



American Planning Association  
**California Chapter**

*Creating Great Communities for All*

## **APA California 2020 Conference Goes Virtual**

The California Chapter Annual Conference is more than a conference. It is an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to our organizational values, to welcome students into the profession, to reward excellence, and to commiserate with our colleagues and friends about the challenges of trying to save the world. More than anything, it is a celebration of planning and planners.

Recently the Inland Empire Conference Host Committee and the State Board concluded that it would not be possible or advisable to hold a large in-person event this Fall. After over a year of planning, it was a difficult decision, but the safety of our colleagues and friends is our first priority. We believe that we made the right decision. However, not having any conference would seem like another disappointment in this very challenging time.

Encouraged by the very successful APA National virtual conference last week, the APA California State Board has voted to move our 2020 conference on-line and postpone the Riverside conference to 2021.

I will be appointing members of a new Virtual Conference Planning Committee to finalize the program, work with existing sponsors, identify the best technology, and adjust logistics as needed, including the conference date and registration prices. This Committee will use the existing sponsorship and program work completed by the host committee when possible.

I hope that you will share my enthusiasm for this exciting challenge. For the past few years, APA California has been working to expand our digital education and programming options to better serve our members. This conference will help us test and learn about new technologies so our conference and our future programs will be more accessible and equitable for planners across the state. If you are interested in working on the 2020 Virtual Conference please contact me at [apacapresident@gmail.com](mailto:apacapresident@gmail.com).

Planners are leaders in our communities and our state. Let us show how resilient and adaptable we can be as we come together while we are apart to continue creating great communities for all.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in APA California!

Julia Lave Johnston  
President, California Chapter