



AARON PFANNENSTIEL, AICP, LEED AP

Senior Associate

Aaron has 16 years of experience in community planning, focusing on emergency management, hazard mitigation, and community resiliency. With a background in geology, environmental studies, and urban planning, he helps clients understand hazards, assess vulnerabilities, and develop policies, programs, and mitigation strategies that make communities safer. He has also trained hundreds of students, planners, and other professionals in these topics over the past decade.

As a hazard mitigation planner, Aaron incorporates hazard mitigation into comprehensive planning projects to increase resiliency in communities. He prepares local and multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plans, emergency operations plans, general plans, and safety elements. He recently assisted clients with developing innovative planning practices as part of a pilot program that enhances communities' adaptation to wildfires. Aaron has also prepared environmental documents for CEQA compliance, due diligence and feasibility studies, and conducted community outreach and education efforts in communities throughout California. Aaron is currently working on the San Bernardino County Climate Adaptation, Resiliency, and Environmental Justice Strategy project.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- » Local Hazard Mitigation Plans | Cities of Laguna Beach and Torrance, Town of Windsor, and Inyo County CA
- » San Bernardino County Climate Adaptation, Resiliency, and Environmental Justice Strategy | San Bernardino County CA
- » South Gate Safety Element and Hazard Mitigation Plan | South Gate CA

PRIOR EXPERIENCE

HAZARD MITIGATION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING

- » Community Planning Assistance for Wildfires (CPAW) | Wenatchee WA
- » Emergency Operations Plan | Seal Beach CA
- » Hazard Mitigation Plan Annex Update | Needles CA
- » HMP Update & Emergency Operations Plan Assistance | Huntington Beach CA
- » Hazard Mitigation Plan | Capitola CA
- » Local Hazard Mitigation Plan | Duarte CA
- » Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update | San Luis Obispo CA
- » Local HMP & Emergency Operations Plan Update | Westminster CA
- » Multi-jurisdictional HMP Update | Culver City CA
- » Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update | Santa Rosa CA
- » Local HMP Update for the Water District | Santa Clara Valley CA
- » Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update | Torrance CA
- » Multi-jurisdictional HMP Update | Inyo County CA
- » Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update | Windsor CA

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AND SAFETY ELEMENTS

- » Huntington Beach General Plan Update | Huntington Beach CA
- » Laguna Woods Climate Adaptation Plan | Laguna Woods CA
- » Safety Element Update and Local Hazard Mitigation Plan | South Gate CA
- » Health and Safety Element Update | Lynwood CA

EDUCATION

- » Master of Urban and Regional Planning, California Polytechnic University, Pomona
- » BS, Geology, University of California, Santa Barbara
- » BA, Environmental Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara

CERTIFICATIONS

- » American Institute of Certified Planners
- » Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Accredited Professional

AFFILIATIONS

- » American Planning Association, Inland Empire Section
- » California Planning Foundation
- » US Green Building Council
- » Natural Hazards Mitigation Association
- » California Emergency Services Association

Team member since 2017



- » Safety Element Update and General Plan EIR | Palm Desert CA
- » Safety Element Update and Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Annex | Maricopa CA
- » Safety Element Updates | Laguna Woods, Glendora, and Wasco CA
- » Safety Elements | Camarillo and Saratoga CA

LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY

- » City of Jurupa Valley/ Planning Commissioner

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AWARDS

- » 2011 Innovation in Green Community Planning Merit Award, APA CA Inland Empire Section | Thompson Creek Spreading Grounds (Claremont CA): Acquire, Restore, and Develop
- » 2011 Outstanding Environmental Analysis Document, Association of Environmental Professionals | Soil Safe Project EIR (Colton CA)
- » 2007 Special Award of Merit for Public Outreach, APA CA Los Angeles Section | Pasadena Green Building Outreach and Education Program
- » 2006 Outstanding Planning Outside of Orange County by an Orange County Firm, APA CA Orange County Section | Downtown Sierra Madre Educational Series and Community Involvement Program
- » 2005 Leadership and Service Award/Education Project, APA California Chapter | Downtown Sierra Madre Educational Series: Understanding Downtowns and Downtown Immersion Week

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- » ABAG Resilience Program Panel | Association of Bay Area Governments, March 2017 | San Francisco CA
- » “Are You Hazard Ready? Safety Elements, Climate Adaptation, and the Agencies That Review Them” | APA CA Inland Empire Section, October 2016 | Riverside CA
- » “Hazard Mitigation Planning: Developing Roots for Community Resilience” | 2015 APA California Annual Conference | Oakland CA
- » “Planning Your Planning Career: The Early Years” | 2015 APA California Annual Conference | Oakland CA
- » “Charting a Career in Sustainability: Steps Students Can Take Before Graduating” | 2010–2014 APA California Annual Conference
- » “Section Director’s Round Table and Section Board Meet & Greet” | 2013 APA California Annual Conference | Visalia CA
- » “Are You Ready for the Next Big Wave? Tsunami Preparedness Planning” | 2012 APA California Annual Conference | Rancho Mirage CA
- » “We Built this City on Rock and Roll” | 2011 APA California Annual Conference | Santa Barbara CA
- » “Evolution of Green Building: What’s Next for Tomorrow’s Sustainable Communities?” | 2011 APA California Annual Conference | Santa Barbara CA
- » “Hazards and Disasters: The Planner’s Role” | APA CA Inland Empire Section, May 2011 | Riverside CA
- » “Climate Adaptation: Missed Opportunities of Climate Action Planning” | 2010 APA California Annual Conference | Carlsbad CA
- » “Green Building Showdown: Which Green Building Program Is Right for Your Community?” | 2008 APA California Annual Conference | Hollywood CA
- » “Emerging Issues, Trends, and Functional Topics” | March 2008 AICP Exam Preparation Workshop, APA CA Inland Empire Section | Riverside CA
- » “Green Building for Planners” | APA CA Inland Empire Section, February 2008 | Riverside CA
- » “Planning for Tomorrow’s Healthy Communities” | 2007 APA California Annual Conference | San Jose CA
- » “Water, Energy, and Land Use Planning” | 2007 Sierra Nevada Alliance Conference | Kings Beach CA
- » “Planning for Tomorrow’s Healthy Communities” | 2007 APA National Conference | Philadelphia PA