



2021 Planning Academy

Program Syllabus

The American Planning Association Central Coast Section is excited to announce the 2021 Planning Academy (Academy). The Academy is a series of eight meetings which has the common theme of social equity, environmental justice, and California based planning. The Academy will feature speakers that are leading the industry in the respective topics. The cost of admission is \$50 for non-members and will be free for APA members and student associates. We will be holding these meetings on a digital platform which will be shared upon registration. We're looking forward to the 2021 Planning Academy and hope that you can join us!

8 Courses

Every Wednesday

February 17 - April 07, 2021



California Chapter of the
American Planning Association
Central Coast Section

2021 Planning Academy

1

Topic: State Law - Application to Project Programs and Approval

Date: February 17, 2021

Abstract:

Different from your typical legislative update, we will be sharing lessons learned for a streamlined process by applying state law and some tips / tricks for the ever-changing state legislation condition.

Speakers:

Amy Sinsheimer, AICP

Senior Associate, Placeworks

Amy Sinsheimer is a Senior Associate on the housing team at PlaceWorks where she leads housing elements and housing implementation work for local governments statewide. She has a passion for working with different sized communities, each with unique characteristics and needs. She also manages general plan and zoning ordinance updates. Amy is currently assisting as the Central Coast regional liaison for the Senate Bill 2 Planning Grants Program with the State Department of Housing and Community Development. She serves as the Legislative Affairs Officer for the Central Coast Section of the American Planning Association.

Eric Phillips

Burke, Williams & Sorensen

Eric Phillips is a partner at the law firm of Burke, Williams & Sorensen in San Francisco and the Vice President for Policy and Legislation of the California Chapter of the American Planning Association. Eric's law practice focuses in the areas of land use, real estate, and CEQA compliance, and he has particular experience with State ADU law, Density Bonus Law, the Housing Accountability Act, Housing Element compliance, and other housing laws. Eric holds a degree in Urban and Regional Studies from Cornell University along with a J.D. from the UC Berkeley School of Law. Before attending law school, Eric was a planning consultant, and he has been working on planning-related issues in California since 2002.

Jim Damkowitz,

Managing Director DKS Sacramento

Jim has 30 years of experience in regional multimodal transportation planning, congestion management, multidisciplinary corridor studies, safety studies, transit studies, active transportation studies, operational analyses, transportation and air quality modeling, and performance measure applications. He has managed regional transportation plan/sustainable community strategy updates and general plan circulation element updates; operational traffic studies for state highway infrastructure improvement projects (PSR/PA-ED Phases); corridor studies; active transportation studies; traffic impact fee programs; travel demand modeling; air quality modeling; and, transportation operational studies for a variety of clients including Caltrans, MPOs, and various cities and counties in California. He has served on state and regional planning committees and conference panels for transportation air quality conformity, performance measurement, and SB 743, respectively.



California Chapter of the
American Planning Association
Central Coast Section

Topic: Spaces for All

Date: February 24, 2021

2

Abstract:

Outdoor public spaces directly influence the relationship people have with cities and natural open space areas. Design of public spaces encouraging access for all (i.e., bike, pedestrian, ADA accessibility, etc.) has become increasingly critical to encourage multimodal access. Hear case studies about the planning process resulting in new and upcoming public parks, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and coastal access points throughout the Central Coast and California.

Speakers:

Mike Singleton, AICP CTP, PLA, APA, ASLA, LEED AP Senior Principal, KTUA

Mike is the principal of KTUA's planning team. He is a frequent presenter at the local, regional, and state level on the interface between walkability, smart growth and urban forestry issues. Mike has a clear understanding of the many elements required to actually achieve a "smart" project and to create a sense of place. These elements include economic feasibility, development standards, site efficiencies, placemaking, multi-modal options, contextual design, safety through environmental design and aesthetics. Mike has a strong site planning and transportation planning background focused on advanced transit planning, transit design, transit station area planning, complete streets analysis, bike facility design, bike master plans, walking facility design, pedestrian master planning, parking demand management, transportation demand management and smart growth planning.

Isabelle Minn, PLA, ASLA, LEED AP Associate Principal, Placeworks

Isabelle is a licensed landscape architect with twenty years of experience in open space planning and design. Her work has focused on park and open space access, protection of open space and natural resources, as well as on improving and greening our urban areas. She has managed a wide range of projects from large master plans to urban forestry plans and site planning and design. Isabelle has developed multidisciplinary studies addressing physical, biological, cultural, and policy issues affecting open space preserves and watersheds. She has also managed many trail planning and design projects, from large-scale trail master plans to construction documents. Recently, Isabelle's work has emphasized meeting park and open space needs in park poor communities.

