

CCASLA Legislative Update – 4Q

Tracy Morgan Hollingworth, CAE, CCASLA and SDASLA Executive Director

As we wrap up the fiscal year for the California Council of the American Society of Landscape Architects (CCASLA) and start a new 2021-22 state legislative session, I want to thank our hard working CCASLA Board of Directors from all four of our California Chapters for their dedication to meeting monthly via Conference calls to discuss and chart sound strategies to strengthen the profession of landscape architecture in California.

Last year, CCASLA scored a major victory in being added to Assemblymember Gonzalez' clean up legislation (AB 1850) to make landscape architects an exempt profession in the law that she authored to penalize employers who classify employees as independent contractors. We made the case that, since architects were classified as an exempt profession, that landscape architects also should have the same classification. The change in the law will protect landscape architecture firms who work with other firms on projects to avoid having to categorize either firm's staff as "employees".

CCASLA Chapter representatives reviewed many bills that came before the Legislature in 2021 and our team is making headway in educating state agency staff regarding the important role landscape architects have in developing climate change solutions. A report on the legislation we tracked this year can be reviewed on the CCASLA website at this *LINK*.

The Directors asked our lobbying firm, Edelstein, Gilbert, Robson and Smith to set up virtual meetings with the state of California's Resources Agency to explain the work landscape architects perform and how they design to contain stormwater runoff, forest management, wildfire interface design techniques and designing new and existing landscapes to meet or exceed the water conservation requirements of the MWEL (Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance) and explain Climate Positive Design techniques to address climate change.

The meetings have helped to establish our industry as the "go-to" industry as the Governor and his state agencies begin to develop new legislation to strengthen their current water policies and develop new regulations with guidance from our industry.

CCASLA and our Chapter continue to advocate for legislation dealing with licensure, water, parks, government contracting, transportation and other issues impacting the industry