



American Planning Association
California Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

March 21, 2024

The Honorable David Alvarez
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 5320
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: AB 357 (Alvarez) Coastal resources: coastal development permit: exclusions – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Alvarez:

The American Planning Association, California Chapter is pleased to support your AB 357, which would exempt certain student, faculty, and staff housing projects from the requirement to obtain a coastal development permit under the Coastal Act.

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 and apply statewide housing policies and mandates to coastal zones where no significant impact to coastal natural resources or public access are likely.

While the Legislature has passed several laws over the years to streamline housing production opportunities for various types of housing, barriers remain with developing in the Coastal Zone, given the requirement to obtain a coastal development permit. This includes a lack of housing on and near college campuses. The lack of housing near campus forces many students, faculty, and staff to commute long distances, exacerbating traffic congestion and increasing carbon emissions. By streamlining the development process and facilitating on-campus or near-campus housing, AB 357 will help reduce the environmental footprint of student commuting while fostering stronger campus communities. Moreover, by making it easier to develop university-affiliated housing, this legislation will alleviate pressure on surrounding housing markets, which are already struggling with affordability challenges.

We appreciate your dedication to this important issue, and for all the reasons listed above, are pleased to support AB 357. If you have any questions, please contact our lobbyist, Lauren De Valencia, with Stefan/George Associates at lauren@stefangeorge.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Reuben Duarte'.

Reuben Duarte
Vice President Policy and Legislation
APA California

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