

**Statement of Cooperation Between The
Association of Environmental Professionals and
The American Planning Association California Chapter
Draft August 17, 2011**

Purpose

The Purpose of this cooperative agreement is to recognize the close relationship of the two organizations, the California Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP) and the American Planning Association California Chapter (APA California) and to foster closer ties and mutual interests of the organizations to support their members.

Summary

AEP and APA California are independent, not-for-profit organizations that provide education, professional development, lobbying and networking opportunities for their members in California. Both organizations have similar memberships (professional planners, scientists, public officials, attorneys, land use professionals, and the like) and offer a diverse range of professional services and social opportunities to their members, at the state and regional levels. Both organizations are governed by a state board, comprised of elected representatives, and also at the regional levels, with APA California containing eight Sections, and AEP containing nine Chapters. Both groups include thousands of professional planners as members, but there are many planners and other professionals employed by public agencies, private companies, and non-profit groups who do not yet benefit from membership in either or both organizations. The leadership in both organizations recognizes the overlap of professional interests and membership, and that both organizations would benefit through mutual coordination in providing selected services across the organizational lines. In recognition of the benefits of close coordination, this document will serve as a cooperative agreement between APA California and AEP to work more closely together in the future.

The long-term strategy to accomplish this cooperative agreement will be for both organizations at the state and regional levels to recognize the importance of this agreement by committing sufficient resources to ensure success (time, volunteer effort and perhaps limited funding where appropriate). Finally, both groups must proactively find ways that each region and the state organizations can actively plan and coordinate their activities to maximize the effectiveness of these.

Actions

Both organizations' leadership teams have identified actions to implement this cooperative agreement.

1. Recommendations (Immediate)

1-1 Provide this Draft Cooperative Agreement to both state Boards for review, comment and endorsement to proceed with further development of the initiative.

1-2 APA California selects a representative for AEP Emerging Issues Committee...

- a. New Committee on "Local Thresholds of Significance" (SB 375/AB 32)
- b. Agricultural Committee (Green Energy Facilities and Williamson Act)
- c. "California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Mitigation vs. Regulatory Permitting" Articles
- d. Other

1-3 Both groups continue to monitor and support the Enhanced CEQA Action Team Activities & encourage future work.

1-4 Both groups continue to plan additional ways to cooperate that benefit members.

2. Recommendations (2011-2012)

2-1 State AEP and APA California Presidents and Executive Officers meet regularly to discuss how to improve ongoing cooperation and coordination. Topics should include, but are not limited to:

- a. Schedule for regular meetings of AEP and APA California officers to discuss focused actions programs, schedules, etc.
- b. Designate at least one board member of each organization as a liaison role between the two groups.
- c. Identify committees or groups that members from the other organization can participate in if they have particular expertise.
- d. Plan events that can be jointly sponsored at the local or state level to provide or improve services at the local level.
- e. Discuss areas of mutual interest and recognize areas where they each organization may have different policies. (i.e., have different orientation, goal, or direction). Design joint marketing campaigns or events to augment memberships when practical.
- f. Identify relationship(s) to their respective national organizations or affiliations (APA California = APA, AEP = NAEP) and any areas where the other organization may be able to contribute (e.g., APA contributions to the NAEP journal).

2-2 Both State Boards should regularly emphasize to the regional leadership the importance of this cooperative arrangement and the advantages of hosting jointly sponsored events or activities (e.g., get Certification Maintenance (CM) credit for AEP events so American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) members can benefit).

- 2-3 Both organizations should continue to exhibit (i.e., have booths) and provide promotional materials at each other's state conferences for free to keep each group "visible" with members of the other group.
- 2-4 Each group should encourage its governing board to attend the other's state conferences to encourage more cooperation and openness in planning professional activities.
- 2-5 Both State Boards should suggest that each regional Chapter or Section have a person responsible for planning joint events as practical.
- 2-6 Both organizations should share relevant information with each other from any membership surveys or other sources of info, including , grantsmanship, emerging issues, etc, for inclusion in regular mailings or email updates to membership.
- 2-7 Each group should make a concerted effort to solicit speakers or assemble panels for the other group's state conference that would be of mutual interest (e.g., ethics, SB 375, sustainability, etc.).
- 2-8 State Boards should direct their webmasters to coordinate and communicate regularly with their counterparts to make sure information on services or events is shared in a timely fashion (e.g. joint calendars, weblinks, etc.).
- 2-9 Groups should solicit participants on policy groups and committees, white papers, etc. from the other group who have expertise in particular areas (e.g., ECAT).
- 2-10 Discuss National APA and NAEP Environmental Certification (CEP) options, and investigate if a California environmental certification would be useful to membership.

3. Recommendations (2012 and Beyond)

- 3-1 Identify other professional groups that could benefit by cooperative agreements (e.g., ULI, AIA, American Bar Assoc., etc.).
- 3-2 Continue to think large and long-range to identify any large events that could be planned and implemented cooperatively (e.g., state conferences, regional workshops, etc.).
- 3-3 Investigate joint sponsor production of CEQA Handbook and market more to both groups.
- 3-4 Total joint AEP and APA California state conference in 2015 or AEP to provide one entire track of some future APA California conference.
- 3-5 Publications Committees of both groups to collaborate regularly on websites, newsletters, calendars, etc.
- 3-6 Plan a totally new joint workshop for both memberships for 2012 or later.
- 3-6 Investigate holding a joint 3-day educational cruise with training sessions.
- 3-8 Encourage NAEP and APA (National) representatives to meet and discuss similar kinds of cooperation.