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President's Message



by **Scott Rice, ASLA, PLA**President

Dear So Cal ASIA Chapter Members.

While the first Chapter President's message of 2025 would typically start with the anticipated "Happy New Year" sentiments, I do not think it was on anyone's Bingo card to start off anywhere near the way it did. First and foremost, on behalf of the ASLA Southern California Chapter Executive Committee, I want to convey our heavy-hearted condolences for those directly affected by the devastating Palisades and Eaton Fires in January. While much of our nation was focused on layered clothing and snow removal, our Chapter members experienced a triple threat of extreme winds, unseasonably hot temperatures and record low humidity.

Given the unprecedented destruction left behind in the wake of these fires, estimates are already projected to exceed an unfathomable \$50 billion in property damage alone. While some leaders have called for expedited rebuilding efforts by way of pausing regulations set in place for environmental protection, our Chapter's Landscape Architects have emerged at the discussion tables with allied professional organizations, including American Institute of Architects, Urban Land Institute, US Green Building Council, American Planning Association, and others to develop a forward-thinking strategy for the responsible resilience of the devastated areas. Locally, ASLA So Cal Chapter Leadership, including President-Elect Melanie Buffa, ASLA, and Climate Action Committee Chair Alyssa Moffitt, Associate ASLA, have assembled a Wildfire Taskforce for our Landscape Architects to guide the forefront of research, advocacy, education, and



Our Chapter's Landscape Architects have emerged at the discussion tables with allied professional organizations.

volunteering in relation to the local rebuilding efforts. Stay tuned to Chapter email blasts and social media posts for more information on getting plugged in.

Even though Disaster Recovery and Climate Adaptable Planning will be at the forefront of our Chapter's radar for the foreseeable future, we are also actively planning various webinars and in-person activities for the upcoming Spring and Summer. Juries are convening at our four university programs (alphabetically, Cal Poly Pomona, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, UCLA and USC) for the Student ASLA Honor and Merit Awards. And of course, we are also looking forward to our biennial Quality of Life Awards happening this fall in Los Angeles. I am hopeful that the celebration of our Chapter's students and members in the

upcoming student and professional awards will work to renew each of our member's excitement in our important profession.

Additionally, if you have hesitated to participate in Chapter-level ASLA programs and events, or to get involved in volunteering on a Committee of any kind, please consider taking that first step now! I look forward to meeting each of you at upcoming Chapter opportunities.

With Gratitude, Scott Rice, ASLA, PLA



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Executive Director Message



As your Executive Director, I'm delighted to announce that 2025 marks the Chapter's Quality of Life Design Awards, highlighting the significance of design in shaping our lives and honoring creative accomplishments. Incoming President Elect and this year's Design Awards Chair, Melanie Buffa, has selected "Regeneration: Cultivating the Future of Landscape Architecture", as this year's 2025 design awards theme.

This year, we'll focus on recognizing projects that push boundaries, address real-world challenges, and demonstrate a commitment to sustainability, social impact and regeneration.

As we approach this year's awards celebration, I want to express my sincere gratitude to all our landscape architects who continue to shape our world through their creative vision.

As the ultimate recognition of design achievement for landscape architecture firms, it is the intent of this awards program to celebrate professional excellence, innovation and creativity, by recognizing the firms, individuals, and agencies responsible for outstanding works of landscape architecture and environmental planning that promote an enhanced quality of life in Southern California and beyond.

Awards will be announced and exhibited at a celebration on Thursday evening, September 25th on the Water Court Plaza at the Omni Hotel at California Plaza in Los Angeles. Please watch your weekly broadcast and the Chapter's website for all details for the chapter's signature event.

Call for Submissions
Launch Date: June 1, 2025



Emerging Professionals Update



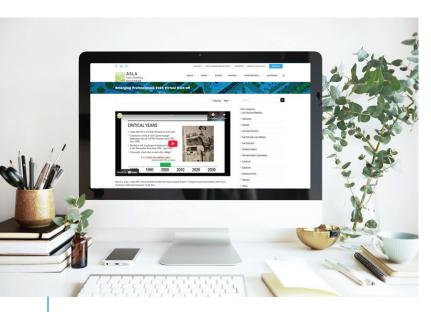
Greetings ASLA Southern California Chapter, and to our incredible Emerging Professionals! 2024 was a fantastic year for ASLA SoCal and the Emerging Professional Committee (EPC) - throughout the year we hosted a series of in-person and virtual events (all entirely free to ASLA members) that focused on programs that advance our Chapter's strategic objectives of: Advocacy, Diversity, Education and Fellowship.

As we entered 2025, we paused our programming to allow our members time to focus, respond and begin to process the wildfires that have so drastically impacted the communities and lives of so many of our neighbors (human, flora and fauna). The path forward will be long for those directly affected, those supporting family and friends in need, and those seeking to understand and mitigate future risks. The ASLA Southern California website will continue to share resources and additional ways to help and support, with additional opportunities through the newly formed ASLA SoCal Wildfire Response Taskforce. Our President-Elect, Melanie Buffa, ASLA has launched the Wildfire Response Taskforce within our Climate Action

Committee, chaired by Alyssa Moffit, Assoc. ASLA, and with support from the entire ASLA SoCal Executive Committee, in hopes to create a strong community of landscape architects and professionals to help rebuild LA. Our hearts go out to all those who have been affected in any way, and on a very personal note - it has been so incredibly moving to see the care and support, and how quickly ASLA SoCal members have sprung into action to support their communities. Throughout the upcoming year the Emerging Professionals Committee will seek to identify volunteer opportunities in partnership with the Wildfire Response Taskforce and organizations on the ground in affected communities, as we are able to do.

Our ASLA SoCal Emerging Professionals Committee kicked-off its 2025 programs with a virtual lunch session on Wednesday March 5th, where we welcomed our 2025 ASLA SoCal President Scott Rice, ASLA, PLA, LEED AP, CASp - President at Community Works Design Group in Riverside, CA and had a conversation with local emerging professionals to share his goals for our ASLA Chapter this year.

It has been so incredibly moving to see the care and support, and how quickly ASLA SoCal members have sprung into action to support their communities.



Check out our kick-off meeting webinar on the chapter website.

Upcoming Transition in ASLA SoCal Emerging Professional Committee Leadership

With a goal of creating more targeted outreach with Emerging Professionals (EPs), ASLA Southern California's Emerging Professionals Committee (EPC) engages Student ASLA, Associate ASLA, and emerging ASLA members across our SoCal chapter. The focus of the EPC is to coordinate and maintain a network of emerging professionals in the field of Landscape Architecture, and to provide opportunities for volunteering and service events, educational and learning programs, and social and networking meetups (hosted virtually and in-person) to support local EPs. Our 2021-2025 EPC Chair, Jared Edgar McKnight, will be stepping down from his role in 2025 to onboard new leadership for the EPC - Stay tuned for exciting updates and a new leadership announcement coming soon!

Looking forward to more great work and programs in 2025!

Jared Edgar McKnight, ASLA

ASLA SoCal Emerging Professionals Committee (EPC) Chair

Membership Update



Happy Spring to all our members.

As Membership Chair, I'm writing to express my gratitude for your continued support. Your active participation is vital to our success, and I look forward to your continued engagement in the coming months. Let's continue to build a vibrant and inclusive community!

AFFILIATE

13 members

ASSOCIATE

53 members

FULL

437 members

INTERNATIONAL

1 member

AFFILIATE CORPORATE

5 members

FELLOWS

39 members

HONORARY

12 members

STUDENT AFFILIATE

27 members

STUDENT

286 members

CCASLA 2025 Prospectus -First Quarter



The State Legislature returned to Sacramento on January 6 to begin the 2025–2026 session in earnest. 35 of the members elected in 2024 have never held a seat in the Legislature before. When taken with the 37 new legislators elected in 2022, the Legislature is experiencing its most significant turnover in a decade with over half of the seats held by members with less than two years of experience.

The November election also marks the first time in ten years that Republicans have gained ground, winning two seats in the California Assembly and one in the California State Senate. However, both Houses remain firm in the control of Democrats who enjoy a 60-seat majority in the 60-member assembly and a 30-seat majority in the 40-seat Senate.

January is typically a quiet month in Sacramento, especially in the first year of a two-year session. Typically, after the Governor releases his Proposed Budget legislators spend most of their month working with their staff and lobbyists to flesh out their priorities for the year in advance of the February 21 bill introduction deadline.

Unfortunately, this year's return to session was busier than usual.

Wildfires

As you are already aware, residents of Los Angeles County have been suffering through tragedy brought by wildfire since January 7. Even in a state that has had numerous recent experiences with devastating wildfires, the scope and scale of this disaster is shocking.

The issue has been front and center for the Governor and the Legislature since the first erupted earlier this month. Having already convened a Special Session in December to appropriate funding to the Department of Justice (DOJ) for litigation against the Trump Administration, the Governor expanded that session to include emergency relief for Los Angeles. This week the Legislature appropriated \$2.5 billion at the Governor's request to provide relief to Los Angeles and its residents. At the same time, the Governor has issued multiple executive orders intended to ease the burden of evacuation, loosen or lift permit requirements for cleanup and reconstruction, and empower local governments to do the same.

We expect that relief for the current fires, wildfire preparedness, and wildfire generally will occupy center stage for the Governor and Legislature throughout 2025. While the state's previous experiences with wildfire have already elevated the issue several times in recent years it will now be a major priority not just of Republicans and rural Democrats, but of the entire LA Delegation.

Trump 2.0

When Donald Trump was elected in 2016, California's leadership viewed their state as the center of Democratic resistance to the incoming President's Administration. California spent roughly \$10 million per year to sue the Trump Administration 123 times between 2017 and 2021. Little has changed in eight years.

As noted above, before the Legislature returned to Sacramento in early December, Governor Newsom convened a special session of the Legislature and requested funding to support any litigation against the Trump Administration moving forward. The Governor and Legislative leaders quickly reached a deal and appropriated \$50 million.

Strictly speaking, there is no practical reason why. The Governor needed to all a special session. The appropriation referred to above could have been achieved through a budget bill introduced and passed in January. However, convening a special session grabbed the public's attention and drew national attention to the state's effort to battle the incoming Administration on most issues.

We expect this approach to continue in Sacramento for the next four years. However, as the state grapples with a devastating wildfire and an incredibly tight state budget, the Governor must walk a fine line between leading the resistance and soliciting help from a President who may be empowered by Congress to deny aid to California.

Budget

The Governor released his Proposed Budget on January 10.

After two years of significant budget deficits, State revenues are \$16.5 billion ahead of projections when the Governor and Legislature enacted last year's budget. However, the Governor acknowledged that much of this funding is already slated to avoid deficits in the 25/26 Budget. The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) continues to project a roughly \$20 billion deficit beginning in 26/27 and growing as high as \$30 billion by 28/29.

According to the Governor, because of the growth in revenues, this year's budget has a minor surplus of \$380 million. However, this is only true because the State is using \$7.1 billion of its reserves to balance the budget.

Typically, the Governor's Proposed Budget serves as a starting point for discussions with the Legislature. In May, the Governor releases a revised budget with more up to date revenue estimates. While there is usually some significant change between the January and May budget proposals, we assume that the situation in Los Angeles has likely made the Governor's Proposed Budget moot for several reasons.

First, tax filing deadlines have already been extended or those impacted by the wildfires. When this happens, state revenues are difficult to predict, and the Legislature and Governor are sometimes forced to budget more conservatively as a result.

The question of whether and how much federal disaster relief will be provided to California is also relevant. If the Trump Administration and Congressional Republicans make good on threats to condition relief on other policy changes in California or otherwise withhold relief, the Governor and Legislature would be forced to immediately reevaluate all their budget priorities and consider how much aid the state could afford to provide on its own.

Finaly, there is reason to be concerned that much of the Federal funding that comes to California every year is now in some form of jeopardy. There are numerous ways that a new Administration in Washington could drastically harm the state's finances.

CCASLA Priorities

While it is early in the year and few bills have been introduced, it is easy to speak to CCASLA's priorities for 2025. As you know, CCASLA successfully defended the profession from two significant threats last year.

The California Architect's Board (CAB) proposed that the Landscape Architect's Technical Committee (LATC) be eliminated as part of last year's sunset review. They proposed to instead give landscape architects one seat on a multidisciplinary board. We opposed this on CCASLA's behalf and argued that one seat did not provide enough professional expertise to ensure that the profession was properly regulated and ready to help protect California communities from flooding, improve water efficiency limit loss of biodiversity, and protect against wildfires. We were successful in defeating CAB's proposal. However, we expect that discussions on this subject will continue for the next several years.

In a similar vein, CAB/LATC staff submitted "technical cleanup" language to the LATC in November. The language would have amended the Practice Act and significantly limited the authorities of the LATC. Our firm opposed this proposal, quickly working to lobby the members of the LATC and relevant staff in the Capitol. As of now, we do not expect that this language will advance in 2025.

While we hope for a less eventful year in 2025, it is important that the profession remain vigilant and engaged on this issue.

Legislative Bills Being Tracked

AB 742

Introduced: 2/18/2025

Department of Consumer Affairs: licensing: applicants who are descendants of slaves.

Current law establishes the Department of Consumer Affairs, which is composed of specified boards that license and regulate various professions. This bill would require those boards to prioritize applicants who are descendants of slaves seeking licenses, especially applicants who are descended from a person enslaved within the United States.

AB 759

Introduced: 2/18/2025

Architects: architects-in-training. The Architects Practice Act establishes the California Architects Board within the Department of Consumer Affairs for licensing and regulation of persons engaged in the practice of architecture and defines the term "architect" for those purposes. That act requires an applicant for licensure as an architect to, among other things, take an examination. The act imposes various fees on licensees and applicants for a license, which are deposited in the California Architects Board Fund, a continuously appropriated fund. This bill would authorize a person to apply to the board and obtain authorization to use the title "architect-in-training" after they have been identified as a candidate for licensure by the board and have successfully passed at least one division of the Architect Registration Examination, as developed by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards. The bill would prohibit the use of an abbreviation or derivative of that title, other than "AIT," and would prohibit a person from using that title to independently offer or provide architectural services to the public.

The bill would authorize the board to disclose a person's authorization to use that title to a member of the public upon request. The bill would provide that the use of that title in violation of these provisions may constitute unprofessional conduct and subject the user of the title to administrative action, including denial of a license.

AB 900

Introduced: 2/19/2025

Environmental protection: 30×30 goals: land conservation: science-based management and stewardship. By Executive Order No. N-82-20, Governor Gavin Newsom directed the Natural Resources Agency to combat the biodiversity and climate crises by, among other things, establishing the California Biodiversity Collaborative and conserving at least 30% of the state's lands and coastal waters by 2030. Current law provides that it is the goal of the state to conserve at least 30% of California's lands and coastal waters by 2030, known as the 30×30 goal. On April 22, 2022, the Natural Resources Agency issued the "Pathways to 30×30 California: Accelerating Conservation of California's Nature" report and current law requires the Secretary of Natural Resources Agency to prepare and submit an annual report to the Legislature on progress made toward achieving the 30×30 goal, as provided. This bill would require the agency, on or before July 1, 2026, to update the Pathways to 30×30 Report, and for the update to include, among other things, recommendations to increase science-based management and stewardship of 30×30 lands, including innovative ways to reduce barriers and increase federal, state, and local support for science-based management and stewardship, as specified.

AB 945

Introduced: 2/19/2025

Density Bonus Law: incentives and concessions: green housing developments.

The Density Bonus Law requires a city or county to provide a developer that proposes a housing development within the city or county with a density bonus and other incentives or concessions, as specified, if the developer agrees to construct, among other options, specified percentages of units for lower income households or very low income households, and meets other requirements. Under current law, the number of incentives or concessions granted to a development under the Density Bonus Law vary based on the percentage of affordable units within the development, or whether the development serves specified other target populations, as provided. Current law establishes the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) in the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency and requires it to administer various programs intended to promote the development of housing. Current law establishes the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (the commission), consisting of 5 members, and establishes various duties and responsibilities of the commission relating to energy usage in the state. This bill would require a city or county to grant additional incentives or concessions when an applicant proposes to construct a green housing development, as defined. The bill would require that the number of incentives or concessions granted initially be set to 3 and would require HCD, as specified, to evaluate and report on the number and type of units and developments entitled, permitted, and constructed pursuant to these provisions. The bill would require HCD, in this report, to maintain or alter the number of incentives or concessions granted under these provisions, as prescribed.

