

2019 Advanced CEQA Workshop

Speakers

Monterey Bay-Silicon Valley

San Jose – Friday, February 15th

Kristi Black, JD, Senior Environmental Project Manager, Ascent Environmental

Kristi Black is a project manager with Ascent Environmental. She has focused her career on managing and contributing to documentation to support CEQA and NEPA compliance for energy development and infrastructure projects, such as electric transmission, natural gas, renewable energy, telecommunications, and road and bridge projects. Kristi works closely with agency representatives to define project scopes and to streamline permitting efforts, and offers a thorough understanding of the state and federal regulatory environment in California.

Shannon George, Principal Project Manager, David J. Powers & Associates

Shannon is a Principal Project Manager with David J. Powers & Associates and has been in the environmental field for over 20 years. Shannon has managed the environmental review for many iconic projects throughout Silicon Valley, including the EIRs for the 49ers Levi Stadium, Santana Row Shopping Center, and various master plans for Santa Clara University. Other notable projects include San Pedro Square Market and multiple downtown San Jose high rises. Shannon specializes in high-density, urban in-fill projects and projects with historic and cultural resources.

Laura Harris, JD, Senior Counsel, Remy Moose Manley LLP

Ms. Harris joined the firm in 2006 and is a senior associate in the firm. Her practice focuses on land use and environmental law. Ms. Harris handles all phases of the land use entitlement and permitting processes, including administrative approvals and litigation. Ms. Harris's practice covers the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the State Planning and Zoning Law, the Cortese-Knox-Hertberg Local Government Reorganization Act, air and water quality, natural resources, endangered species, wetlands and related matters.

Ms. Harris assisted in the successful defense of appeals in several published decisions, including: *Placerville Historic Preservation League v. Judicial Council of California* (2017) 16 Cal.App.5th 187; *Beverly Hills Unified School District v. Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority* (2015) 241 Cal.App.4th 627; *Citizens for Open Government v. City of Lodi* (2012) 205 Cal.App.4th 296; and *South County Citizens for Smart Growth v. County of Nevada* (2013) 221 Cal.App.4th 316, as well as in the successful defense and prosecution of a cross-appeal in the published decision *Planning and Conservation League et al. v. Castaic Lake*

Water Agency et al. (2009) 180 Cal.App.4th 210. Ms. Harris is currently actively defending several lawsuits brought under CEQA.

Los Angeles County

Rosemead – Wednesday, February 20th

Sheri Bonstelle, Partner, Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell LLP

Sheri L. Bonstelle's practice focuses on land use, zoning, environmental, litigation and construction matters.

She manages all aspects of the entitlement process, including representing clients before local and state agencies, commissions and councils. She coordinates environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and obtains permits and approvals necessary under the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, Endangered Species Act, California Coastal Act, and historic preservation laws. She also negotiates participation and development agreements with the Community Redevelopment Agency, and obtains approval of adaptive reuse projects in historic buildings in Los Angeles. She represents signage companies and building owners with respect to preserving signage rights in Los Angeles.

Sheri also represents clients in a variety of land use and real estate litigation matters in state and federal courts, including cases arising under CEQA and other environmental laws and cases involving First Amendment and Civil Rights protections. In addition, she represents developers and financial institutions to preserve entitlements and manage assets during the current uncertain economic times. Ms. Bonstelle coordinates land use and environmental diligence review for large multi-property portfolio sales.

Sheri is a licensed architect in the State of New York, where she practiced architecture for several years prior to entering the legal profession. She was a project architect on many public projects, including the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail Line. She is currently pursuing Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification.

Sheri's projects range from the adaptive reuse of an historic office building as a luxury boutique hotel to a 7-acre mixed-use project with over 1,000 apartment units and affordable housing in the center of Hollywood.

Neill Brower, Associate, Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell LLP

Neill Brower represents clients throughout California in land use and environmental matters, including permitting and regulatory compliance. His practice involves a broad range of land use laws and regulations, from local planning and zoning regulations to state land use regulations, including the California Subdivision Map Act and Coastal Act, with a particular emphasis on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and density bonus laws (SB 1818 and AB 2222).

