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 (Board Member and YEP Subcommittee Member)

EXPERIENCE

Mintier Harnish
Associate; Planner

San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)
Regional Planner

San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)
Regional Planning Intern

PROJECTS

General Plans for the cities of Arroyo Grande, Millbrae, Pleasant Hill, San Ramon, and Solvang, and the County of Trinity

6th Cycle Housing Elements for the Cities of Lompoc, St. Helena, and Visalia, and the County of Madera

Environmental Justice Elements for the Cities of Lodi, Lompoc, and Visalia

Objective Design and Development Standards for the Cities of Hayward, Susanville, and Visalia, and Counties of Del Norte and El Dorado

Zoning Ordinances/Codes for the Cities of Arroyo Grande, Pleasant Hill, and Reedley, and the County of Trinity

Additional Projects:
Fairmead Community Action Plan

nikki@mintierharnish.com

NIKKI ZANCHETTA

ASSOCIATE PLANNER

Nikki Zanchetta is an Associate Planner with Mintier Harnish. She specializes in housing policy and planning, community development, community engagement, environmental justice, objective design and development standards, 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 Bachelor's Degree in Community & Regional Development and Minor in Professional Writing from UC Davis, as well as a Master's degree in City Planning from San Diego State University. While at SDSU, 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 is currently an active member of the Sacramento Valley Section (SVSAPA) of the California APA where she serves as a board member as well as a Program Coordinator for the SVSAPA Young and Emerging Planners (YEP) group.

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