



American Planning Association
California Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

March 10, 2025

The Honorable Nick Schultz
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 5150
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Speaker Robert Rivas
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 306 (Schultz) Building regulations: state building standards. – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Schultz and Speaker Rivas:

The American Planning Association, California Chapter (APA California) is pleased to support your AB 306, which would temporarily pause for six years new updates to the state building code or local modifications to those standards that would affect residential developments, except for emergency changes necessary to protect health and safety.

APA California is a non-profit organization made up of practicing planners, citizens and public officials committed to advancing the practice of local, regional, and statewide planning throughout urban, suburban, and rural California. As adopted in APA California's Legislative Platform, *Plan California*, our organization is supportive of efforts that minimize constraints to housing production, including state constraints.

California continues to grapple with a severe housing crisis, further compounded by the devastating fires in Los Angeles. While the Legislature has passed many changes to the housing entitlement and permitting process over the years, we believe it's important to look at other potential constraints to housing development. Unfortunately, constraints can include the ever changing landscape of building codes. These updates can be costly to homeowners and challenging for planning departments to keep up with every three years. To date, California's building codes are some of the most protective and sustainable in the nation. But with that come upfront costs that can impact the overall cost of a project. With a temporary pause in new updates to the code after the 2025 update, residential developments will continue to be developed in a sustainable, efficient and safe manner. In fact, a bill permitted under the standards in AB 306 will likely be safer and more efficient than the majority of the existing housing stock throughout the state that are not up to the current code.

Put simply, APA California believes this temporary pause could help housing production, not only in Los Angeles but throughout the state and we appreciate your dedication to this important issue. For all the reasons listed above, are pleased to support AB 306. If you have any questions, please contact our lobbyist, Lauren De Valencia, with Stefan/George Associates at lauren@stefangeorge.com.

Reuben Duarte
Vice President Policy and Legislation
APA California

cc: The Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee
The Governor's Office
The Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
The California Department of Housing and Community Development