Neill's practice also involves State environmental regulations, including the California Fish & Game Code, Carpenter-Presley-Tanner Hazardous Substance Account Act, and Cal-OSHA; and federal environmental laws and regulations, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), CERCLA/Superfund Law, RCRA, the Clean Water Act, and OSHA. He has extensive experience working with local jurisdictions and state, regional and federal agencies to obtain regulatory approvals. His experience has ranged from single-family homes to major mixed-use developments.

Neill also represents lenders in evaluations of potential construction and bridge loans, as well as the ability of foreclosing lenders to complete stalled projects or develop alternatives to failed projects. Representative examples include analyses of apartment buildings for conversion to condominiums; the potential effects of the Ellis Act, Costa Hawkins Rental Housing Act, and associated local implementing regulations on redevelopment of a rental housing site; establishing permitting benchmarks to protect a bridge lender and ensure satisfaction of a later take-out by a subsequent lender; and preserving entitlements, completing a foreclosure sale, and evaluating the vesting status of a master-planned residential development.

Prior to his legal career, Neill worked for 10 years managing and preparing a variety of environmental and urban planning documents, including environmental impact reports and statements, General Plan updates and specific plans, and federal and State natural resources permitting applications. He also provided peer review of planning and technical documents and assisted in developing CEQA compliance guides for the University of California and the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority. Neill's more notable projects included preparation of environmental impact reports for the UCLA, U.C. Riverside, and U.C. Santa Barbara Long-Range Development Plans, AT&T Park in San Francisco, and the Mission Bay Redevelopment Project. During that time, Neill worked extensively with local and state agencies as clients and as regulators. A former archaeologist, Neill also completed archaeological and historic resources surveys and other technical studies.

Nicole Hoeksma Gordon, Partner, The Sohagi Law Group

Ms. Gordon advises public agencies on complex environmental and land use matters at the administrative, trial, and appellate level. She focuses her practice on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the federal and California Endangered Species Act (ESA), and Planning and Zoning Laws. Representative projects include complex renewable energy projects, transmission lines, General Plan updates, harbor improvements, airport expansions, transportation improvements, and public works projects. She also serves as a frequent lecturer on environmental matters at various public and private workshops, including courses and conferences sponsored by UCLA, the Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP), and the American Planning Association (APA).

Andrea Warren, JD, Senior Associate, Alston & Bird

Andrea Warren is a Senior Associate with Alston & Bird's Environment, Land Use & Natural Resources Group.

Since joining the firm in 2012, Andrea has represented clients in a variety of land use matters, including matters arising under CEQA and the state's planning and zoning law. Andrea has represented public agencies, major oil companies, major retail and commercial developers and developers constructing large residential projects from the start of the environmental review and land use permitting process through litigation at the trial and appellate levels challenging the environmental review and government approvals.

Andrea is a member of the executive committee of the Los Angeles County Bar Association Environmental Law Section.

Andrea earned her JD in 2012 from Harvard Law School and earned her BA in International Relations from Tufts University in 2006.

Channel Counties

Ventura – Thursday, February 21st

Allison Cook, AICP, Assistant Planning Director, City of Agoura Hills

Allison Cook is a leader in planning and community development with three decades of comprehensive and diverse public and private sector experience. She is currently Assistant Planning Director for the City of Agoura Hills. Prior to her current role, Allison served as Principal Planner and Senior Planner with the City of Agoura Hills.

Allison has been affiliated with the American Planning Association (APA) since 1990, the Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP) since 2005, the American Institute of Certified Planners since 2015, and served as Legislative Officer, Central Coast Section, on the Cal APA Board from 2015-2017.

Allison earned her MA in Urban Planning from UCLA and her BA in Sociology and Art History from Connecticut College.

Whitman Manley, JD, Of Counsel, Remy, Moose, Manley LLP

Mr. Manley's practice focuses on advising and representing public agencies, project applicants, and citizen's groups both during administrative proceedings and in trial and appellate litigation. His practice encompasses California and Federal environmental and land use law, including the California Environmental Quality Act, National Environmental Policy Act, California Planning and Zoning Law, Subdivision Map Act, Williamson Act, initiatives and referenda, air and water quality, solid and hazardous waste, forestry, natural resources, endangered species, wetlands and related matters.

Upon graduation from law school in 1987, Mr. Manley spent a year clerking for the late Chief Judge Robert F. Peckham of the Northern District of California. He then joined the environmental section of McCutchen Doyle in San Francisco. In 1991 he moved to Sacramento and joined Remy and Thomas as an associate. He joined the partnership in 1996, became a named partner in 2003, and served as managing partner from 2007 through 2011. He went of counsel in 2014.

Along with Tina Thomas and Jim Moose, he is co-author of Guide to the California Environmental Quality Act (11th ed. 2007, Solano Press Books).

Joe Power, AICP, CEP, Vice President/Principal, Rincon Consultants, Inc.

Joe Power is a Principal and Planning Manager with Rincon Consultants. He has over 25 years of experience in the planning field and has managed or primarily authored successful planning and environmental and planning studies on projects ranging from affordable housing to urban redevelopment to citywide transportation systems. Mr. Power has prepared numerous CEQA and NEPA environmental documents and is an expert in interpreting state and federal planning and environmental law, as well as in developing environmental documentation that is informative, readable, and legally defensible. He has prepared specialized technical reports on a range of planning and environmental topics, including noise, air quality, greenhouse gases, sustainability, and water supply. Mr. Power is a skilled public presenter and moderator, having facilitated public workshops for various General Plan Elements and EIRs, and conducted professional presentations at both the California and National American Planning Association conferences.

Chris Williamson, PhD, AICP, Contract Planner, City of Oxnard

Chris Williamson currently serves as a Contract Planner for the City of Oxnard. He has nearly 40 years of experience in the environmental field, from surveying and researching to various planner roles at the City of Oxnard. Chris has participated in many research projects and has served as Project Manager in many.

Chris earned his BS in Geography from Pennsylvania State University, his Master of Planning from the University of Virginia, and his PhD in Planning and Policy Analysis from USC.

San Luis Obispo – Friday, February 22nd

Richard Daulton, Vice President/Principal, Rincon Consultants

Richard is a Principal Planner with Rincon Consultants here in SLO, where he oversees a team of 20 environmental professionals, including planners, biologists, archaeologists, regulatory specialists, and GIS specialists. He has over 23 years of experience managing CEQA and NEPA environmental documents for projects located throughout California, with a focus on transportation projects, land development projects, and programmatic analysis. He has

managed a wide range of CEQA and NEPA documents, and has successfully combined environmental analysis and planning techniques to guide agencies through complex studies and controversial programs, entitlement and planning projects. His planning skills are supported by a strong background in technical environmental and economic analysis.

Jim Moose, Senior Partner, Remy Moose Manley LLP

A 1985 graduate of the Boalt Hall School of Law, Jim Moose is the senior partner in *Remy Moose Manley, LLP*, of Sacramento, where he has practiced for over 32 years, with a focus on advising public and private clients with respect to issues arising under the California Environmental Act (CEQA), the Planning and Zoning Law, and various other state and federal environmental laws. He not only advises clients during the administrative process, but also represents them in court. He has been involved in litigation resulting in numerous significant CEQA precedents in the Courts of Appeal and California Supreme Court. He is co-author of *Guide to the California Environmental Quality Act*, a respected legal treatise frequently cited by the appellate courts. He has also participated in drafting amendments to CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines.

Chris Mundhenk, Principal, Ascent Environmental

Chris, a principal at Ascent with more than 20 years of experience, provides management and strategic guidance for a variety of technical analyses, regulatory permitting efforts, and CEQA and NEPA compliance projects. He also has extensive experience with air quality, GHG, and noise modeling, in addition to multiple biological surveys (both protocol and reconnaissance-level). Chris has managed a diverse array of projects, ranging from programmatic/large-scale projects like general plans and larger specific plans to smaller development/infrastructure projects for both public and private clients, including multiple cities and counties throughout Southern and Northern California, California Pacific Medical Center, Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, UC Davis, Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Chris has also been tasked with the responsibilities of contract management for on-call technical services contracts for several public agencies, including Metropolitan, University of California at Davis, the Sacramento Municipal Utilities Department, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. In the execution of these contracts, Chris oversaw and managed staff during the performance of CEQA/NEPA documents, mitigation monitoring, and permit acquisition.