Chris Stebbins, ASLA Senior Designer and Planner, KTUA / President of ASLA SD

Chris is a veteran geographer, environmental planner, and landscape designer, who specializes in the urban design of social urban environments. After growing up in the socially isolated suburbs of southern California, devoid of public spaces, Chris is now driven to connect people. Specifically, Chris's academic and professional interest is to establish urban public spaces that enhance the social, civic, and economic needs of a community. His research includes a methodology for



2021 Planning Academy

Spaces for All Chris Stebbins (Cont.)

evaluating the social effectiveness of existing urban plazas, as well as creating socially vibrant new ones. This research has been accessed over a hundred times by academics and practitioners worldwide, and Chris has given many presentations about this work, both in the U.S. and in other countries to practitioners within the public, private, and academic sectors. During his time at the University of Georgia, Chris played a pivotal role in community planning in many small cities throughout the southeast United States. Chris has been involved in the development of large and small temporary plaza installations in the U.S. and New Zealand, as well as involved in the inclusion of plazas within downtown master plans. He is spearheading a discussion with the Sustainable Sites Initiative to update its landscape certification system (SITES) to include more content on social function and urban plazas.

3 Topic: Transportation

Date: March 03, 2021

Abstract:

Transportation takes many forms, and is critical to think about for any planning project. Learn about regional active transportation projects throughout the Central Coast, case studies from the City of Santa Barbara and City of Atascadero, how public transportation has evolved to encourage more riders, and hear about climate adaptation for state highways along the Central Coast.

Speakers:

Ryan Hayes, PE

Capital Projects Engineer, City of Atascadero

Ryan Hayes is the Deputy Director of Public Works for the City of Atascadero. He has 20 years of experience working both as an engineering consultant and for public agencies, including Caltrans and the City of Atascadero. As both a resident and employee of Atascadero, Ryan's position managing Capital Projects allows for a great combination of maintaining existing infrastructure and being part of efforts to improve public facilities to better accommodate all users.

Joe Punsalan, PTP, GISP, LEED GA

Principal, KTUA

Joe Punsalan is a principal and senior active transportation planner at KTUA and has 20 years of experience managing large-scale active transportation planning projects such as complete street plans and corridor studies, active transportation plans, first/last mile connectivity, and trail and accessibility studies. As a regular cyclist, Joe understands the obstacles that face cyclists and pedestrians and applies federal, state and regional standards to address these challenges and increase user safety.



Transportation (Cont.)

Rob Dayton, Transportation Planning and Parking Manager, City of Santa Barbara

Rob Dayton specializes in applying wise planning today to guide the inspired futures of tomorrow. Trained in urban planning at USC, Rob was a transportation and environmental consultant in Los Angeles. Then, with a plan to stay only “a couple of years,” he moved to the City of Santa Barbara to gain required government experience. Now 25 years later, captivated by the city’s beauty, Rob continues a career of “Paradise Management,” serving Santa Barbara as a senior Public Works official. Rob believes Santa Barbara’s governance should be of an equal quality as the city itself. So he focuses on bringing innovative planning and management strategies that build on a tradition of excellence in city planning and that restore community trust in government.

John Olejnik, Caltrans District 5 Senior Transportation Planner

John is a Senior Transportation Planner with District 5. His recent focus areas include public outreach, climate adaptation studies, development review, transportation demand management research, and serving as the District’s Native American Liaison. With almost 30 years of state service (16 with Caltrans and previously with the California Highway Patrol), John has worked in multiple facets of transportation.

Terri Persons, Caltrans District 5 Senior Transportation Planner

Terri is a Senior Transportation Planner with Caltrans District 5 (Central Coast). Terri’s team provides regional planning and local development review for Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties, manages Sustainable Transportation Planning grants, and leads the development of the District 5 Active Transportation Plan.

Topic: Social Equity

Date: March 10, 2021

4

Abstract:

How do we as planners, designers, policy or decision-makers, and/or other design professionals in the industry plan for various demographics? With numerous new legislation and a heightened social backing supporting environmental justice and healthy community policies, the importance of reaching, listening to, and planning for all voices is essential.



