



American Planning Association
California Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

To All 2020 Conference Session Moderators:

First, thank you very much for submitting a session proposal for the 2020 APA California conference in Riverside. Your interest in presenting a session is instrumental to the success of this annual event. The 2020 Program Sessions Committee has completed its review of the proposals and was planning to notify everyone in April regarding the status of their proposal. However, the Chapter asked the Committee to hold off on notifications until we could assess the feasibility of holding an in-person conference this year.

As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic has required restricting large group gatherings. While we all look forward to reopening the economy, convening large meetings following the shelter-in-place period will continue to necessitate precautionary public health protocols. The APA California Board has been closely monitoring the situation, with foremost priority on the health and safety of our members and their families. Social distancing guidelines are likely to extend into the Fall and Winter seasons to address continuing public health risks. The current assessment is that holding an in-person conference is not advisable and attendance will likely suffer. While much planning has occurred for the anticipated 2020 conference in Riverside, the APA California Board has made the difficult decision to postpone the Riverside conference to Fall 2021.

While we hope to see you in Riverside next year, the APA California Board believes that is even more important this year to hold an event to connect with our members and share the most current information on how to practice our profession during this challenging time. We are excited to announce that APA California will be organizing a multi-day virtual conference in Fall 2020. With the availability of versatile video conferencing options, we can offer multiple sessions and events with excellent interactive and networking capabilities.

We appreciate your patience and understanding during this transition period and will notify you concerning the status of your session within the next month. A Virtual Conference Committee is being formed to organize the conference. The Committee will be putting together a conference program with a schedule of virtual sessions and activities. We expect to reach out to some of you to inquire if you are interested in presenting your session in a virtual format. Staff would be available to assist with the logistics and technical aspects for presenting a virtual session, including the capabilities for audience interaction. We are optimistic that the conference will be highly attended especially given the favorable news that the recent APA National virtual conference quickly sold out and considerably exceeded expectations.

Additionally, the 2021 Program Sessions Committee will contact you later this year to see if you would like to submit an updated proposal for the 2021 conference in Riverside. Meanwhile, if you have any questions, please contact Hanson Hom, VP for Conferences, at hansonapa@gmail.com.

Thank you for your interest to contribute to the success of the APA California annual conference.

Sincerely,

Julia Lave Johnston, Chapter President
Hanson Hom, Chapter Vice President for Conferences