David Snow, Shareholder, Richards | Watson | Gershon

David Snow, AICP, is a shareholder in the Public Law Department at Richards | Watson | Gershon. Dave specializes in advising public agencies on CEQA and land use matters. Dave joined RW&G in 2001 with over 10 years of local government experience including serving as the Deputy Director of Planning for the City of Rancho Palos Verdes while attending Loyola Law

School, Los Angeles. Currently he serves as the City Attorney for the City of Yucaipa, Assistant City Attorney in Beverly Hills, and special counsel to many other public agencies throughout California. Dave is a member AEP and APA, serves on APA California's Amicus Committee, and previously served two terms as APA California's Vice President of Policy and Legislation.

San Diego

Thursday, February 21st

Darin Neufeld, AICP, Chief of Departmental Operations for the County of San Diego Planning & Development Services, County of San Diego

Darin has over 12 years of experience in the environmental field and has been with the County of San Diego for over 4 years. Prior to his current role, Darin served as Planning Manager and Land Use/Environmental Planner III. Darin has also served on the Board of Directors for the California Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP) as Secretary and Treasurer.

Darin earned his BA in History from Point Loma Nazarene University and his MA in History from San Diego State University.

Bob Stark, Associate Vice President, Michael Baker International

Bob has served as Associate Vice President at Michael Baker International for over six years. He has also been an instructor at the UC San Diego Extension for nearly 11 years. Bob's specialties include environmental compliance and entitlements, CEQA, land use planning, and government relations.

Bob earned his BA in Urban Studies and Planning/Economics from UC San Diego and his MS in City and Regional Planning from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

Suzanne R. Varco, Managing Partner, Varco & Rosenbaum Environmental Law Group, LLP

Suzanne R. Varco is the managing partner of Environmental Law Group LLP, formerly known as Oppen & Varco LLP in San Diego, California. Ms. Varco's private law practice concentrates in areas of brownfields' redevelopment, hazardous waste cleanup, environmental, real estate transactions involving environmental issues, environmental permitting, underground storage tank issues, CEQA compliance and litigation, and environmental litigation. Ms. Varco has extensive experience working with local, state and federal regulatory agencies. "SuperLawyer" magazine has selected Ms. Varco as one of the top environmental lawyers since 2009.

Ms. Varco received her Bachelor of Arts with distinction in English and Economics from Whitman College in 1987. Ms. Varco received her Juris Doctorate from the University of San Diego School of Law in 1992, where she won first place in the Roger J. Traynor Constitutional Law and the Law and Motions Moot Court competitions, was awarded Best Oral Advocate in

the Alumni Tort Moot Court competition, and was a member of the National Moot Court team and a member of the Moot Court Board.

In 1992 Ms. Varco was admitted to practice law in the courts of California and in the United States District Courts for the Southern, Central, Eastern, and Northern Districts of California. Ms. Varco is also admitted to practice in the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Ms. Varco is a member of the Environmental Law Sections of the California Bar Association, American Bar Association, and San Diego County Bar Association, is the Past-President of the San Diego Environmental Professionals, and is the Chairperson of the County of San Diego Department of Environmental Health Site Assessment and Mitigation Division Steering Committee. Ms. Varco received a B.A. degree with a major in English from Whitman College and a J.D. degree from the University of San Diego School of Law.

Hanspeter Walter, Attorney, Kronick Moskovitz Tiedemann & Girard

Hanspeter practices in water, environmental, administrative, and land-use law, with an emphasis on regulatory compliance, water rights, water quality, and other land-use matters. His past work experience includes the California Department of Water Resources, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Hanspeter's interdisciplinary education and experience also allow him to quickly assimilate issues and develop solutions to legal matters when complex biological, scientific, or technical information is involved.

Hanspeter earned a MS from University of Idaho and a JD from University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law.

Central

Fresno – Monday, February 25th

Sydney Coatsworth, Principal, Ascent Environmental

Sydney is a geographer and environmental planner with over 25 years of experience in environmental compliance, planning, environmental analysis, and public outreach programs for a wide variety of projects. Her practice runs the gamut, including water resources, wastewater treatment facilities, floodplain management, renewable energy facilities, affordable housing, urban development, natural resources management, and environmental policy and regulation. She is an expert and educator in environmental compliance pursuant to CEQA, NEPA, and TRPA laws and regulations. Sydney specializes in managing large-scale and complex environmental compliance projects and has overseen the preparation of hundreds of environmental documents. Outside of the office, Sydney serves on the Board of the [Sacramento Tree Foundation](#), helping the region maintain and enhance its urban forest.