2021 Planning Academy

Social Equity (Cont.)

Speakers:

Colin Drukker

Principal, Placeworks

Colin Drukker is a Principal and project manager with more than 20 years of experience overseeing public and private sector projects covering governmental policy, land use planning, transportation planning, and CEQA. His body of work spans a wide range of subjects, such as the creation of affordable housing tools for the building industry, web-based general plans for jurisdictions, transit-oriented specific plans for public/private entities, and regional growth strategies for MPOs. He has helped multiple jurisdictions address the topic of environmental justice through general plan updates and implementation plans.

Chuck Stevenson, AICP

Chuck Stevenson, AICP, retired Division Manager, Long Range Planning, County of San Luis Obispo. He and his staff were responsible for General Plan updates, Resource Management, Housing and Economic development programs, Community Design Plans, climate action programs and special studies. Mr. Stevenson also taught planning courses as adjunct faculty in the City and Regional Planning Department, College of Architecture and Environmental Design at Cal Poly. He served on the City of San Luis Obispo's Planning Commission for twelve years, and the City's Architectural Review Commission for eight years. He is a co-founder of the Healthy Communities Group (part of HEAL-SLO) formed in 2011. The group provides recommendations from a health perspective on discretionary land development projects and land policy documents to the County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. In 2018, Mr. Stevenson was granted the Cal Chapter APA's Planner Emeritus Network Award.

Miroo Desai

Senior Planner, City of Emeryville

Miroo Desai, AICP, is a Senior Planner for the City of Emeryville, specializing in the analysis, processing, and approval of major development projects. Miroo has been with Emeryville for 15 years; prior to that she was a planner with the City of Oakland for two years, and with San Mateo County for four years. Miroo has a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Delhi University in New Delhi, a Master's degree in International Relations and Chinese Studies from Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, and a Masters of Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Hawaii, as well having done post-graduate study at MIT.

Miroo has served as Diversity Director on the California Northern Section board between 2010 and 2018 and as a Membership Inclusionary Coordinator on the CA State Board between 2012 and 2018. She currently serves as the Vice President of Diversity and Equity on the CA State Board. She has also managed the International Planner Exchange program run by the National APA's International Division since 2014.



Topic: CEQA

5

Date: March 17, 2021

Abstract:

CEQA continues to evolve and change. Learn about new CEQA updates, including the change towards VMTs, CEQA bills passed in 2020, case law, and what we can expect in 2021.

Speakers:

Mike Boswell,

Department Head and Professor of City & Regional Planning at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

Dr. Michael R. Boswell is Department Head and Professor of City & Regional Planning at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. He has a Master of Science and Ph.D. in Urban & Regional Planning from The Florida State University. He has published on topics such as climate action planning, hazard mitigation, adaptive management and governance, local government planning, autonomous vehicles, and sustainable development, and he is lead author of the book *Climate Action Planning* published by Island Press in 2019. Michael served as an expert advisor on *Guiding Principles for City Climate Action Planning* for the UN-Habitat Cities and Climate Change Initiative and attended the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris (COP-21) to launch the report. In 2017 he represented the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning in the *Planners for Climate Action* initiative launched at COP-23 in Bonn. Since 2006 he has served as a senior advisor and Project Director for the California Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan update. Michael is the co-founder and coordinator of the California Climate Action Planning Conference and a member of the AEP Climate Change Resiliency Subcommittee.

Erika Leachman

CEQA Project Manager and Principal Planner with Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions

Erika Leachman is a CEQA Project Manager and Principal Planner with Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions in Santa Barbara. She has more than 15 years of experience with CEQA documentation and long-range planning, including land use and community planning, ordinance development, and public infrastructure, including as a former senior planner with Santa Barbara County's Long Range Planning Division. Erika specializes in urban and coastal settings, land use planning, EIRs and other studies under CEQA (e.g., MNDs), public policy development and analysis, interagency communication, and public outreach and stakeholder engagement. This experience has included project management roles for major Program/Project EIRs; the development of general plan amendments, community plans, zoning ordinances, parks and open space plans and policies, land use and traffic modeling for impacts analysis, and urban design strategies; and facilitation of public outreach processes for both area-focused advisory groups and the public. Her experience includes preparation of the Los Angeles Zoo Vision Plan EIR for the City of Los Angeles and the Goleta Community Plan Update in Santa Barbara County. She has also designed and implemented multi-year public outreach strategies for complex regional projects and has facilitated over 100 public workshops, meetings, and hearings. Erika is currently the president of the AEP Channel Counties Chapter.



