



American Planning Association  
**California Chapter**  
*Creating Great Communities*



May 4, 2021

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez  
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 950 (Ward): Caltrans Sale of Excess Property for Affordable Housing Purposes  
As amended on April 19, 2021 – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), the Urban Counties of California (UCC), and the California Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) support Assembly Bill 950 by Assemblymember Ward, which would authorize the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to sell its excess real property to the city, county, or city and county where the real property is located if the local government agrees to use the real property for the sole purpose of implementing affordable housing, emergency shelters, or feeding programs. This bill would also exempt these sales from the California Environmental Quality Act.

Our organizations are committed to addressing the housing affordability crisis and support efforts to promote the development of affordable housing, including efforts to facilitate counties' ability to provide for the construction and financing of affordable housing. According to the California Association of Realtors, the median home price in California is \$700,000, more than twice the national level. The Harvard Joint Center for Housing's 2020 report on America's Rental Housing finds that 53 percent of Californians meet the Department of Housing and Urban Development's definition of 'cost burdened,' paying more than 30 percent of their income for housing.

AB 950 provides California local agencies with the opportunity to leverage their strong and long-standing partnerships with Caltrans to address the affordable housing crisis by authorizing Caltrans to sell its excess property to local agencies for affordable housing purposes. For these reasons, CSAC, RCRC, UCC, and APA strongly support AB 950. If you need additional information about our position, please contact Chris Lee (CSAC) at [clee@counties.org](mailto:clee@counties.org), Tracy Rhine (RCRC) at [trhine@rcrcnet.org](mailto:trhine@rcrcnet.org), Jean Hurst (UCC) at [jkh@hbeadvocacy.com](mailto:jkh@hbeadvocacy.com), or Lauren de Valencia y Sanchez (APA) at [lauren@stefangeorge.com](mailto:lauren@stefangeorge.com).

Sincerely,

Christopher Lee  
CSAC

Jean Kinney Hurst  
UCC



Tracy Rhine  
RCRC



Eric Phillips  
APA California

cc: The Honorable Chris Ward, California State Assembly  
Honorable Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
Jennifer Swenson, Principal Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
William Weber, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus