



SHUTE  
MIHALY &  
WEINBERGER  
LLP

**PROPOSAL**

Mendocino City Community  
Services District - Legal  
Services

*March 18, 2024*

Joseph "Seph" Petta  
Vaneeta Chintamaneni  
Ellison Folk  
Edward Schexnayder  
Matthew Zinn

Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP  
396 Hayes Street  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
Phone: (415) 552-7272 x260  
Fax: (415) 552-5816  
[petta@smwlaw.com](mailto:petta@smwlaw.com)

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Joseph "Seph" Petta | Attorney | petta@smwlaw.com  
396 Hayes Street | San Francisco, California 94102  
T: (415) 552-7272 | F: (415) 552-5816 | smwlaw.com

March 18, 2024

*Via E-mail*

Ryan Rhoades, Mendocino City Community Services District Superintendent  
[mccsd@mcn.org](mailto:mccsd@mcn.org)

**Re: MCCSD Legal Services Proposal - Response to Request for Qualifications**

Dear Mr. Rhoades:

We are pleased to submit Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP's (SMW) proposal for Legal Counsel Services for the Mendocino City Community Services District (MCCSD). SMW is ideally suited to serve as General Counsel for MCCSD. Since the Firm's founding in 1980, we have represented public and non-profit clients on virtually all areas of municipal and public agency law. We bring unparalleled public agency expertise to the table, and we propose to do so at affordable rates. Significantly, SMW currently represents several park and recreation districts, serving as General Counsel to the Highlands Recreation District, the Ladera Recreation District (both of which are Community Services Districts under state law), and the Pleasant Hill Recreation and Park District. SMW also serves as City Attorney for the Cities of Saratoga, Orinda, Half Moon Bay, and Marina, and as Interim Town Attorney for the Town of Portola Valley.

Under this proposal, SMW Partner Joseph "Seph" Petta would serve as lead General Counsel. Seph is a highly experienced government attorney who currently serves as General Counsel for the Ladera Recreation District and Deputy City Attorney for the City of Marina, and who has previously served as Assistant City Attorney for the City of Cupertino and a Deputy City Attorney for the City of Half Moon Bay. Through his representation of the Alameda County Waste Management Authority, Seph also has a deep knowledge of governance and jurisdictional issues associated with Joint Powers Authorities, solid waste law, and Proposition 218 implementation and litigation. As outside counsel to the East Bay Regional Parks District, Seph has experience in legal issues related to managing public open space.

A team of attorneys with substantial experience in water law and public agency representation would serve as backup to Mr. Petta and assist on water issues: Of Counsel Vaneeta Chintamaneni and SMW Partners Ellison Folk, Edward Schexnayder, and Matt Zinn. The team would draw on its expertise in Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), groundwater adjudications and water rights, issues associated with wastewater treatment plants, and water quality laws to assist MCCSD with its ongoing water challenges. Together, this team could provide MCCSD with expertise on nearly all the areas requested in the RFQ.

Other members of the Firm could lend their expertise to special projects and assist in litigation if the need arises. SMW will provide prompt responses to day-to-day legal issues that arise in the course of MCCSD's business; stay on or below budget by carefully avoiding overstaffing and duplicative work, and adjusting work assignments to take advantage of attorneys with lower billing rates whenever possible; and utilize the fact that we represent, as general or special counsel, many public agencies and can spread the cost of preparing legislative and other reports over many clients. We would find it particularly rewarding to work with MCCSD as it implements its strategic goals and carries out its important mission.

This proposal provides an overview of the Firm, summarizes the relevant experience of our attorneys, and offers our proposed rates, references, and other requested information. We will of course be happy to work with you to further tailor our proposal to meet MCCSD's needs.

Very truly yours,

SHUTE, MIHALY & WEINBERGER LLP



Seph Petta

**PROPOSAL FOR LEGAL COUNSEL SERVICES****1b. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

SMW is California's preeminent public agency, land use, environmental law, and renewable energy law firm. The Firm was founded in 1980 by three former members of the state Attorney General's office. Our first case was a unanimous decision from the U.S. Supreme Court in *Agins v. Tiburon*, 447 U.S. 255 (1980), which upheld the ability of cities and counties to protect open space. Since that time, the Firm has achieved an exceptional record of victories in the U.S. and California Supreme Courts, in lower federal and state courts, and before a wide range of state and federal administrative agencies. Outside of court, we have brought our clients success in a variety of complex, and often highly controversial, matters.

As city/town attorney to four cities and counsel to dozens of other cities and special districts, SMW's 41 lawyers and two urban planners have considerable experience with the issues MCCSD confronts daily. We provide advice, requested research, and written documents on time and in a budget conscious way. We enjoy working with our clients, and structure our representation to meet client needs and desires. MCCSD will benefit from our Firm's in-house store of knowledge and experience gained through years of representing public agencies. In other words, we will not be "reinventing the wheel" – and we can thus provide services efficiently and cost-effectively. Together, this team would provide MCCSD with expertise in virtually all areas requested in the RFQ. Additionally, the Firm has traditionally subcontracted with a labor/employment law firm to advise on personnel issues as well as on labor and employment concerns.

The Firm is located in San Francisco. Currently, SMW has 41 attorneys: 15 junior attorneys (fellows and associates) with one to seven years of experience; five "of counsel" attorneys; and 21 partners with 10 years to over 30 years of experience. SMW also has two full-time urban planners on staff who provide assistance to our clients. Key to the Firm's success is also our excellent staff, which includes six legal secretaries and two paralegals. SMW has ample capacity to provide MCCSD with timely, responsive, and high quality legal services.

SMW's certifications and qualifications include:

- The Firm is majority women-owned and it is certified as both a green business and a small business enterprise.
- The Firm's attorneys have won ten prestigious "California Lawyer Attorney of the Year" (CLAY) Awards, including three in 2020.
- All attorneys proposed to provide services pursuant to this proposal are licensed to practice law in the State of California. State Bar Numbers and license status can be accessed at:  
<https://apps.calbar.ca.gov/attorney/LicenseeSearch/QuickSearch>.

**1c. STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS**

The Firm's relevant experience and qualifications are below. For Seph's and other proposed Firm members' resume/curriculum vitae, please see Biographies in the Appendix.