AB 1226

Introduced: 2/21/2025

Air quality: wildland vegetation management burning: permits: exemption. Current law authorizes the State Air Resources Board to designate public fire protection agencies or other equivalent agencies to issue permits, subject to the rules and regulations of the state board, for agricultural burning, which includes wildland vegetation management burning, as specified. This bill would revise those provisions to also require the state board to designate those agencies to oversee agricultural burning activities and to adopt rules and regulations to ensure those activities are conducted safely and effectively. The bill would exempt wildland vegetation management burning from the abovedescribed permit requirement if that activity is conducted by, or under the supervision of, the applicable agency designated by the state board. The bill would require the state board to develop guidelines and best practices for wildland vegetation management burning to ensure public safety and environmental protection.

AB 1467

Introduced: 2/21/2025

Residential property insurance: tree fire risks. Existing law generally regulates classes of insurance, including residential fire and property insurance. Existing law defines the measure of indemnity for a loss under a property insurance policy. Existing law requires a person who controls a building or structure in, upon, or adjoining a specified wildfire-prone area to, among other things, maintain 100 feet of defensible space around the structure. This bill would exempt a residential property insurance policyholder from state and local laws, ordinances, fees, and fines associated with the removal of a

tree if their insurer identifies the tree as a fire risk and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection confirms that the tree is a fire risk.

SB 499

Introduced: 2/19/2025

Fire prevention: home hardening: defensible space: data usage. Current law requires the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection, until January 1, 2026, to establish a statewide program to allow qualified entities to support and augment the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection in its defensible space and home hardening assessment and education efforts. Existing law requires the director to establish a common reporting platform that allows defensible space and home hardening assessment data, collected by the qualified entities, to be reported to the department and requires the director to establish any necessary quality control measure to ensure that the assessment data is accurate and reliable. Existing law authorizes the director to use the assessment data, as specified. This bill would instead require the director to use that assessment data, as specified.

SB 556

Introduced: 2/20/2025

Habitat enhancement and restoration: floodplains. The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, approved by the voters as Proposition 4 at the November 5, 2024, statewide general election, authorized the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$10,000,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for safe drinking water, drought, flood, and water resilience, wildfire and forest resilience, coastal resilience, extreme heat mitigation, biodiversity and nature-based climate solutions, climate-smart, sustainable, and resilient farms, ranches, and working

lands, park creation and outdoor access, and clean air programs. The act makes available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, \$870,000,000 to the Wildlife Conservation Board for grant programs to protect and enhance fish and wildlife resources and habitat and achieve the state's biodiversity, public access, and conservation goals. This bill would, from the above-described bond funds made available to the board, appropriate \$43,000,000 to the board to support projects in the Counties of Kern, Kings, and Tulare for the restoration and conservation of habitats along floodplains, as provided. This bill contains other related provisions.

SB 614

Introduced: 2/20/2025

Potable water: nonfunctional turf. Current law prohibits the use of potable water, as defined, for nonfunctional turf located on common areas of properties of homeowners' associations, common interest developments, and community service organizations or similar entities, starting January 1, 2029. This bill would prohibit that use of potable water one year earlier.

SB 653

Introduced: 2/20/2025

Wildfire prevention: environmentally sensitive vegetation management. Current law establishes various programs for the prevention and reduction of wildfires. This bill would provide that it is the intent of the Legislature to enact subsequent legislation to define "environmentally sensitive vegetation management" and to encourage the use of environmentally sensitive vegetation management practices.

SB 795

Introduced: 2/21/2025

30×30 goal: state agencies: plans, policies, or regulations. Current law requires the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to prepare and submit, on or before March 31, 2024, and ?annually thereafter, a report to the Legislature on the progress made in the prior calendar year toward achieving the goal to conserve 30% of California's lands and coastal waters by 2030. Current law provides that it is the goal of the state to conserve at least 30% of California's lands and coastal waters by 2030, known as the 30×30 goal. This bill would require all state agencies, including their departments, boards, offices, commissions, and conservancies, to consider the 30×30 goal when adopting, revising, or establishing plans, policies, or regulations, and shall ensure, to the extent feasible, that the plan, policy, or regulation is not inconsistent with the 30×30 goal.

