

CARY BERNSTEIN ARCHITECT

16 September 2023

AIA California
1931 H Street
Sacramento, CA 95811
Attn: Sujendra Mishra, AIA, Secretary / Treasurer

RE: Nomination of Drew Weigl, AIA for VP of Strategic Planning + Research

To Secretary/Treasurer Mishra and the Nominating Committee,

I am pleased to nominate Drew Weigl, AIA to serve as Vice President of Strategic Planning + Research.

Drew and I have served on the AIA CA Board together for nearly five years and I have come to know him as a thoughtful, dedicated and passionate contributor to AIA California. We often find ourselves aligned in our positions but there are times when we have different views and he is consistently open to hearing other opinions while respectfully stating his own. He is eager to find common ground and reach a productive path forward.

One of Drew's great strengths is the wealth of knowledge he brings from his long service to the AIA in his various positions at AIA California, AIA Redwood Empire, AIA Georgia and other AIA chapters as well as his civic engagement with the US Green Building Council, City of Santa Rosa, and the Boy Scouts of America at both national and local levels. His resume is admirably replete with service contributions to multiple communities over long periods of time. As important, he brings the voice of an experienced architect which greatly benefits his understanding of practice realities. In this way, he is uniquely qualified to be the VP of Strategic Planning + Research because his experience in making organizations, including Axia Architects, effectively gives him a skill set that few other AIA CA Board members have.

Drew is a thinker and a doer and exceptionally generous with his time for the betterment of architects in California. He is genuine. I have full confidence that he will embrace the position of VP of Strategic Planning + Research with enthusiasm, thoroughness and skill.

Very Sincerely,



Cary Bernstein, AIA
AIA CA Advocacy Advisory Committee Member

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October 6, 2023

AIA California

Nicki Dennis Stephens, Hon AIA
Executive Vice President
1931 H Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

RE: Support of Drew Weigl, AIA, for AIA California VP of Strategic Planning & Research 2024-2025

Dear Ms. Dennis Stephens & AIA California Board of Directors,

It is my distinct pleasure to strongly support my friend, Drew Weigl, AIA, in his campaign running for Vice President of Strategic Planning & Research.

Drew and I first had the opportunity to work together on the AIA California Board of Directors when he started his first term serving as the representative for AIA Redwood Empire. I was immediately drawn to Drew's passion for the profession and willingness to support any initiative or campaign that could benefit from his participation. He has never been shy to voice his opinion and his contributions to the discussion always resulted in stronger outcomes for AIA California. I specifically remember him pushing the AIA CA Board to more fully embrace the idea of Climate Action as the primary focus of the Board during my AIA CA Presidency year in 2019, winning hearts and minds in the process. Those same qualities are ideal for the VP of Strategic Planning & Research.

His reach extends beyond his involvement on the AIA California Board though; prior to his moving to Sonoma County, he lived on the East Coast where he served on the AIA Georgia Board of Directors, on the AIA Augusta Board of Directors – including 2015 President, and on the Young Architects Forum for AIA Atlanta. He was an inaugural member of the *AIA Leadership Institute* in 2015 and has subsequently walked the walk as a “Citizen Architect” by serving in various public capacities, including serving on the City of Santa Rosa Design Review Board since 2017, as Chair from 2021-2023 and now Vice Chair. In his life outside the profession, he is the father of two and served on the Executive Board of Directors for two Boy Scouts of America Councils and volunteers regularly at his kids' schools among other things. He is also a practicing architect and the Director of Sustainability for AXIA Architects, an award-winning firm in Santa Rosa.

I am confident that Drew will continue to be an excellent ambassador for AIA California and a key contributor as VP of Strategic Planning & Research on the AIA CA Executive Committee!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Benjamin Kasdan', written over a horizontal line.

Benjamin Kasdan, AIA, LEED AP
Principal | 2019 AIA California President