



# NIKKI ZANCHETTA

## PLANNER

### EDUCATION

**Master of City Planning**  
San Diego State University

**Bachelor of Science in Community  
& Regional Development**  
University of California, Davis

**Minor in Professional Writing**  
University of California, Davis

### AFFILIATIONS

American Planning Association,  
Sacramento Valley Section

### EXPERIENCE

**Mintier Harnish**  
Planner

**San Diego Association of  
Governments (SANDAG)**  
Regional Planner

**San Diego Association of  
Governments (SANDAG)**  
Regional Planning Intern

### PROJECTS

General Plan Update for the cities of  
Millbrae and Solvang, Trinity County

Housing Elements for the Cities of Lompoc,  
St. Helena, and Visalia

Nikki Zanchetta is a Planner with Mintier Harnish. She specializes in housing policy and planning, community development, community engagement, public policy, regional planning, and land use planning. Prior to working for Mintier Harnish, Nikki was a Regional Planner for the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) where she worked on the 2021 San Diego Regional Plan and standing up the Housing Acceleration Program developed using Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Grant funding from the state. Her experience includes Sustainable Communities Strategies, interpreting housing policy and law, drafting housing and land use documents, community engagement, and creating regional programs to accelerate the production of affordable housing. Nikki has a strong background in writing both technical and public facing planning documents and emphasizes writing styles that allow complicated planning concepts to be easily understandable by various audiences. As a regional planner at SANDAG she was the lead drafter of the Housing Acceleration Program Strategy for the San Diego region, various sections of the 2021 Regional Plan, and public comment responses regarding the Regional Plan.

Nikki is an advocate of place-based planning strategies and building walkable, bikeable, and sustainable communities. She believes that communities can implement higher density housing to meet housing needs while maintaining unique community character.

Nikki holds a Master's degree in City Planning from San Diego State University where she served as the City Planning Student Association and was the recipient of the 2021 California Planning Foundation San Diego Section Scholarship, the 2021 WTS Paulette Duve Memorial Scholarship, and the 2020 San Diego APA Student Scholarship. Nikki also received a Bachelor's Degree in Community & Regional Development and Minor in Professional Writing from UC Davis.