John P. Kinsey, Shareholder/Attorney, Wanger Jones Helsley PC

Mr. Kinsey is a Shareholder of the law firm of Wanger Jones Helsley PC. Prior to joining the firm in 2003, Mr. Kinsey performed litigation and trial work at a national law firm in San Francisco. Mr. Kinsey's practice focuses on all aspects of land use and environmental law, including litigation, counseling, and regulatory services. His practice also includes civil litigation in both state and federal courts, including complex real estate, business, and environmental matters. He also has experience in water law, federal Indian law, and representing public agencies.

Trevor Macenski, Business Center Sector Leader – Environmental Services, Stantec Consulting Services Inc.

Trevor develops environmental compliance programs for controversial development activities to help communities, clients, and regulators, find a balanced approach to development. As a seasoned impact assessment practitioner, educator, and strategist; Trevor advises clients from concept all the way through construction. With experience in the power, community development, transportation, education, commercial, industrial, and institutional sectors Trevor's background offers a wide range of experience on litigious projects.

As an adjunct professor and guest lecturer, Trevor has taught at the University of California Davis, Fresno State, and Sonoma State, and is the past Chapter Director for the Bay Area and Sacramento chapters of the Association of Environmental Professionals.

Inland Empire

Riverside – Tuesday, February 26th

Jennifer Lynch, Associate, Best Best & Krieger

Jennifer J. Lynch is an associate in Best Best & Krieger's Environmental Law & Natural Resources practice group, where she counsels and defends both public agencies and private developers under complex state and federal environmental and land use laws, with a special emphasis on the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

Prior to obtaining her law degree, Jennifer worked for several years as a land use and environmental planning consultant, experience that gives her a unique perspective on the development process and the role of legal counsel in guiding projects to fruition. She frequently draws upon her prior planning experience when working with consultants and agency staff, drafting and reviewing environmental reports, and litigating complex environmental issues.

In 2017, the *Daily Journal* recognized her with the prestigious [California Lawyer Attorney of the Year Award](#) for Environmental Law.

Jennifer received her law degree from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, where she was named Clinical Student of the Year in 2012 for her outstanding work representing local organizations and low-income residents in both transactional matters and civil litigation. Jennifer was also a member of the Hastings Moot Court Team, competing in the National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition in New York.

A frequent speaker on CEQA issues, Jennifer sits on the Board of Directors for the Orange County Association of Environmental Professionals as that chapter's legislative liaison. Through that position, she helps track and comment on proposed environmental legislation on behalf of AEP, and stays up to date on hot button issues as soon as they arise. She is also a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, a LEED Accredited Professional, and holds a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of California at Irvine. She is admitted to the U.S. District Court for the Central and Eastern districts of California and is licensed to practice law in the State of California.

Having always been interested in California history, Jennifer is also a member of the Mission Inn Foundation, a group dedicated to the preservation and restoration of the historic Mission Inn in downtown Riverside. Through the Foundation, Jennifer is studying to become a volunteer docent at the Mission Inn, and looks forward to interpreting and sharing the history of the Inn, Riverside and California's citrus industry with the Inn's visitors from around the world.

Heidi Rous, Principal Associate, ESA

As a principal associate, Heidi partners with clients and project teams throughout California to provide comprehensive permitting, compliance, and planning services specializing in air quality, climate change adaptation, health risk assessments (HRAs), and acoustical analysis.

Heidi brings more than 25 years of experience performing and managing emissions inventories; air quality, greenhouse gas, and noise impact assessments; and off-site consequence analyses for industrial clients (oil and gas, manufacturing, water and energy), the transportation sector (airports, ports, roadways, rail), and development projects (residential, institutional, mixed/use). She is highly skilled in quantifying, modeling, and mitigating emissions from stationary and mobile sources. Heidi is adept at the design and permitting of air pollution control devices, including Best Available Control Technology (BACT) determinations, emission credit (ERC and RECLAIM) assistance, permit negotiation, and other compliance services.

Heidi holds a Bachelor of Science in physics from the California State Polytechnic University at Pomona. She is a Certified Permitting Professional (CPP) registered with the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Elizabeth Meyerhoff, Coachella Valley Water District

San Francisco Bay Area

Santa Rosa – Tuesday, February 26th

Al Herson, JD, Of Counsel, The Sohagi Law Group

Al Herson is an environmental attorney and planner with over 30 years experience. He is a recognized authority on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and natural resources law. Mr. Herson serves as the firm's Sacramento presence, and advises public agencies on complex environmental and land use law matters, including CEQA, NEPA, SB 375 and climate change analysis, the Endangered Species Act, and wetlands permitting.