**Scope of Services & Areas of Expertise**

Since 1980, SMW has specialized in government, environmental law, land use, and renewable energy in California. We provide California public agencies, non-profits, tribes, and community groups with the highest quality legal representation, offering an array of litigation, regulatory, counseling, and planning services, including the following:

1. Public Law. SMW serves as general counsel and city attorney for many California jurisdictions. Currently, we are city attorney for four cities (Saratoga, Orinda, Half Moon Bay, and Marina). We are also general counsel to several joint powers authorities, including the Alameda County Waste Management Authority, the Contra Costa County Solid Waste Authority, and the Transbay Joint Powers Authority, established to develop the Transbay Terminal in San Francisco. Additionally, the Firm serves as general counsel and special counsel to various other cities and counties, joint powers authorities, and special districts.

In these capacities, as well as in our representation of other public agencies across the state, we regularly advise clients on the California Tort Claims Act, Brown Act, Bagley-Keene Act, California Public Records Act, ethics and conflict-of-interest requirements, and general liability issues. When requested, we provide engaging and highly relevant training tailored to our public agency clients. We also regularly draft, review, and prepare for adoption legal opinions, contracts, memoranda of understanding and other agreements, resolutions, policies/procedures, and code updates.

2. Water and Wastewater Law. The firm represents public agencies on a variety of water issues, both in and out of court. SMW attorneys have experience handling groundwater adjudications, defending Groundwater Sustainability Plans, advising water districts in matters involving easement agreements and the interpretation and application of the state Water Code, assisting a water district in its acquisition of a local water system, and negotiating and implementing improvement and operating agreements for wastewater (sanitary and storm) infrastructure, as well as the accompanying property/access agreements (licenses, easements, etc.):
  - The Firm represented the Fox Canyon Groundwater Agency in a groundwater adjudication and challenge to Fox Canyon's Groundwater Sustainability Plan. SMW has handled all trial court proceedings for the matter and coordinated with numerous parties to promote sustainable management of the basin.

- The Firm represents Stanislaus County in ongoing litigation defending coordinated Groundwater Sustainability Plans adopted under SGMA.
- The Firm has represented the Monterey Peninsula Water District as lead counsel in three lawsuits involving acquisition of a private water utility, and successfully challenged denial of an application to provide water service. The Firm also defended the District in litigation challenging its authority to regulate groundwater withdrawals and to deny a water distribution permit in its jurisdiction.
- The Firm represented the City of Livermore in negotiating and drafting an agreement for the lease of wastewater capacity to a services district that provides sewage treatment and disposal services to a neighboring community. The Firm also represented the cities of Livermore and Pleasanton in connection with comprehensive revisions to the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) for the Livermore-Amador Valley Water Management Agency. The Agency operates wastewater disposal facilities for three cities in eastern Alameda County and a portion of a fourth city in Contra Costa County. The revised JPA provides for the repair of an existing pipeline and expansion of the wastewater disposal system to meet the planned growth of the member communities. The Firm also assisted in the preparation of environmental documentation and other agreements, permits and documentation required for implementation of the project.
- The Firm advised Sacramento County and other parties to the landmark Water Forum Agreement to achieve the coequal objectives of providing a reliable and safe water supply for the Sacramento region's economic health and planned development to the year 2030 and preserving the fishery, wildlife, recreational, and aesthetic values of the Lower American River. The Firm advised on complex CEQA issues including water supply modeling, fisheries, and cumulative impacts, and assisted project facilitators in responding to legal inquiries from project stakeholders.
- The Firm advises the City of Half Moon Bay on numerous issues arising from its municipal sewer collections system and the treatment plant operated by Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside (SAM), of which Half Moon Bay is a member. The Firm has drafted collections agreements, negotiated easements for sewer infrastructure, drafted ordinances regarding sewer collections and the City's fats, oils and grease (FOG) program, and collaborated with SAM on its non-domestic source control program.
- Following sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) events, the Firm managed outside counsel to negotiate a successful Settlement Agreement and Stipulation for Entry of Administrative Civil Liability Order with the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, and the City of Half Moon Bay.

- The Firm has drafted several kinds of sewer agreements between public entities and sewer districts. For example, the Firm represented the Tamalpais Community Services District in its negotiations with Sausalito-Marin County Sanitation District over an agreement for wastewater collection, treatment and disposal.
3. Real Estate Law. SMW guides several public agencies in large development projects of different types. The Firm's work often begins with land assembly, generally either through negotiating complex agreements with state and local agencies or through leading eminent domain processes and the subsequent litigation or purchase negotiations. Both of these paths involve extensive work on appraisal, title issues, and the negotiation of purchase or exchange agreements. SMW attorneys also implement such agreements through complex closings, often involving clearing difficult title exceptions. These projects frequently involve construction-period leases and licenses and long-term ground leases for development; the Firm advises on such leases and has additionally negotiated leases for many other landowner public agencies, and provides advice to such lessors on ongoing tenant and land-management issues.

The Firm represents public agency clients in connection with complex property and facilities management issues. The Firm has advised the Alameda County Waste Management Authority (ACWMA) regarding the acquisition and management of the hundreds of acres of rangeland owned by ACWMA for reserve landfill capacity, habitat protection, and demonstration rangeland management. SMW has provided advice regarding the bidding process for leases and licenses, drafted and provided advice regarding grazing leases, and negotiated and drafted residential leases and leases with Sprint/Nextel, T-Mobile and Comcast. The Firm has also advised ACWMA on use of its property for habitat mitigation, and negotiated conservation easements, endowments, and other related agreements to ensure the agency can effectively use and manage its mitigation property. The Firm also provided advice and negotiated the resolution of a boundary dispute with one of the agency's neighboring property owners.

4. Public Contracting and Construction. As city attorneys for several Bay Area cities and general and special counsel to other public agencies, SMW has experience with ensuring compliance with both state and federal requirements related to public contracting. The Firm also has experience advising community organizations who receive federal and state grants on procurement requirements.

SMW adopts a pragmatic, problem-solving approach and works with agency staff in a proactive manner to streamline legal review and risk management. The Firm regularly updates public agency documents such as model contracts for services and construction, waivers/releases, insurance requirements, and indemnity agreements. We advise our clients on legal issues related to insurance coverage, and we are frequently called on to help clients supervise counsel retained by public agency insurance pools to ensure the representation provided is appropriate.