AB 491

Introduced: 2/10/2025

2006: climate goals: natural and working lands. The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 declares the policy of the state to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible, but no later than 2045, and to achieve and maintain net negative greenhouse gas emissions thereafter. The act requires the State Air Resources Board to prepare and approve a scoping plan for achieving the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and to update the scoping plan at least once every 5 years. The act also requires the Natural Resources Agency, in collaboration with specified entities, including the state board, to determine an ambitious range of targets for natural carbon sequestration, and for nature-based climate solutions, that reduce

California Global Warming Solutions Act of

greenhouse gas emissions for 2030, 2038, and 2045 to support state goals to achieve carbon neutrality and foster climate adaptation and resilience. The act requires these targets to be integrated into the above-described scoping plan and other state policies. This bill would specify that it is the goal of the state to achieve each of the targets established by the Natural Resources Agency by the applicable date for the target, with priority given to activities that most rapidly, significantly, and cost effectively reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. The bill would also revise the definition of "natural carbon sequestration" for purposes of the above-described provisions.

AB 507

Introduced: 2/10/2025

Adaptive reuse: streamlining: incentives. The Planning and Zoning Law requires each county and city to adopt a comprehensive, long-term general plan for its physical development, and the development of certain lands outside its boundaries, that includes, among other mandatory elements, a housing element. That law allows a development proponent to submit an application for a development that is subject to a specified streamlined, ministerial approval process not subject to a conditional use permit, if the development satisfies certain objective planning standards, including that the development is a multifamily housing development that contains two or more residential units. This bill would deem an adaptive reuse project a use by right in all zones, regardless of the zoning of the site, and subject to a streamlined, ministerial review process if the project meets specified requirements, subject to specified exceptions. In this regard, an adaptive reuse project, in order to qualify for the streamlined, ministerial review process, would be required to be proposed for an existing building that is less than 50 years old or meets certain requirements regarding the preservation of

historic resources, including the signing of an affidavit declaring that the project will comply with the United States Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation for, among other things, the preservation of exterior facades of a building that face a street, or receive federal or state historic rehabilitation tax credits, as specified. The bill would require an adaptive reuse project to meet specified affordability criteria. In this regard, the bill would require an adaptive reuse project for rental housing to include either 8% of the unit for very low income households and 5% of the units for extremely low income households or 15% of the units for lower income households.

AB 638

Introduced: 2/13/2025

Stormwater: reuses: irrigation. The Stormwater Resource Planning Act authorizes one or more public agencies to develop a stormwater resource plan that meets certain standards to address the capture of stormwater, as defined, and dry weather runoff, as defined. The act requires the State Water Resources Control Board, by July 1, 2016, to establish guidance for purposes of the act. This bill would require the board, by June 1, 2026, to establish guidance for stormwater capture and reuse for the irrigation of urban public lands, as defined. The bill would require the guidance to include, but not be limited to, the use of captured stormwater for irrigation to offset the use of potable water, as specified, and criteria including, among other things, pathogens and pathogen indicators and total suspended solids.

AB 667

Introduced: 2/14/2025

Professions and vocations: license examinations: interpreters. Current law provides for the certification and regulation of nurse assistants and home health aids by the State Department of Public Health. This bill

would, beginning July 1, 2026, require the State Department of Public Health and boards under the jurisdiction of the Department of Consumer Affairs to permit an applicant who cannot read, speak, or write in English to use an interpreter, at no cost to the applicant, to interpret the English verbal and oral portions of the license or certification examination, as applicable, if the applicant meets all other requirements for licensure.

SB 326

Introduced: 2/11/2025

Wildfire safety: The California Wildfire Mitigation Strategic Planning Act. Current law establishes the Office of the State Fire Marshal in the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and establishes the Deputy Director of Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation within the office. Current law makes the deputy director responsible for fire preparedness and mitigation missions of the department, as provided. This bill would require the deputy director, on or before January 1, 2027, and every 3 years thereafter, to prepare a Wildfire Risk Mitigation Planning Framework sufficient to quantitatively evaluate wildfire risk mitigation actions, as provided. The bill would require the framework to allow for geospatial evaluation and comparison of wildfire risk mitigation actions, as defined, sufficient to direct coordinated mitigation efforts and long-term collaborative mitigation planning. The bill would require the deputy director to, each year the framework is completed, submit a copy of the framework to the Legislature, the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety, and the Public Utilities Commission for review and consideration.