2021 Planning Academy

CEQA (Cont.)

Mitchel Morrison

Envicom Corporation

Mitchel creates value for public and private clients by managing the preparation of scientifically objective and legally defensible CEQA and NEPA documents. He works with planners, landowners, architects, attorneys, resource experts, civil engineers, and resource agency staff to analyze impacts for CEQA and NEPA documents, including Initial Studies, NDs, MNDs, EIRs, and EAs. He also prepares CEQA streamlining documents including Addenda to EIRs, MNDs, and Categorical Exemptions for eligible projects. He has managed and contributed to the preparation of over 35 CEQA documents for residential, commercial, mixed-use, school, and light industrial projects throughout southern California. Mitchel also has 8 years of experience implementing biological resources mitigation measures and in construction monitoring. He holds a bachelor of arts from Carroll University and a Master of Public Policy specialized in state & local policy from the Pepperdine School of Public Policy.

6

Topic: Housing - Implementing Fair Housing Laws and Utilizing Regional Partners

Date: March 24, 2021

Abstract:

Attendees will look to the future of housing in California with an opportunity to understand new fair housing legislation and regional opportunities on the Central Coast. Topics for the evening will include developing an understanding of how to implement California's Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing as well as county-by-county introduction to programs coming to the Central Coast as a result of the Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) grants received by COG's in Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties.

Speakers:

Sara Sanders

San Luis Obispo Council of Governments

Bio TBD

Michael Becker

Santa Barbara County Association of Governments

Michael Becker is the Director of Planning at the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments where he is responsible for the Regional Transportation Plan, the Regional Housing Needs Allocation, and a variety of other regional planning projects. Previously he worked at the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission in Philadelphia. Michael has a B.S. from California State University – East Bay and an M.A. from Temple University, both in Geography.



California Chapter of the
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Central Coast Section

Dr. Chris Williamson, AICP, Ventura Council of Governments

Chris has over 40 years of experience in planning, CEQA and NEPA environmental analysis, and applied demography of which nearly 20 years was as a staff city planner in Oxnard and Long Beach working with General Plan updates, housing elements, mixed-use entitlements, redevelopment of older commercial zones, and coastal zone planning. He is a recognized APA expert on Census Bureau data including small area population estimates and projections. He was a Fulbright Scholar and Adjunct Associate Research Professor of Geography and Planning at USC where he consulted to a wide range of governments and clients. Chris's 20 years of university teaching and research helps him communicate complex topics to decision makers and the public in a casual persuasive manner. He is teaching environmental planning part-time at CSU Channel Islands. Chris holds a PhD in housing policy analysis from USC, a Master of Planning from the University of Virginia, and a BS in Geography from Penn State.

Topic: Climate Action Planning - Getting the Biggest GHG Reduction for Our Buck

7

Date: March 31, 2021

Abstract:

This session will discuss planning and strategies for optimizing GHG reductions. Topical areas will include analyzing community profiles and projects, understanding the value and limitations of qualitative and quantitative GHG reductions, and VMT implementation as a GHG reduction tool.

Speakers:

**Honey Walters,
Ascent Environmental**

Honey Walters leads Ascent Environmental's climate action and adaptation planning practice. She is an expert in the development of GHG emission inventories, targets, and forecasts, and she has 22 years of professional experience in the private and public sectors identifying climate action, adaptation, resilience, and CEQA compliance strategies. Her extensive technical work is coupled with a strong educational background in air pollution chemistry and climate change science. Honey has worked directly with state, regional, and local agencies in California, including CARB, the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association, the Attorney General's Office, and various air districts, on the development of GHG thresholds of significance, analytical methods, and reduction strategies, as well as in Washington, Massachusetts, and Colorado on the preparation of guidance documents. For the past 11 years, Ascent (led by Honey) has been assisting CARB with preparing environmental documents for cornerstone regulations and plans implementing AB 32 and SB 32 (e.g., the cap-and-trade regulation, California's 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan). These environmental documents provide an in-depth understanding of how implementation of the regulations and plans translates to project- and plan-level GHG emission reductions. Honey has directed the completion of analyses for high-profile projects, including the Newhall Ranch Additional Environmental Analysis, and she is overseeing preparation of the recirculated environmental compliance