SMW has represented public agencies in contract disputes including litigation to enforce public contracts. This experience includes advising agencies on:

- Bid protest procedures and successful resolution of bid protests. Specifically, the Firm routinely advises clients with respect to implementation and refinement of bid protest procedures to ensure best practices and minimize litigation risk. The Firm has successfully resolved numerous bid protests without litigation.
- Bid relief, changes to subcontractors, and change orders.
- Public works projects undertaken in cooperation with other agencies.

5. Litigation, Settlements & Supervision of Special Counsel. The Firm takes pride in the fact that we frequently are able to achieve excellent outcomes for our clients without the need for any court proceedings, even where litigation was initially thought to be inevitable.

Where litigation is unavoidable, the Firm has frequently represented public agencies in a range of practice areas in both state and federal courts. SMW attorneys are experienced and effective litigators, both bringing and defending lawsuits on behalf of public agencies, and supervising outside counsel. The Firm is known for cutting-edge litigation to implement critical public policy objectives. Representative examples of the Firm's litigation experience include:

- The Firm defended the East Bay Regional Park District in a lawsuit challenging its approval of an MOU allowing safety-related tree removal for gas pipelines. The Park District prevailed on demurrer at the trial court and on appeal against multiple arguments. In a question of first impression, the Firm successfully argued that the Park District's enabling legislation granted it the authority to independently manage its resources on park property. The appellate action resulted in the published decision of *Save Lafayette Trees v. East Bay Regional Park District* (2021) 66 Cal.App.5th 21.
- The Firm successfully defended ACWMA against a CEQA lawsuit challenging an amendment to its Waste Management Plan on grounds that a recycling and composting project addressed in the amendment had changed since it was first approved. The court held that the project had not significantly changed in a manner that required additional environmental review. *Stein v. Alameda Cty. Waste Mgmt. Auth.*, 2020 WL 4745561 (unpublished).
- The Firm represents public agencies in a wide variety of eminent domain actions to conserve natural areas, provide flood control, create parks, and acquire rights-of-way for public transit and public utilities.

In its role as agency counsel, the Firm also has experience overseeing special counsel from other firms.

6. Labor Compliance. Related to its practice in advising public agencies and community organizations on public contracting, the Firm provides advice related

to complying with state and federal labor standards. The Firm also has experience with serving as counsel to investigatory bodies conducting contractor compliance investigations after receiving complaints of labor code violations related to prevailing wage.

7. Municipal Finance. SMW advises public agencies on mechanisms for bridging the public funding gap resulting from Propositions 13, 218, and 26 and a sharp decline in financial assistance to local agencies. The Firm has broad expertise in studies to demonstrate the need for development impact fees and regulatory fees, drafting fee and tax legislation, defending challenges to these programs in the courts, and establishing assessment and Mello-Roos Community Facilities Districts.

For example, the Firm recently assisted the City of Half Moon Bay with its Proposition 218 process for its 2020 sewer rate adjustments and has helped other clients including ACWMA adopt and defend property-related fees under Proposition 2018. The Firm also provides its clients with analysis of the scope of various exceptions to the definition of “taxes” in Proposition 26 to facilitates those agencies’ adoption of new fees.

The Firm has successfully defended litigation against ACWMA, challenging its annual Household Hazardous Waste fee as an illegal assessment under Proposition 218. *Crawley v. Alameda Cty. Waste Mgmt. Auth.* (2015) 243 Cal.App.4th 396.

8. Land Use Planning & Development Applications. SMW advises several former redevelopment agencies regarding major housing/mixed-use projects on former military bases in the Bay Area. In addition to land assembly (described in connection Real Estate Law above), the Firm assists these agencies in initial entitlements by negotiating land exchange agreements and needed authorizing legislation with State agencies in order to remove and reconfigure Statute-level land use controls. In these early entitlement stages, SMW also advises on permitting from State and regional agencies and on disposition and development agreements. SMW attorneys then lead agency teams in the complex subdivision mapping processes for these long-term developments, which generally include public improvement agreements, major encroachment permits, street vacations and dedications, grants of easements, and further local land use actions. For this comprehensive approach, SMW draws on an integrated expertise in land use and real property law and practice.

9. Election Law. The Firm is well versed in the requirements of the Elections Code and advises both community group clients and cities on election law matters, including:

- Drafting tax and other revenue measures to help finance a range of important governmental purposes.
- Advising regarding redistricting.

- Advising cities and special districts on complying with restrictions on the use of public funds during elections.
  - Representing community group clients as proponents of initiative and referenda petitions.
  - Advising cities on processing referendum and initiative petitions.
10. Asset and Facilities Management. The Firm represents public agency clients in connection with complex property and facilities management. As City Attorney for the Cities of Saratoga, Orinda, Half Moon Bay, and Marina, the Firm advises on matters affecting real property and facilities owned by the cities. These include drafting and reviewing leases, easements, and other property related agreements with private parties and other government agencies as well as representing the cities in disputes concerning public property. We also advise regarding compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
11. Code Enforcement. SMW regularly assists its public agency clients in code enforcement. This work has included advising on enforcement avenues (e.g., administrative fines versus criminal enforcement versus abatement) and responding to administrative appeals. The Firm has assisted its clients in obtaining inspection and abatement warrants. SMW also assists public agencies in revising their codes to improve the code enforcement process and ensure compliance with the latest changes in applicable state law.
12. Environmental Law. Environmental law, including California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), has been at the core of SMW's practice since it was founded in 1980. SMW has been involved in major updates to and litigation under CEQA, enabling the Firm to provide in-depth advice regarding CEQA compliance and litigation.
- SMW assists public agencies in all aspects of the administrative process, including determining the proper scope of environmental review, reviewing drafts of CEQA and NEPA documents, preparing and reviewing responses to comments, and advising agencies on the approval process. The Firm also regularly engages in CEQA/NEPA litigation on behalf of public agencies, including CEQA defense and prosecution.
13. Takings Law. Property owners often allege that land use and environmental regulations give rise to an unconstitutional "taking" of their property, requiring the regulating entity to pay monetary compensation. SMW is California's premier firm in defending public entities in regulatory takings litigation. We have successfully litigated dozens of cases involving takings and related challenges, including equal protection and due process challenges. The Firm also advises public entities on how to minimize takings exposure in regulatory and permitting decisions and assists public entities with nexus studies to support proposed regulations and exactions.
14. Coastal Act. The Firm has extensive Coastal Act experience, particularly with respect to the City of Half Moon Bay, which is located entirely within the Coastal

Zone. The Firm advised the City of Half Moon Bay on its Local Coastal Land Use Plan Update, which was certified by the California Coastal Commission in 2021. The Firm routinely advises Half Moon Bay with respect to amendments to its Local Coastal Program to address matters such as short term rentals, accessory dwelling units, and other zoning matters. The Firm also advises on coastal development permits and appeals, blufftop erosion, and climate adaptation strategies.

