

September 12, 2019

Nicki Dennis Stephens Hon. AIA
Executive Director
American Institute of Architects, California Council
1303 J Street, Ste. 200
Sacramento, CA 95814

Regarding: **Nomination for Vice President of Strategic Planning and Research**

Dear Nicki,

Here is a summary of my background, education, professional history, and service to the profession:

- I have extensive background in architecture for education, science and medicine. I have been intimately involved on all phases of the work on a wide range of Hospital, University, Laboratory, Engineering, FAA/DOD and School Projects.
- I am currently serving as Vice President of Strategic Planning and Research for AIA California. I served as 2016 President of AIA Orange County. I have served as a Director of AIA California since 2015.
- I have held positions on the City of Orange Design Review Committee, Orange Education Foundation, Various youth sports boards, Mercy House Building Committee and I am a former Gamble House Scholar in Residence.
- Education
 - BS University of Southern California
 - BArch University of Southern California

Here is a summary of my philosophy, goals, and objectives in serving in this office.:

Over the past two years as VP of Strategic Planning and Research I have worked to organize our previous Strategic and Operating Plans to have a stronger relationship to each other. The objective has been to be able to understand exactly what strategic objective each work effort in the Operating Plan was supporting.

In addition, I have worked to establish opportunities, timeframes and deadlines for strategic input so that there was a smoother process from an initial idea or discussion to Committee to Ex Com to the Board for consideration to incorporate into the Strategic Plan.

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Next year will be the first year where we are implementing the process which I have helped develop. I would like the chance to follow through with the idea and assist in the fine-tuning of the approach as necessary.

The research portion of the portfolio has been a lower priority for me these past two years as Strategic and Long Range Planning have taken my focus. My intent has always been that the first part of any year would be focused on planning with the second half of the year focused on research.

I have put forth many ideas on research but there has never been an opportunity to discuss these ideas in depth. The Long Range Planning Committee has agreed to also assist in the oversight and direction AIA California's research effort takes. I look forward to the opportunity to developing an overall approach to research.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let me know if you need additional information.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark J. Paone", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark J. Paone, AIA