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Let us do the reading for you!

What's New

In land use planning

RFM Land Use Consulting, LLC

California Chapter APA Annual Conference

The California APA Chapter held its' annual conference in Los Angeles during the first week of October. It's being touted as the highest attended conference in recent history, with approximately 2,300 Planners from across the State being registered. In comparison, the now second highest attended conference was in Monterey in 2025 at 2,100 attendees.

Conferences like these bring planners together to learn what's happening in the field, keep up with their AICP Continuing Education credit requirements, and network with new and existing colleagues.

Breakout sessions included topics on ethics, legislative updates, CEQA trends, and projects in and around the State and Local jurisdictions.

There were plenty of exhibitors on hand, showing their businesses off, and new opportunities in AI and other technology.

It wasn't all business either. There was an opening reception, network lunch, after parties and an exhibitor reception as well.

Next years Conference is scheduled to be in the Sacramento area. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Join me on…

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CEQA…Tool or just "check the box" practice

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) has been around since about 1970. It applies to all discretionary projects proposed or approved by public agencies throughout California.

It is supposed to identify potential impacts as a result of the project, and to recommend actions (mitigations) to lessen the impacts of said project. This is to supplement a project analysis for the deciding body (Planning Commission, City Council or Board of Supervisors) so that they can then (theoretically) make an informed decision on the project in the most intelligent fashion.

Far to often of late, I have witnessed Initial Studies incorrectly filled out, inadequately filled out, or relying on similar projects that may have been done years ago and the "due diligence" is just cut and pasted from one to the other. That's assuming that the Planning Staff hasn't decided to do a Categorical Exemption that applies to only the smallest of aspects of the overall project and call it good.

Just the other day, a local jurisdiction had a project before it that was for a recreational facility/private club, but yet the CEQA listed it as Categorically

CEQA…Tool or just "check the box" practice (cont.)



Exempt for the installation of a handful of small buildings. The Staff Report indicated that there were to be other things such as hiking trails, picnic areas and other related activities on site.

Is this a sign of things to come? Or is this a trend to try and push CEQA to the side for the sake that no one takes it seriously?

I know CEQA wont cure every environmental ill, nor will it be able to identify everything 100%, but it is indeed a useful tool for elected and appointed officials to make informed decisions, as they are supposed to do.

What do we need to do to ensure that CEQA remains the tool that it was intended to be?



To Laugh, or Not to Laugh, that is the Joke….

I'm reading a horror story in Braille. Something bad is going to happen – I can feel it…

I tried to sue the airport for losing my luggage…. I lost my case.

Why is there a fence around a cemetery? People are dying to get in.

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Yes, Planners do have a sense of humor!!

This, That, The Other…and whatever that is…

It has come to my attention that there are issues with signing up to be on my email list through Constant Contact. I do apologize for that, but it appears out of my control to fix. CC is not really customer service oriented I find. If you know anyone who wants to sign up, please have them contact me through my email at rfm467@gmail.com and I'll take care of it.

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In a previous issue, I opened up the possibility of having an advisory committee if anyone wanted to volunteer. Sort of like a Board of Directors. Positions are open, feel free to reach out at rfm467@gmail.com.

Update: positions still open.

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YouTube videos on planning topics are something I started a while back. There are a few now, but I would like ideas for future postings. Let me know your thoughts!

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I am thinking of changing a few things up on these newsletters. The first of which, given that I am running out of ideas of what to write on, is going to either a one-page/one topic per month issue. Another is to continue this format and go to every other month. What is/are your thoughts?

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Coffee or lunch with a Planner? What are your thoughts? Let me know! Would like to have a monthly gathering either over coffee or lunch with those in the field or potential clients…Drop me a line.



What is of interest to you, the reader…

I hope you have been enjoying reading these newsletters as much as I have in writing them. I've been trying to find information that may be of some interest to everyone.

Now that I've been doing this awhile, let me turn the tables on to you, my readers! Please let me know what may be of interest to you…things you may want to know, or hear about.

Additionally, if you have any announcements you may wish to pass along, or have a short piece to share, please pass it along and I'll be happy to include it in the newsletter. If you have an article you want published, please forward it along too!

As you know, I publish this once a month, so plan accordingly! If there is a special announcement though, I can easily slip it in the email blasts as a separate and stand-alone item!

If you would like to see it explained on YouTube, now that I have a channel started, please let me know too!

If you would like a different format, let me know!

Also note that I have a blog on my website (www.rfmlanduseconsulting.com) that I will occasionally post on. Check it out!



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Where The Customer Comes First

Publications

I hope you have enjoyed this publication of RFM Land Use Consulting's newsletter! While short in nature, I hope you have found the information useful.

It is my hope to periodically publish a newsletter to keep my clients up to date with articles relating to the planning field, as well as highlight projects I feel are of note for the community.

If there are subjects of interest in the planning field you would like to see here, please feel free to contact me with those ideas, and I will include them in future publications.

If you know anyone wanting to subscribe to this newsletter, go to www.rfmlanduseconsulting.com. Thank you for reading!

Possible topics in future editions of the newsletter…

- Articles from you!
- Trends in Planning
- Advisory Board
- Community Engagement

Sign up for our Newsletter!

If you know anyone interested in signing up for this newsletter, or if you've viewed this from the website and want to be included in the regular publication of it and for future communications from RFM Land Use Consulting, have them get a hold of me at rfm467@gmail.com.