### **Proposed Principal Counsel**

We propose that Seph Petta serve as lead counsel. Vaneeta Chintamaneni, Ellison Folk, Matt Zinn, and Edward Schexnayder would serve as backup and provide assistance on water issues as they arise. Seph would attend Board and staff meetings primarily virtually, though he would attend in person when requested. Seph and others on the team regularly appear for public meetings and court proceedings remotely, and could assist MCCSD with its remote hearing process. We would also be readily available by phone and email for all client matters.

**Seph** joined the Firm in 2012. His practice focuses on representation of public agencies and environmental groups in CEQA litigation and municipal, real estate, and land use law. During the past eleven years with SMW, Seph has regularly advised and provided transactional services to the Firm's municipal clients including the cities of Cupertino, Half Moon Bay, Orinda, and El Segundo, as well as the Firm's other public agency clients, including the Alameda County Waste Management Authority and the San Francisco Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure. Seph serves as general counsel to the Ladera Recreation District in San Mateo County and Deputy City Attorney to the City of Marina.

Seph's practice includes litigation under state planning and zoning law, land assembly and entitlement processes, and easement drafting and enforcement. He has also represented clients in proceedings before multiple state public utility commissions. He is accustomed to working with outside attorneys separately retained by public agencies as needed on issues such as employment law.

See Biography in the Appendix for additional qualifications and State Bar number.

### **Additional Support**

The following SMW attorneys would provide backup and additional support on water issues identified in the RFQ. Other SMW attorneys and staff would also be available to assist as needed to provide the requested legal services. SMW prides itself on providing its clients with a "deep bench" of experienced and responsive attorneys available as needed.

**Vaneeta Chintamaneni** joined the Firm in 2023 as Of Counsel. Ms. Chintamaneni represents public agencies in litigation involving the Coastal Act, takings, constitutional issues, and land use and environmental claims. Prior to joining the Firm, Ms. Chintamaneni was a senior attorney at the State Water Resources Control Board's Office of Enforcement for several years, where she prosecuted violations of state and federal

water quality laws and related permits; assisted with development of enforcement policies and priorities; and coordinated with other state agencies on environmental enforcement. Prior to her role at the Water Board, Ms. Chintamaneni was an attorney at large- and mid-size firms in San Francisco, where she handled matters involving a wide range of environmental and natural resource issues and litigated in state and federal court.

**Ellison Folk** joined SMW in 1990 and is a partner with the firm. Ms. Folk represents public agencies and environmental organizations on a wide range of environmental, land use, and public law issues, including CEQA, water rights and water law, the California Coastal Act, and general plan and zoning law. Ms. Folk also advises and defends public agencies in litigation raising takings and related constitutional challenges to land use and environmental regulations.

**Matt Zinn** joined the Firm in 2001 and is now a partner. He represents public agencies and environmental organizations, primarily in litigation. His practice focuses on defending environmental, land use, housing, and other areas of public regulation against constitutional and administrative law challenges.

**Edward Schexnayder** joined SMW in 2012 and is a Partner with the Firm. Mr. Schexnayder's practice includes representing public agencies, non-profit organizations, and community groups in government, environmental, and land use matters. His practice areas include litigation, local ordinance compliance, inverse condemnation and takings, and administrative proceedings before the state and local regulatory agencies.

See Biographies in the Appendix for additional qualifications and State Bar numbers.

## 2a. REFERENCES

Agency/Special District	Contact Information
<p><b>Timothy Burroughs</b> Executive Director Alameda County Waste Management Authority</p>	<p>1537 Webster Street Oakland, CA 94612 Phone: 510-891-6500 Email: <a href="mailto:tburroughs@stopwaste.org">tburroughs@stopwaste.org</a></p>
<p>2018-present. Seph serves as backup to the Authority's general counsel, and provides assistance with public agency laws and litigation, with a particular focus on Proposition 218 and enforcement of the Authority's solid waste ordinances.</p>	
<p><b>Benjamin Fu</b> Director, Community Development Department City of Cupertino</p>	<p>10300 Torre Ave. Cupertino, CA 95014 Phone: 408-777-3247 Email: <a href="mailto:benjaminf@cupertino.org">benjaminf@cupertino.org</a></p>
<p>2002-present. The Firm formerly represented the City of Cupertino as City Attorney, with Seph serving for 2+ years as Assistant City Attorney and providing guidance on public agency laws. The Firm continues to represent the City in litigation.</p>	

Agency/Special District	Contact Information
<b>Tom Boze</b> Stanislaus County Counsel	1010 10th Street #6400 Modesto, CA 95354 Phone: 209-525-6376 Email: <a href="mailto:bozet@stancounty.com">bozet@stancounty.com</a>
2008-present. Matt Zinn has represented Stanislaus County in groundwater permitting proceedings and in SGMA litigation.	
<b>Alberto Boada</b> <b>Jason Canger</b> Ventura County Counsel	800 So. Victoria Avenue Ventura, California 93009 Phone: 805-654-2578 Email: <a href="mailto:Alberto.Boada@ventura.org">Alberto.Boada@ventura.org</a> , <a href="mailto:Jason.Canger@ventura.org">Jason.Canger@ventura.org</a>
April 2023-present. Ellison Folk represents the Fox Canyon Groundwater Agency in a groundwater adjudication and challenge to the Fox Canyon’s Groundwater Sustainability Plan. <i>OPV Coalition v. Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency</i> , VENC100555357.	
<b>Dave Laredo</b> General Counsel Monterey Peninsula Water Management District	606 Forest Ave. Pacific Grove, CA 93950 Phone: 831-646-1502 Email: <a href="mailto:dave@laredolaw.net">dave@laredolaw.net</a>
2020-present. Edward Schexnayder represents the District as special counsel in three lawsuits involving the acquisition of a private water utility.	

