



September 12, 2023

Dear Valued Member:

The American Institute of Architects California (AIA CA) is your advocate in Sacramento before the California Legislature and within over 25 regulatory agencies that impact the built environment. Our lobbying team consists of our staff, contract lobbyists, and several of our volunteer elected leaders. For them to be effective in presenting our concerns to legislators, they need to be visible and involved in many of the functions that occur at the legislature. That is what "lobbying" is all about - having access to legislators and being able to present your views on specific legislation.

In the past, AIA CA has seen its funds for the California Architects for Livable Communities Political Action Committee (CALC PAC) dwindle to an inconsequential amount. With such few funds, our lobbyists cannot be effective on our behalf, nor can we be a "presence" within the State Capitol. Contributions to CALC PAC make the architectural profession more visible and more accessible to elected officials. Access and visibility ensure that our positions are heard and understood, while increasing our chances of having legislation passed that is beneficial to the clients and communities we serve.

We need your help. In the past, our campaigns have focused on various individuals and architectural firms who have been consistent supporters of the CALC PAC. **However, issues are escalating and require a significant and sustained level of support.** From the climate emergency to issues impacting the business of architecture - we could no longer put the responsibility on so few individuals and the Board of Directors recently voted to earmark \$10 of each member's dues for CALC PAC.

California state law requires to inform you that a portion of your dues has been earmarked for CALC PAC and that you have the option of choosing to allow that amount to go to the CALC PAC or for the total payment to remain as part of AIA CA's general dues revenue. The choice is yours. With a membership base of approximately 11,000, the CALC PAC could potentially have \$100,000 in its account annually. Since the lobbying actions that occur throughout the year affect all members, the Board of Trustees felt the responsibility should be more evenly distributed.

This contribution is non-tax-deductible and will be reported by CALC PAC to the Fair Political Practices Commission and as a donor, you may have to include this contribution with any others you make on a major donor report.

Should you decide to allow \$10 to be earmarked specifically for CALC PAC, you do not need to do anything now - just pay your dues when you receive your renewal notice. If, at any time in the future, you wish to change your support for CALC PAC (and move it to our general advocacy efforts), please contact Nicki Dennis Stephens, Executive Vice President, AIA CA via e-mail at [ndennis@aiacalifornia.org](mailto:ndennis@aiacalifornia.org) or telephone at (916) 448-9082.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Scott Gaudineer, AIA  
2023 AIA California President

**The American Institute of Architects**

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