January 21, 2019

Governor Gavin Newsom
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Introducing the California Planning Roundtable

Dear Governor Newsom:

Congratulations on your election and beginning term as the 40th governor of California. I’d like to introduce you to the California Planning Roundtable (CPR), an affiliate of the American Planning Association, California chapter.

Formed in 1980, we are a non-partisan organization of experienced public and private, city and regional planners from around the State, organized to identify emerging planning policy issues, conduct research, and advise California’s planning profession and partners on planning approaches and implementation. Over the years, we’ve been a resource and sounding board to State agencies involved in planning that affect the quality of life, sustainability, and livability of California’s communities. Please see the attached description and list of our current members and a link to our website that lists our emeritus members as well.

We would like to make ourselves available to your administration, as we have with past administrations for almost 40 years. We’ve tackled issues such as growth management, general plan practices, infill development, healthy communities planning, sustainability, redevelopment, and fiscal issues, and have conducted leadership training for planning professionals and citizens interested in planning.

We are taking on Housing this year, augmenting the public discourse by focusing on how planning practices can be reformed to support the development of more housing that is affordable to more people while still achieving California’s sustainability, economic, and quality-of-life goals. We are in the process of developing principles and white papers on 1) increasing affordable supply through planning, 2) employing by-right zoning and permitting processes wisely, 3) considerations for reintroducing redevelopment and financing public facilities to support infill, and 4) post-recovery community design after disasters.

Thank you for your time and your public service. We look forward to working with your administration. We currently communicate with staff from OPR, HCD, and the Strategic Growth Council, and through them, or your staff directly, we are available to assist.

Respectfully,

William Anderson, FAICP
President, California Planning Roundtable
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