**2b. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST/PUBLIC AGENCIES OR PRIVATE CLIENTS**

The Firm represents Friends of the Eel River, California Trout, and Trout Unlimited. It has represented these clients in proceedings before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission related to the Potter Valley Project. Based on information known to us at this time, these clients do not appear to be adverse to MCCSD, but additional discussions may be needed to determine whether a current or potential conflict exists.

**2c. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST/INTERNAL CONTROLS & PROCEDURES**

The Firm will act in accordance with the State Bar Rules of Professional Conduct and its internal ethics procedures by seeking a written waiver of such conflict or by other appropriate action. The Firm has in the past obtained such written conflict waivers from environmental organizations or public agencies in instances when the Rules of Professional Conduct indicate that a waiver is required. The Firm also has a robust client intake and conflict-check process to ensure that any actual or potential conflicts of interest—or appearance of impropriety—are identified before the Firm agrees to undertake representation of current or potential new clients on any matters. In the event of a conflict, the Firm also takes appropriate measures, such as ensuring an effective ethical screen is in place.

**2d. SUBCONSULTANTS**

From time to time, the Firm engages litigation support subcontractors, primarily for document production and review. The Firm has a relationship with a labor/employment law firm to advise on personnel issues as well as on labor and employment concerns. In appropriate cases, the Firm also engages experts and consultants on behalf of Firm clients, in consultation with those clients.

**2e. FEE SCHEDULE**

SMW proposes to represent MCCSD at these hourly rates, which reflect our Firm's discounted rates for municipal and public agency clients.

<b>Timekeeper</b>	<b>General (Non-Litigation) Services</b>	<b>Litigation Services</b>
<i>Partner</i>	\$340	\$400
<i>Associate III</i>	\$315	\$370
<i>Associate II</i>	\$300	\$355
<i>Associate I</i>	\$285	\$335
<i>Planner</i>	\$285	\$335
<i>Paralegal</i>	\$215	\$255
<i>Law Clerk</i>	\$170	\$200

Although the above hourly rate structure is our preference, the Firm is open to discussing a monthly retainer billing arrangement based on MCCSD's estimated hours of legal services per month.

We would provide monthly billing statements that describe in detail the services provided, including the number of hours worked by each attorney. Beginning in January 2025, the Firm would annually increase these billing rates consistent with any annual increase in the Consumer Price Index.

Our Firm uses advanced billing software that tracks time billed to the tenth of an hour in real time, which allows the contract staff to remain aware of progress on the budget and avoid overruns. We will coordinate with MCCSD staff to identify milestones where we will notify it of budget consumption for a given time period (for example, providing notification that we have consumed a certain percentage of a monthly budget) or project.

The Firm would charge the following direct costs to MCCSD at cost to the Firm, unless otherwise indicated: messenger services, postage and overnight delivery services, large photocopying or color copies (\$.10/page), pro-rata share of Firm's flat-rate online legal research subscription, Westlaw (charged based on actual usage for District projects), and litigation costs.

The Firm would bear all expenses related to support staff, general overhead, continuing legal education and attendance at public agency/municipal-law functions.

The Firm would render services in an efficient and cost-effective manner and would staff meetings, hearings, and court proceedings only as absolutely necessary. Because the Firm has extensive experience as counsel for public agencies, the Firm is sensitive to the budget constraints of public agencies and is skilled at providing high quality legal services to these agencies at a reasonable cost.

**2f. BUSINESS INFORMATION**

i.	Years in business	44; the Firm was founded in 1980.
ii.	Years at local address	44; the Firm was founded in 1980 at its current address: 396 Hayes St. San Francisco, CA 94102
iii.	Business licenses number/type	1 license: Professional Legal Services.
iv.	Names/titles of Firm officers	Richard Taylor, Managing Partner Brian Nervis, Firm Administrator
v.	Firm dbas	The Firm has not conducted business under any other names.
vi.	Name of sole proprietor, if any	N/A.
vii.	Type and jurisdiction of incorporation	The Firm is a limited liability partnership.
viii.	Federal tax ID number	94-2647744
ix.	Name/address for remittances	Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP 396 Hayes St. San Francisco, CA 94102
x.	Office location for key staff	Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP 396 Hayes St. San Francisco, CA 94102

**3. EXCEPTIONS TO STANDARD LEGAL SERVICES AGREEMENT**

SMW notes the following exceptions to the sample contract:

Section	Excepted Language	Requested Change
11	Consultant Termination	The Firm must be able to withdraw from representation as required by the State Bar of California's Rules of Professional Conduct.  This modification can be achieved by simply additionally allowing termination consistent with the State Bar of California's Rules of Professional Conduct.



<b>Section</b>	<b>Excepted Language</b>	<b>Requested Change</b>
15	Conflict of Interest Provision	<p>The Firm requests that in the event that an officer or employee who does not actively work on the matter acquires a financial or property interest, the Firm be allowed to take appropriate measures to address the conflict (i.e., ethical wall).</p> <p>We are able to provide, and willing to negotiate, additional language to add to the conflict of interest provision that would include this modification.</p>
18	Indemnification Provision	<p>We require that our indemnification obligations apply only to the proportionate extent caused by any act or omission of the Firm.</p> <p>We are able to provide, and willing to negotiate, additional language to add to the indemnification provision that would include this modification.</p>

## **APPENDIX A**

BIOGRAPHIES FOR  
SEPH PETTA

VANEETA CHINTAMANENI

ELLISON FOLK

MATTHEW ZINN

EDWARD SCHEXNAYDER

**JOSEPH "SEPH" PETTA**

State Bar Number 286665

Seph Petta is a partner with Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP. He joined the Firm in 2012 after graduating from the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law where he earned a certificate in environmental law. Mr. Petta's practice focuses on representation of public agencies and environmental groups in municipal, real estate and land use law, and CEQA compliance and litigation.

Mr. Petta has regularly advised and provided transactional services to the Firm's municipal clients including the cities of Cupertino, Half Moon Bay, Orinda, and El Segundo, as well as the Firm's other public agency clients, including the Alameda County Waste Management Authority and the San Francisco Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure. Mr. Petta serves as Assistant City Attorney to the City of Marina, and general counsel to the Ladera Recreation District in San Mateo County. Mr. Petta advises clients on open government laws, including the Brown Act and Public Records Act. He also advises elected and appointed officials on conflict of interest laws.

Mr. Petta also represents environmental groups in their efforts to protect open space, quality of life, and public health. His practice includes litigation under CEQA, state planning and zoning law, land assembly and entitlement processes, and conservation easement drafting and enforcement. He has also represented clients in proceedings before state public utility commissions.

**PRIMARY PRACTICE AREAS:**

City Attorney & General Counsel Services, Municipal Law, Land Use Planning & Zoning, CEQA Compliance & Litigation

**CAREER HIGHLIGHTS / REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE**

- Serves as Assistant City Attorney to the City of Marina. Advises the City's Planning Commission on development applications, land use regulations, open meeting laws, public contracts, and conflicts of interest.
- Serves as general counsel to the Ladera Recreation District, a special district providing pool, tennis, and other recreational facilities in San Mateo County.
- Previously, served as Assistant City Attorney for the City of Cupertino. Drafted general plan and zoning code amendments and municipal ordinances.
- As Deputy City Attorney to the City of Half Moon Bay, advised the City in connection with temporary and permanent sewer easements to provide City wastewater transport beneath a private golf course property.
- Successfully defended litigation against the Alameda County Waste Management Authority (ACWMA), challenging its annual Household Hazardous Waste fee as an

illegal assessment under Proposition 218. *Crawley v. Alameda Cty. Waste Mgmt. Auth.* (2015) 243 Cal.App.4th 396.

- Successfully defended a landfill corporation's challenge to ACWMA's demand for landfill weight tickets associated with the unreported hauling of solid waste originating in Alameda County. The ruling facilitates recovery of millions of dollars in unpaid landfill fees. *Alameda Cty. Waste Mgmt. Auth. v. Waste Connections US, Inc.* (2021) 67 Cal.App.5th 1162.
- Advised on real estate and public trust matters to further a multi-agency project at the site of former Candlestick Park in San Francisco, which will include substantial affordable housing and redevelop the Candlestick Point State Recreation Area.
- Advises public agency decisionmakers on potential conflicts of interest under the Political Reform Act and common law, and compliance with Brown Act requirements for public meetings and closed sessions.
- Reviews staff reports, resolutions, and findings for agency actions on land use applications.
- Advises municipal and special district clients on CEQA, real estate, and land use matters, and on the imposition of taxes and fees.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE / RECOGNITIONS

- Northern California Super Lawyer Rising Star, 2022.
- Member, League of California Cities' Committee on Attorney Development and Succession.

## PUBLICATIONS / PRESENTATIONS

- Presenter, "'...And Other Duties as Required:' Talking to Non-Clients," League of California Cities, City Attorney Spring Conference, Monterey, CA, May 2023.
- Presenter, "Staffing a Public Meeting: From War Stories to Your Story," League of California Cities, City Attorney Spring Conference, Carlsbad, CA, May 2022.
- Seph Petta, *Remote Meetings under Brown Act*, SMW In the Public Interest (Feb. 21, 2023).
- Mindy Jian and Seph Petta, *Planning for Environmental Justice: Implementing SB 1000*, SMW In the Public Interest (Jul. 26, 2022).
- Benjamin Gonzalez and Seph Petta, *When Does Civic Discourse Cross the Line to Harassment?* SMW in the Public Interest (Apr. 7 2021).
- Seph Petta, *Processing Housing Construction Projects Under State and Local Shelter-in-Place Orders*, SMW in the Public Interest (May 20, 2020).
- Katrina Tomas and Seph Petta, *5 Considerations for Preparation of Administrative Record*, SMW in the Public Interest (Dec. 15, 2020).
- Sky Stanfield, Erica McConnell, and Seph Petta, "A New Frontier: The Interconnection of Energy Storage," Greentech Media (Jan. 4, 2018).

- Sky Stanfield, Seph Petta, et al., Interstate Renewable Energy Council, Inc., *Charging Ahead: An Energy Storage Guide for Policymakers* (Apr. 2017).
- Seph Petta and Catherine Engberg, *GIS Maps Are Fair Game Under State Public Records Law*, Recorder (Apr. 15, 2014).
- Seph Petta, "Funding Public Transit in California After Proposition 26," Public Law Journal (Vol. 36, No. 1, Winter 2013).

### **BAR MEMBERSHIPS**

Member of the Bar of the State of California, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern District and Northern District of California.

### **EDUCATION**

UC Berkeley School of Law, JD, 2012

Georgetown University, BA in English, 2002

**VANEETA CHINTAMANENI**

State Bar Number 303446

Ms. Chintamaneni joined the Firm in 2023 as Of Counsel. Prior to joining the Firm, Ms. Chintamaneni was an attorney at the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) Office of Enforcement, where she prosecuted violations of state and federal water quality laws including the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, Clean Water Act, and related federal and state permits. There, Ms. Chintamaneni led enforcement actions against and handled negotiations with public entities, businesses, and individuals.

Prior to her work at the State Water Board, Ms. Chintamaneni was an attorney at national and regional mid-size firms in San Francisco, where she advised and litigated on behalf of corporations, utilities, individuals, and public entities. Her work focused on environmental and natural resource matters, including the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, Clean Water Act, CERCLA, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, California Environmental Quality Act, state and federal Safe Drinking Water Acts, Clean Air Act, California Fish and Game Code, California Hazardous Waste Control Act, and Proposition 65. Her civil litigation work has included real estate disputes, defending against and filing environmental contamination claims in state and federal court, arbitration regarding the cleanup of hazardous waste sites, and defending against administrative enforcement actions brought by state agencies. Ms. Chintamaneni also has experience analyzing environmental issues in connection with real estate acquisitions.

**PRIMARY PRACTICE AREAS:**

Litigation & Appeals, Real Property Law & Eminent Domain, City Attorney & General Counsel Services, Water

**CAREER HIGHLIGHTS / REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE**

Representative experience includes:

- Represented Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Boards) across the state in administrative enforcement proceedings against public entities, individuals, and businesses for water quality violations under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, Clean Water Act, and related federal and state permits. Enforcement work included investigation and analysis of potential violations, negotiation of settlements, preparation of evidence and legal briefs for administrative proceedings, and representation of Regional Boards at hearings.
- Negotiated settlement agreement with Scotia Community Services District's to resolve violations of effluent limitations at wastewater treatment plant. The violations were resolved for \$93,000 and included a compliance project designed to correct the violations. (In the Matter of: Scotia Community Services District, Administrative Civil Liability Order R1-2022-0029.)