Mr. Herson has prepared and reviewed hundreds of CEQA and NEPA documents on land use, water resources, energy, infrastructure, and public lands projects. He serves as special CEQA Counsel for the Santa Clara Valley Water District, where he has provided strategic CEQA advice and document review for many water supply, flood management, and wastewater projects. He also has provided strategic CEQA advice and document review for several General Plans, including Amador County and Monterey County.

Mr. Herson has played a major role in the legal review and defense of the SANDAG 2050 RTP/SCS. He provided SANDAG staff and the EIR consultant team with strategic CEQA advice, reviewed Draft and Final RTP and EIR sections, drafted Final EIR master responses, reviewed CEQA findings, and drafted legal briefs.

Sydney Coatsworth, AICP, Principal, Ascent Environmental

Sydney is a geographer and environmental planner with over 25 years of experience in environmental compliance, planning, environmental analysis, and public outreach programs for a wide variety of projects. Her practice runs the gamut, including water resources, wastewater treatment facilities, floodplain management, renewable energy facilities, affordable housing, urban development, natural resources management, and environmental policy and regulation. She is an expert and educator in environmental compliance pursuant to CEQA, NEPA, and TRPA laws and regulations. Sydney specializes in managing large-scale and complex environmental compliance projects and has overseen the preparation of hundreds of environmental documents. Outside of the office, Sydney serves on the Board of the [Sacramento Tree Foundation](#), helping the region maintain and enhance its urban forest.

Alisa Moore, Bay Area Water Director, ESA

Alisa has 22 years of experience managing environmental compliance for large-scale resource management and facilities projects, and is a key member of the Northern California Water and Energy Practice management team. She has led some of ESA's largest, most complex projects and contracts, ensuring a high level of quality and meeting challenging deadlines and budgets. Alisa's passion is delivering projects that intersect and balance resource management and recreational use. Her experience includes the Vista Grande Canal/Lake Merced Management Plan EIR/EIS, Beach Chalet Athletic Fields Renovation, SFPUC Westside Recycled Water and San Francisco Groundwater Supply Projects, and the Lake Almaden Project EIR. Alisa is an expert in the evaluation of social resources and her expertise was essential to the award-winning National Park Service Merced Wild and Scenic River EIS.

Oakland – Wednesday, February 27th

Curtis Alling, AICP, Principal, Ascent Environmental

With over 35 years of experience, Curtis is a recognized expert in CEQA and NEPA and a specialist in planning related to climate change, natural resources management, and outdoor recreation/trails. Trained in wildlife science and natural resources planning, his projects are very diverse, including urban or rural and public or private projects. Project specialties include Climate Action Plans, water resources, conservation planning, ecosystem restoration, renewable energy, hazardous materials, solid waste, flood control, community planning, regional and state parks, bicycle and hiking trails, rail transit, highways, and large-scale developments.

Al Herson, JD, Of Counsel, The Sohagi Law Group

Al is an environmental attorney and planner with over 30 years experience. He is a recognized authority on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and natural resources law. Mr. Herson serves as the firm's Sacramento presence, and advises public agencies on complex environmental and land use law matters, including CEQA, NEPA, SB 375 and climate change analysis, the Endangered Species Act, and wetlands permitting.

Tiffany Wright, JD, Managing Partner, Remy Moose Manley LLP

Ms. Wright represents public agencies and private applicants in a variety of land use and environmental law matters. She is experienced in handling all phases of the land use entitlement and permitting processes, including administrative approvals and litigation. Her practice covers the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State Planning and Zoning Law, the Subdivision Map Act, the Williamson Act, the California Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the federal Endangered Species Act, and the federal Clean Water Act provisions associated with wetlands permitting.

Eureka – Friday, March 1st

Pat Angell, Senior Director, Ascent Environmental

Mr. Angell has 26 years of experience serving as a project director and manager and

technical analyst for a variety of projects. He has managed several EIRs involving land use policies and regulations including general plans, zoning ordinances, housing elements, and special regulatory codes. Pat has also overseen the establishment of environmental review divisions for newly incorporated cities. He currently the Chairperson for the AEP CEQA Portal and the Chapter Director for the AEP Superior California Chapter and is a regular presenter at the AEP Advance CEQA workshops.

