moderator: Kiara Reed, Executive Director, Civic Thread

Join us as we explore the power of equitable transportation and mobility with top local thought leaders and changemakers. Hear how they are staying steadfast in their efforts while navigating the unsteady political climate. Together, we can examine proven solutions and find out how our region is moving toward creating healthy and equitable places.



Friday, September 19 – Hosted by AIA

Building at the Edge: Codes and Best Practices for Wildfire-Prone Areas

Panelists: Derek Labrecque, Partner, JKAE architecture + interiors + engineering; Representative from the Tahoe Truckee Unified School District (invited); Representative from AIA Committee on the Environment (invited)

Moderator: Melisa Gaudreau, Associate Principal, Page & Turnbull and AIA Central Valley President

As wildfires grow more intense, designing in California’s Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) demands informed, resilient solutions. This session explores key WUI codes—especially Chapter 7A of the California Building Code—and offers practical strategies for compliance. Learn from real-world examples and gain insights on ignition-resistant materials, construction techniques, and design best practices to create safer, code-compliant buildings in fire-prone zones. Whether you're designing homes, public facilities, or community plans, this session equips you to build at the edge with confidence.



Friday, October 24 - Hosted by APA

Stop Planning to Use AI. Start Using AI to Plan.

Panelists: Nathaniel Redmond, Senior Planner, Green DOT; Representative from Social Pinpoint (invited)

Moderator: Mike Parker, AICP, Principal, Ascent

As planners face accelerating change and mounting uncertainty, artificial intelligence (AI) offers both promising tools and complex challenges. This session will demystify AI, introduce practical tools already reshaping planning work, and explore the ethical questions and fears that come with emerging technologies. With a focus on working smarter—not harder—participants will see live demonstrations of AI capabilities and leave with insights on how to use AI thoughtfully and responsibly to strengthen their impact in a rapidly evolving world.



Friday, November 21 – Hosted by APA

Checking In: How are we meeting the challenge?

Panelists: TBD

Moderator: Julia Lave Johnston, Director of Education Services, CALCOG, Vice Chair APA Chapter Presidents Council, APA

The Speaker Series started in June with a lot of uncertainty and questions. This session will assess where we are now. How have we responded as professionals and policy makers? What have we learned and how can we continue to be adaptive? How can we continue to show leadership in our communities on these and other important issues?

Pricing (Same Cost for In Person or Live Streaming):

Members of Speaker Series Partner Organizations	\$25.00/session
Non-Members.....	\$35.00/session
APA Members that are Young Planners (under 35)	\$20.00/session

If You Register for all Six Sessions, You Will Receive the Following Discount:

Members of Speaker Series Partner Organizations:	\$120.00 total
Non-Members:	\$180.00 total
APA Members that are Young Planners (under 35):.....	\$85.00 total

REGISTER now at <https://svsapa.org/>

Approved for 2.0 AICP CM Credits per session
June session will provide the mandatory Equity Credits
July session will provide the mandatory Sustainability Credits

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