- Negotiated settlement agreement with Desert Water Agency to resolve violations of the Clean Water Act and Sanitary Sewer Systems Waste Discharge Requirements stemming from a sanitary sewer overflow. The violation was resolved for a penalty of \$181,947 and included a supplemental environmental project to improve water quality through installation of a flow meter monitoring and sampling box. (In the Matter of: Desert Water Agency, Administrative Civil Liability Order R7-2022-0012.)
- Represented city in eminent domain action and cross-claims for takings and pre-condemnation damages.
- Successfully represented buyer in real estate litigation at trial, obtaining trial court judgment for specific performance and damages for breach of purchase and sale agreement. (*Pyramid Design LLC et al v. Gerald R. Lowe et al.* (Super. Ct. S.F. City and County, No. CGC14543375).
- Conducted environmental due diligence in potential real estate transactions, examining environmental assessments and regulatory documents.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE / RECOGNITIONS/PUBLICATIONS / PRESENTATIONS

- Endorsements Committee, South Asian Bar Association of Northern California.
- *State Water Board Announces Plan to Investigate PFAS*, Global St. (2019).
- *How Owners Should Prepare for PFAS Investigation*, Global St. (2019).
- Co-author, *Recent Developments in Toxic Torts and Environmental Law*, Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Law Journal (Winter 2016 and Winter 2017).
- *The Unraveling of the American City: Pensions, Municipal Debt, & Chapter 9 Bankruptcy*, University of Illinois Elder Law Journal (Jan. 2015).

### BAR MEMBERSHIPS

Member of the Bars of the State of California and the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

### EDUCATION

University of Illinois College of Law, J.D., Order of the Coif, summa cum laude

University of Illinois, Master of Urban Planning

University of California, Berkeley, B.A. Urban Studies

**ELLISON FOLK**

State Bar Number 149232

Ms. Folk joined Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger in 1990 and is a partner with the firm. Ms. Folk represents public agencies and environmental organizations on a wide range of environmental, land use, and public law issues, including CEQA, water rights and water law, the California Coastal Act, and general plan and zoning law. Ms. Folk also advises and defends public agencies in litigation raising takings and related constitutional challenges to land use and environmental regulations.

**PRIMARY PRACTICE AREAS:**

Litigation & Appeals, CEQA, Regulatory Takings & Other Constitutional Challenges, Water, Energy Siting Proceedings, Land Use Planning & Zoning Law

**CAREER HIGHLIGHTS / REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE**

Representative experience includes:

- Representing the Fox Canyon Groundwater Agency in a groundwater adjudication and challenge to the Fox Canyon's Groundwater Sustainability Plan. *OPV Coalition v. Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency*, VENCI00555357. In connection with this representation, Ms. Folk has handled all trial court proceedings and coordinated with multiple parties to the adjudication in an effort to advance Fox Canyon's interests in ensuring the sustainable management of the basin.
- Representing the Montague Water Conservation District and individual property owners in Siskiyou County on the processing of 1707 petitions to implement a Safe Harbor Agreement for protection of salmonids in the Shasta River. As part of this process, she has advised on matters related to the priority of appropriative and riparian rights, forfeiture, and the most effective mechanism to protect both riparian and appropriative rights and ensure their effective dedication to instream use.
- Representing The Nature Conservancy on a model 1707 petition for the Big Springs Ranch in the Shasta River basin. In connection with this work, the Firm advised TNC on legal mechanisms for modifying an existing water rights adjudication and addressed legal issues related to the impact of the 1701 petition on downstream water rights. Ms. Folk also assisted TNC in resolving protests to the 1707 petition, and it worked with staff at the State Water Quality Control Board on the review of the petition under the California Environmental Quality Act and necessary findings for approval. Through the 1707 petition, TNC was able to change the time and place of use of its water rights to allow for protection of instream uses, in particular, enhancement of habitat for coho salmon, Chinook salmon, and steelhead trout.



- Representing the City of Oxnard before the California Public Utilities Commission and the California Energy Commission its successful effort to oppose the location of a natural gas fired power plant on the beach in Oxnard.
- Defending the Bay Area Air Quality Management District in litigation that resulted in upholding the vast majority of CEQA thresholds of significance adopted by the Air District. *California Building Industry Ass'n. v. Bay Area Air Quality Management District*, 62 Cal.4th 369 (2015).
- Defending the City of Morgan Hill in *Arcadia v. City of Morgan Hill*, 197 Cal. App. 4th 1526 (2011) - an action brought by a developer claiming that the City's land use restrictions violated its right to equal protection.
- Defending the Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District in *Citizens for Responsible Open Space v. San Mateo Local Agency Formation Commission*, 159 Cal. App. 4th 717 (2008).
- Serving as co-counsel representing the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) in defeating a challenge to the agency's comprehensive plan for protection of Lake Tahoe. *Tahoe-Sierra Preservation Council v. TRPA*, 122 S.Ct. 1465 (2002). The case resulted in a precedent-setting ruling from the United States Supreme Court that reasonable delays in land use planning do not result in a taking of property.
- Defending the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District in litigation challenging its authority to regulate groundwater withdrawals and to deny a water distribution permit in its jurisdiction. *Security National Guaranty v. Monterey Peninsula Water Management District* (Monterey County Superior Court, Case No. M51797.)

## COMMUNITY SERVICE / RECOGNITIONS/PUBLICATIONS / PRESENTATIONS

- Frequent speaker and contributor on a range of environmental issues, including CEQA, Takings, and Building Decarbonization.
- Advisor to the Environmental Law Section of the California Lawyers Association.
- Member of the Board of Directors for the Planning and Conservation League
- Co-Chair of the Yosemite Environmental Law Conference (2018).
- Northern California Super Lawyers Recognition each year since 2012.
- Featured in "Lean and Green," California Lawyer's review of up and coming lawyers in California (1997).

## BAR MEMBERSHIPS

Member of the Bars of the State of California, the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, the U.S. Federal Circuit Court of Appeals, and U.S. District Courts for the Northern, Eastern, and Central Districts of California.