2021 Planning Academy

Climate Action Planning Honey Walters (Cont.)

document for the Friant Ranch air quality analysis. Both the Newhall Ranch and Friant Ranch CEQA documents serve to remedy the issues raised in California Supreme Court rulings. She has led the preparation of approximately 50 climate action, adaptation, and resilience plans over her career, and she oversaw the work of Ascent's team on award-winning plans for Butte and Yolo Counties, the City of Sacramento, and the Lake Tahoe Basin. She has worked closely with SANDAG, SACOG, ABAG/MTC, and TMPO/TRPA regarding regional climate action planning and sustainable communities strategies and with BAAQMD on CEQA thresholds of significance and guidance for developing qualified climate action plans.

Lexi Journey

Rincon Consultants Inc.

Lexi Journey is a Senior Environmental Planner within Rincon's Environmental and Land Use Planning Group. Ms. Journey's experience includes project management, planning policy analyses, technical analyses, and outreach for assignments such as Climate Action Plans, General Plans, and Coastal Land Use Plans. She uses her wide breadth of planning expertise to teach Principles and Practice of Environmental Planning at the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management during the fall quarter. She is currently managing the Santa Barbara County Climate Action Plan and the Santa Barbara County and Bren School Natural Working Lands and TerraCount Project. She will also be managing the City of Santa Cruz Climate Action Plan and previously managed the County of Merced Climate Action Plan.

Ms. Journey is an active member of APA Central Coast's Executive Board of Directors, serving as the Young and Emerging Planners (YEP) Officer for the Santa Barbara Subsection.

Heather Allen

County of Ventura / Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance

Heather has more than 14 years of experience working in local government on energy and climate mitigation and adaptation programs. Heather started her career as a land use planner for the County of Santa Barbara and currently works for the County of Ventura's Sustainability Division, which includes managing programs for Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance (VCREA). Her work includes supporting 12-member jurisdictions and County Departments in their sustainability and energy efficiency efforts.

Heather graduated with a Master of Environmental Science and Management Degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara Bren School and has a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Affairs and Planning from Virginia Tech.



Topic: Tech in Planning

Date: April 07, 2021

Abstract:

This session will explore various technologies used in planning from the front desk of our agencies to the behind the scenes tech in the private industry offices. There will be discussions from some of the leading tech experts in the profession who will go over the latest trends and practical uses. The session will also include some of the latest trends, tips, and uses in applications/tech such as: GIS, Adobe Suite/CC, Bluebeam, and 3D modeling, augment/virtual reality, digital outreach tools, and others.



Tech in Planning (Cont.)

Speakers:

Miran Jung Day, PLA, ASLA Assistant Professor, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

Miran J. Day is an assistant professor in the Landscape Architecture Department at California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) San Luis Obispo, California. Her research interests are natural system analysis, data visualization using GIS, and implementation strategies. Her teaching focus has been landscape planning and design, design communication media, and the professional practice of Landscape Architecture. She has over 12 years of professional experience in South Korea and the United States before entering academia. She has a master's degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, IL.

Leilei Duan, Ph.D., APA, AAG, SPA Lecturer, University of Southern California

Leilei Duan, Ph.D., is a Lecturer with the Spatial Sciences Institute at the University of Southern California Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. Duan's research and teaching interests are in and use planning and resource allocation; computer-aided urban design; pedagogy, methodology and practice in Geodesign; urban data analysis: statistics, spatial analysis, visualization; application of geographic information system in urban planning; three-dimensional modeling system; quality of life and built environment; urban form and network analysis; and environmental planning. In particular, she has explored the Geodesign workflow in the population and employment allocation process and the impact of land use patterns on changes on traffic crashes. She has presented her research at numerous conferences, including those of the Geodesign Summit, American Association of Geographers, American Collegiate Schools of Planning, Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA), the International Visualization in Transportation Symposium, and the Florida American Planning Association.

Christine Ma Smart Cities Account Executive, ESRI

Christine is an Account Executive for Smart Cities at Esri, helping planners from cities, counties, and regional governments leverage Smart Cities Solutions in planning workflows. Christine joined Esri in 2015 and now leads a team working closely with planners and decision makers on implementing 3D GIS and web-based solutions to streamline project review, public engagement, scenario building, and impact evaluation in both current and long range planning workflows. She oversees the western United States as well as the Asia Pacific region.



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