Congrats to our Student **Award** Winners!







Altadena Green and Founder/Member, Stephanie Landregan, MSPM, PLA, FASLA, LEED BD+C

Working to preserve and restore the character, heritage and culture of the tree canopy in Altadena, Altadena Green is a grassroots organization of volunteer landscape professionals who have deep connections to the community.

Some Altadena residents who lost their homes during the Eaton Fire are worried that trees on their properties will be cut down as debris cleanup continues. Currently, Altadena Green is coordinating actions to preserve trees and share resources for residents as they embark on the process of bringing Altadena back to life.

Southern California Chapter member, Stephanie Landregan, FASLA, and founder of Altadena Green is dedicated to saving as many trees as she can!

Ms. Landregan recently gave an interview to CBS Los Angeles.

WATCH INTERVIEW

Altadena Green is coordinating actions to preserve trees and share resources for residents as they embark on the process of bringing Altadena back to life.

WORLD LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE MONTH

April is World Landscape Architecture Month! Celebrate how landscape architects design healthy, beautiful, and resilient places for all worldwide.

2025 Theme: "Beyond Boundaries"

This year, we're highlighting how landscape architects break barriers—physical, cultural, and environmental—to shape a better future.

Get Involved

- Share Your Story Post a photo, video, or message about how landscape architecture impacts your community.
- Use Our Prompts Need ideas? Check out our social media prompts for inspiration.
- Tag @NationalASLA & Use #WLAM2025
 Your posts could be featured in our Instagram Stories throughout the month!

Student ASLA Challenge: Win Free Registration to ASLA 2025!

- ASLA Student Members—post using ASLA's social media prompts for a chance to win free registration to the ASLA 2025 Conference on Landscape Architecture in New Orleans this October!
- Use #WLAM2025 and tag @NationalASLA to ensure your entry is counted.
- Contest runs April 1–30. Winners will be announced in mid-May.

Take Action

- Advocate Join iAdvocate to support policies that advance landscape architecture.
- Inspire Future Landscape Architects Use ASLA's Career Discovery Resources to introduce K-12 students to the profession.
- Amplify the Movement Engage with #WLAM2025—share, comment, and tag others to spread awareness!
- Celebrate Earth Day on April 22 Take action with the Earth Day Network.

Climate Action Committee **Update**



The new year ushered in a sudden and catastrophic urgency to our mission as community members and as climate action practitioners. The estimated \$250 billion loss does not describe the tremendous damage to the fabric of long-standing communities, the trauma of losing all of one's memories and years of creating homes, and the loss of loved ones- many who stayed behind to save their neighborhoods. But it does depict the financial cost of climate change and the relevance of preemptively acting and investing in our shared sustainable future.

The hope for us lies in our ability to join together to support our communities in rebuilding quickly, sustainably, and with resilience. We are honored to join forces with allied professional organizations like AIA LA and Pasadena, USGBC, NOMA, APA, and others to unify our vision and provide fast track guidelines to city and county agencies. Within a few weeks of the fires, Melanie Buffa, ASLA, and our President-elect, launched the Wildfire Task Force as part of our Climate Action Committee and we held our first Chapter wide summit. The support of our members and colleagues throughout California was overwhelming and inspiring.

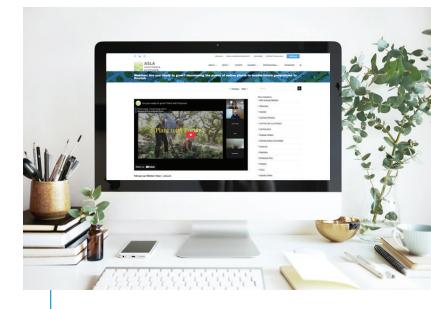
We are exploring together how landscape architects in Southern California, from sole practitioners to large firms, can effect positive changes in all landscapes. In February, Dr. Steve Windhager, Executive Director of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, presented "Are You Ready to Grow?;" a webinar on the importance of growing a minimum of 30% natives in all landscapes to prevent biodiversity collapse. We are reaching out to our local practitioners who work in the fields of grassland restorations (from public lands to private gardens), ecological restoration with wildfire resilience, and regenerative grazing and other broad topics to explore how to move forward in regards to the wildfire aftermath and within the broader context of climate change.