## EDUCATION

UC Berkeley School of Law/UC Berkeley College of Environmental Design, JD/Masters in City and Regional Planning, 1990; Ecology Law Quarterly, Notes and Comments editor

**MATTHEW D. ZINN**

State Bar Number 214587

Mr. Zinn joined the Firm in 2001 and is now a partner. He represents public agencies and environmental organizations, primarily in litigation. His practice focuses on defending environmental, land use, housing, and other areas of public regulation against constitutional and administrative law challenges.

**PRIMARY PRACTICE AREAS:**

Litigation & Appeals, Administrative Law, Groundwater, Climate Change & Air Quality, Regulatory Takings and Other Constitutional Challenges to Regulation, Land Use Planning & Zoning

**CAREER HIGHLIGHTS / REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE**

Representative experience includes:

- Defending Stanislaus County's groundwater well-drilling permit program in *Protecting Our Water & Environmental Resources v. County of Stanislaus*, 10 Cal. 5th 479 (2020).
- Defending Alameda County's COVID eviction moratorium in *Williams v. County of Alameda*, 642 F. Supp. 3d 1001 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 22, 2022).
- Defending Alameda County's regulation of billboards in a series of related cases, including *Citizens for Free Speech, LLC v. County of Alameda*, 953 F.3d 655 (9th Cir. 2020).
- In a federal regulatory takings action, achieving *Pullman* abstention to allow a related state eminent domain action to proceed, *Gearing v. City of Half Moon Bay*, 54 F.4th 1144 (9th Cir. 2022).
- Defending the linkage of California's greenhouse gas cap and trade program with Quebec's program in *United States v. California*, 444 F. Supp. 3d 1181 (E.D. Cal. 2020).
- Overturning a regulatory takings jury verdict against the City of Carson's mobile home rent control program in *Colony Cove Properties LLC v. City of Carson*, 888 F.3d 445 (9th Cir. 2018).
- Defending the auction of emission allowances under California's greenhouse gas cap and trade program against a Proposition 13 challenge in *California Chamber of Commerce v. State Air Resources Board*, 10 Cal. App. 5th 604 (2017).
- Defending the South Coast Air Quality Management District's regulation of VOC emissions from paints and coatings in *American Coatings Association v. South Coast Air Quality Management District*, 54 Cal. 4th 446 (2012).
- Defending Stanislaus County's Farmland Mitigation Program in *Building Industry Association of Central California v. County of Stanislaus*, 190 Cal. App. 4th 582 (2010).

**COMMUNITY SERVICE / RECOGNITIONS/PUBLICATIONS / PRESENTATIONS**

- 2024 Northern California Super Lawyer, Environmental Litigation.
- 2013 California Lawyer Attorney of the Year (CLAY) award in environmental law.
- 2019 International Municipal Lawyers Association's Amicus Service Award.
- Knick v. Township of Scott: *A Source of New Uncertainty for State and Local Governments in Regulatory Takings Challenges to Land Use Regulation*, 47 Fordham Urb. L.J. 623 (2020) (with Laura D. Beaton).
- *Adapting to Climate Change: Environmental Law in a Warmer World*, 34 Ecol. L.Q. 61 (2007).
- *Policing Environmental Regulatory Enforcement: Cooperation, Capture, and Citizen Suits*, 21 Stan. Env'tl. L.J. 81 (2002).
- Former member, Board of Directors, Bay Area Ridge Trail Council.

**BAR MEMBERSHIPS**

Member of the State Bar of California; the U.S. District Courts for the Northern, Central, Eastern, and Southern Districts of California; the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Ninth, D.C., and Federal Circuits; and the U.S. Supreme Court.

**EDUCATION**

Law clerk to Hon. John M. Walker, Jr., U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, 2000-01

University of Michigan Law School, JD, 1999, *magna cum laude*

University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability, MS in Natural Resources and Environmental Policy, 1999

UC Santa Cruz, BA in Politics and Sociology, 1994, with honors

**EDWARD SCHEXNAYDER**

State Bar Number 284494

Edward Schexnayder joined Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger in 2012 and is a Partner with the Firm. Mr. Schexnayder's practice includes representing public agencies, non-profit organizations, and community groups in government, environmental, and land use matters. His practice areas include litigation, local ordinance compliance, inverse condemnation and takings, and administrative proceedings before the state and local regulatory agencies.

**PRIMARY PRACTICE AREAS:**

Public Utilities Law, CEQA, Litigation & Appeals, Administrative Law, Statutory & Constitutional Challenges to Regulation, Land Use Planning & Zoning

**CAREER HIGHLIGHTS / REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE**

Representative experience includes:

- Served as lead counsel in *California-American Water Company v. Monterey Peninsula Water Management District*, Monterey County Superior Court Case No. 20CV003201, successfully defending environmental review for acquisition of a local water system.
- Served as lead counsel in *Monterey Peninsula Water Management District v. Local Agency Formation Commission of Monterey County*, Monterey County Superior Court Case No. 22CV000925, successfully challenging a local LAFCO's denial of a special district's application to provide water service.
- Ongoing litigation on behalf of Stanislaus County defending coordinated Groundwater Sustainability Plans adopted pursuant to SGMA.
- Successfully argued before the California Supreme Court in *County of Butte v. Department of Water Resources* (2022) 13 Cal.5th 612, upholding state environmental review for relicensing the Oroville Dam.
- Authored prevailing Supreme Court argument in *Friends of the Eel River v. North Coast Railroad Authority* (2017) 3 Cal.5th 677, upholding state environmental review for a proposed rail project.
- Served as lead counsel in *Stein v. Alameda County Waste Management Authority* (Cal.Ct.App. 2020, A154804), successfully defending environmental review for state-of-the-art composting and recycling project.
- Represented Surfrider Foundation in a multi-phase CPUC proceeding regarding a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for new water recycling and desalination facilities.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE / RECOGNITIONS/PUBLICATIONS / PRESENTATIONS**

- Service award from the City of Oxnard for successfully opposing construction of a gas-fired power plant on Oxnard's coastline.
- Managing Article Editor of Michigan Journal of Environmental & Administrative Law.

**BAR MEMBERSHIPS**

Member of the State Bar of California and the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

**EDUCATION**

University of Michigan Law School, JD, 2011

University of Michigan, Master of Public Policy, 2011

Macalester College, Bachelor of Arts, 2005