Bob Brown, AICP, Principal of Planning and Permitting, SHN Engineers & Geologists

Bob has worked for over 25 years to combine community and regional planning with ecological restoration services. He works with both public and private clients, and his experience covers a broad spectrum of planning and environmental projects. He has longstanding working relationships with agency staff and private clients throughout northern California. Bob has taught the NEPA/CEQA course at Humboldt State University since 2009 and has completed management and facilitation training from the National Charrette Institute.

Karin Lilienbecker, Principal, Environmental Planner & Project Manager, ICF International

Prior to joining ICF as Principal in 2018, Karin worked with CH2M Hill for nearly 25 years. Karin has environmental planning (NEPA/CEQA) expertise, specializing in the preparation of environmental impact statements for federally-funded projects. She is a solutions-oriented leader of multidisciplinary, complex, fast-track projects. Her project experience includes leading the first section of the California High-Speed Rail Program to a Final EIR/EIS in 2012 and NEPA work for Army and Air Force installations in the Western US and Europe. Karin worked with WSP on the California High-Speed Rail Program from 2016-2017.

Karin earned her BS in Environmental Science and MS in Biology from the University of San Francisco.

Elizabeth Pollock, Senior Associate, Remy Moose Manley LLP

Ms. Pollock joined the firm in 2015 and is a senior associate. Her practice focuses on land use and environmental law. Ms. Pollock handles all phases of the land use entitlement and permitting processes, including administrative approvals and litigation. Her practice covers the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act, natural resources, endangered species, air and water quality, and other land use and environmental statutes.

As a law student at University of California, Davis (King Hall), Ms. Pollock served as Editor-in-Chief of *Environs*, the Environmental Law and Policy Journal. Prior to joining Remy Moose Manley, LLP, Ms. Pollock worked for six years as a Deputy Attorney III for the California Department of Transportation, and for one year as an Environmental Circuit Prosecutor for the Circuit Prosecutor Project. During her time working for Caltrans, she did a one-year rotation

with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, where she assisted with drafting revisions to the CEQA Guidelines.

Ms. Pollock teaches land use and environmental law courses and seminars at the University of California, Davis Extension and for the Association of Environmental Professionals.

Superior California

West Sacramento – Wednesday, February 27th

Gary Jakobs, AICP, Principal – Environmental, Ascent Environmental

Gary applies his education in economics, environmental studies, and business to infuse pragmatic insights into environmental analysis. With 35 years of experience, he has a diverse background in environmental studies for projects throughout California and the western United States. He is a CEQA and NEPA expert who develops practice methods, leads emerging analysis and policy trends, and helps his clients understand applicable regulations and case law. His expertise encompasses the federal and California endangered species acts and Clean Water Act and state requirements for regulation of wetlands and water quality regulations. Gary's project management experience includes multi-task, on-call environmental assignments for projects throughout California; large-scale development plans; in-fill urban development; wastewater treatment infrastructure; parks, open space and vegetation management programs; industrial and energy facilities; telecommunications installations; prisons; and airport expansions. As a way to give back to the profession, Gary has led the development of the Association of Environmental Professional's Advanced CEQA Workshop curriculum for several years.

Terry Rivasplata, Technical Director, ICF International

Terry Rivasplata, a Senior Environmental Planner with ICF, specializes in preparing California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documents for projects ranging from schools to general plans. He teaches classes on CEQA and related topics for clients and the University of California Extension.

He was with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research from 1985 to 1998, including a stint as the chief of both the state clearinghouse and the planning unit. He participated in drafting the 1998, 1997, and 1994 amendments to the CEQA Guidelines. He is the editor of the *Environmental Assessor* for the Association of Environmental Professionals and was coauthor of the 1998, 1990, and 1987 editions of General Plan Guidelines.

Chris Stiles, Attorney, Remy Moose Manley LLP

Chris Stiles is an attorney with the law firm of Remy Moose Manley in Sacramento. His practice focuses on land use and environmental law with particular emphasis on CEQA. Advising

government agencies and private entities on CEQA matters, Chris has worked on a wide variety of projects throughout California, including some of the state's largest infrastructure and private development projects. He handles all phases of the land use entitlement and permitting processes, including administrative approvals and litigation. He studied land use and planning at UC San Diego and earned a law degree from University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. He has been a CEQA attorney with Remy Moose Manley since 2011.