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Though the Los Angeles Wildfires have placed the focus of our efforts on supporting communities in the recovery and rebuilding of their homes and businesses, we feel that everything comes into play; protecting our unique biodiversity, restoring the wildlands, water resources, fire resilience, protecting the integrity and unique cultures of neighborhoods, reducing heat island effects, and increasing tree canopy.

Most importantly, we need to trust in our power to affect change despite surmounting challenges. We invite you to join us at the Wildfire Task Force, at our in-person events and our webinars. This is our time to show what true community resilience looks like.

Together we are stronger.



<u>Check out our webinar Are you ready to grow? Harnessing the power of native plants to enable future generations to flourish</u>

on the chapter website.



Upcoming Events

VIEW ALL OUR UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

18 **CLIMATE ACTION SYMPOSIUM**

ASLA SIERRA CHAPTER

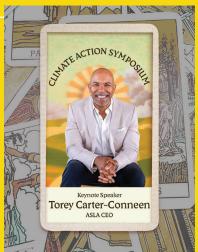
DETAILS + REGISTRATION

23 RESILIENT REGENERATIVE **FIRESCAPING**

12PM - 1PM

DETAILS





26 EMERGING PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER DAY AT LA REGIONAL FOOD BANK 9AM - 1PM

DETAILS + REGISTRATION

MAY

EXCOM IN-PERSON MEETING: COMMUNITY WORKS DESIGN GROUP. **RIVERSIDE** 830AM - 1PM

JUNE

2025 QUALITY OF LIFE DESIGN AWARDS CALL FOR SUBMIS-SIONS BEGINS



Executive Committee, Chairs, Members-At-Large, and Liaisons





Scott Rice, ASLA **PRESIDENT** Community Works Design Group, San Bernardino County



Melanie Buffa, ASLA PRESIDENT-ELECT Agency Artifact, Los Angeles



Hongjoo Kim, ASLA **PAST PRESIDENT** Hongjoo Kim Landscape Architects, Los Angeles



Evan Mather, FASLA **CHAPTER TRUSTEE** AHBE | MIG, Inc., Los Angeles



Chuck Foley, ASLA **VP SPONSORSHIP** Hirsch Associates, Orange County



David Watts, ASLA **TREASURER** Cal Poly San Luis Obispo



Doug Short, ASLA **VP MEMBERSHIP** DSD Landscape



Jitka Dekojova, ASLA **SECRETARY** Studio III



David Tatsumi, ASLA COUNCIL DIRECTOR Tatsumi and Partners, Orange County



Stephanie Landregan, **FASLA** COUNCIL DIRECTOR Program Director, UCLA Extension



Colleen Cochran, Assoc. ASLA **CHAPTER PROGRAMS** Landscape Designer, Los Angeles



Tracy Wolk, Assoc. ASI A **HALS**



Jared McKnight **EMERGING PROFESSIONALS** WRT LLC, Los Angeles



Andy Bowden, FASLA **FELLOWS CHAIR** Landscape Architect, Orange County



Tricia O'Connell, PLA, **ASLA** LIAISON TO STUDENTS Landscape Architect Los Angeles



Alyssa Moffitt, Assoc. ASLA **CLIMATE ACTION CHAIR** Terra Brava/Wild Earth Landscape



Nicole Hourian, ASLA **PROGRAMS** MEMBER-AT-LARGE Hourian Associates, Central Coast



Steve Lang, ASLA AWARDS HISTORIAN/ JURY FACILITATOR / **MEMBER-AT-LARGE** MIG, Inc.



Kim Rhodes STUDENT FIELD TRIP MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Architecture

David Evans and Associates. San Bernardino County



Andy Bowden, FASLA **CHAPTER FELLOWS CHAIR** Landscape Architect, Orange County



Victoria Phillipy, Hon. ASLA **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** Phillipy + Company, Orange

County and Los Angeles



Interested in volunteering? Contact Vicki Phillipy for available positions.





park+playground outfitters













































