MICHAEL GIBBONS

SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER

Michael Gibbons is a Senior Project Manager at Mintier Harnish, where he leads long-range land use planning projects across California. With expertise in general plan updates, zoning and development regulations, regulatory compliance, environmental planning, and public policy, Michael manages multi-faceted projects that require strong leadership and organization. His skill set includes policy drafting, subdivision design, design standards and guidelines, community outreach, and applying Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.

Michael has a unique perspective having worked as a planner in both the private and public sector, as well as serving as a police officer. Through this lens, Michael understands the inner workings of local government and the important role that planning has in addressing the ever-changing needs of communities. Michael's work is driven by his hands-on experience in all levels of land use planning and a passion for quality design and community engagement.

Michael's project management approach emphasizes clear goal setting, strong leadership, and proactive problem-solving. He ensures project efficiency through structured timelines and deliverables while leveraging his extensive experience to guide his projects. Michael balances legal consistency with the flexibility needed for jurisdictions to address unique challenges. His ability to integrate community feedback and innovative design strategies has led to award-winning projects, including the Kerman General Plan (2022 San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Award and 2021 California APA Small Jurisdiction Award), 2040 Gilroy General Plan Update (2021 Northern California Chapter APA Award), Visalia Environmental Justice Element (2025 Central California APA Section), Award Lodi Environmental Justice Element (2024 Sacramento Valley Section APA Best Practices Award), and City of Reedley Zoning Code (2025 Central California APA Section).

Michael began his career as an Assistant Planner for the City of Napa, gaining foundational experience in local government planning. He then served as a City of Napa Police Officer, enhancing his understanding of community safety and public service. In 2019, he transitioned back into planning as a Planner at Mintier Harnish. Since then, Michael has grown into a pivotal leadership role, co-leading the firm's zoning practice and serving as the Intern Coordinator, where he mentors and supports emerging professionals in the field.

Michael is a graduate of California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly), where he earned a Bachelor's degree in City and Regional Planning, graduating with honors. He also holds an Associate of Science in Mathematics with a concentration in Architecture from Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in City and Regional Planning
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

Associate of Science in Mathematics with a Concentration in Architecture
Cuesta College, San Luis Obispo

California Peace Officer Standards and Training Certificate
Napa Valley Police Academy, Napa

AFFILIATIONS

American Planning Association, Sacramento Valley Section

EXPERIENCE

Mintier Harnish
Project Manager, Associate, Planner, Intern

City of Napa
Police Officer

City of Napa
Assistant Planner

PROJECTS

General Plans for the Cities of Arroyo Grande, American Canyon, Bakersfield, Gilroy, Livingston, Lompoc, Los Gatos, Merced, Pleasant Hill, Reedley, Rohnert Park, San Ramon, Solvang, Susanville, Visalia, and the Counties of Kern, Siskiyou, and Trinity

Zoning Ordinances/Codes for the Cities of Arroyo Grande, Cathedral City, Folsom, Gilroy, Kerman, Pleasant Hill, Reedley, Santa Ana, Santa Clara, Selma, Town of Windsor, Visalia, and the Counties of Calaveras, Madera, Mariposa, Sierra, Siskiyou, and Trinity

Objective Design and Development Standards for the Cities of Susanville, Reedley, Hayward, Kerman, Town of Windsor, and Counties of El Dorado, and Madera

Additional Projects:
San Joaquin Valley REAP Housing Study,
SJV REAP Small-lot Housing Study

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