Orange County

Irvine – Friday, March 1st

Konnie Dobрева, JD, Director of Environmental Planning (EPD Solutions)

Konnie's more than 19 years of public and private sector planning and legal experience have made her a keen strategist and an effective writer of CEQA documents. She has prepared environmental documents for a diverse range of projects: small-scale residential and large planned communities, commercial office, industrial, mixed-use and general plans. Konnie holds a juris doctorate degree from Pepperdine University School of Law, where she specialized in alternative dispute resolution. Konnie has been an assistant planner with the City of Lake Forest and a planning consultant for the cities of Irvine, Anaheim, and Rancho Santa Margarita. Konnie has been an active member of the Orange County AEP board for over 14 years, and is currently serving as Administrative Vice President/Corporate Secretary on the AEP State board.

Ricia R. Hager (Woodruff, Spradlin & Smart)

Ricia Hager practices environmental law, land use law, and public law. Her clients include regional and local government agencies. She advises clients on the California Environmental Quality Act and state and federal laws regulating air quality, water quality, endangered species, and historic resources. Ms. Hager has successfully defended environmental challenges in federal and state courts, both at the trial and appellate court levels.

Susan Hori, Esq., Administrative Partner (Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP)

Susan Hori's practice focuses on land use planning issues, including development entitlements and regulatory permits for real estate development projects and the resolution of environmental issues affecting real property. Her clients include landowners, financial institutions, developers and builders in the residential, retail, hotel/resort, and commercial and industrial development industries. Susan represents clients on issues involving state and federal regulations, including the CEQA, NEPA, the California Coastal Act, Section 404 permitting under the Clean Water Act, National Historic Preservation Act compliance and Endangered Species Act permitting, including work on habitat conservation plans.

Megan Macias, T.E., Transportation Planning Director (EPD Solutions)

Ms. Macias' primary responsibilities include preparation of technical analyses of land development projects, including comprehensive transportation impact analyses, traffic operations analyses, and parking studies. Meghan has worked on numerous and varied projects through California including land development, infrastructure, active transportation and Master/Specific/ General Plans. Meghan has a proven track-record of managing complicated and controversial projects to achieve defensible and implementable solutions to technical issues. Her expertise in traffic engineering and operations analysis methodologies is complemented by her knowledge of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Ms. Macias has over 20 years of experience in the transportation planning field and has worked on hundreds of projects throughout California. She has a deep understanding of the regulations and methodologies used by local and regional agencies including application of local traffic study guidelines, CMP and CEQA requirements and the Mitigation Fee Act. Ms. Macias uses her experience to provide strategic transportation planning services to public- and private-sector clients. Her work is focused on providing implementable solutions that satisfy various stakeholders including developers, local agencies, and affected citizens.

Eddie Torres, (Michael Baker International)

Mr. Torres oversees and prepares Environmental and Planning studies for public and private sectors clients, under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Mr. Torres' responsibilities also include staff training, public hearing presentations, and coordination of our extensive in-house team of experts as well as various subcontractors. Mr. Torres draws on his broad background and understanding of environmental constraints to provide technical and CEQA compliance review and environmental documentation, in addition to research, analysis, and writing. Mr. Torres has managed a wide range of environmental planning projects, including environmental documents for major infrastructure and land development projects, air quality and noise studies, highly controversial hillside development projects, state-of-the-art visual analyses, facility siting and due diligence studies, and coastal development projects.

Mr. Torres also serves as the Director of Technical Studies, with a specialty in Acoustics, Air Quality, Climate Change, and Visual Impact Assessments. Mr. Torres leads Michael Baker's efforts to be at the forefront of Global Climate Change studies. Mr. Torres has prepared numerous analyses that are consistent with climate change legislation such as Assembly Bill 32, Senate Bill 97, Executive Order S-3-05, and Senate Bill 375. In addition to analyzing climate change impacts, Mr. Torres has led the development of numerous greenhouse gas inventory models which calculate greenhouse gas emissions from such sources as vehicular traffic, stationary sources, electricity consumption, water consumption, wastewater treatment, and construction processes.