**The American Institute of Architects**

**Who We Are**
The AIA is a professional association of individual licensed architects and people on path to licensure. We are united to share knowledge, elevate the profession and practice of architecture, and to be a source of information to elected officials during their consideration of public policies.

AIA California, our state organization, has around 11,000 members.

AIA Members are firm employees, firm owners, educators, developers, construction managers, local and state government employees, planners, community volunteers on design review boards and planning commissions, and a few even hold elected positions at the local level.

**Background**
Architects are licensed by the State of California for the sole purpose of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

Architects work to create more valuable, healthy, secure, accessible and sustainable buildings, neighborhoods, and communities.

The path to become a licensed architect is not an easy one. The most common path is 5 years of higher education, 3 years of experience, and successfully completing 7 examinations, which takes over 20 hours.

The work of architects influences our communities in many ways. Architects design urban plans for communities and master plans for campuses, detached single-family homes, multi-family residences, mixed-use developments, commercial projects, interior spaces, school and university campuses, and hospital buildings, among others.

**Opportunity**
Your constituent architects are a resource to you when you consider policies that impact the built environment and our communities. Our door is always open.