



Brian E. Hamilton Counsel

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Practice Areas

CEQA / NEPA | Endangered Species | Environmental/Toxics Litigation |
Groundwater Law | Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) |
Water Law | Water Rights Litigation

Brian Hamilton applies his litigation skills to help water clients achieve results in and out of the courtroom.

Brian has represented clients in all stages of litigation. Brian's practice now focuses on [water law](#) and [environmental litigation](#), but his background includes commercial, real estate, and employment litigation. Brian's litigation practice brings him before courts throughout California on a range of matters. His trial background includes sitting as second-chair in a complex commercial derivative lawsuit that resulted in a multi-million-dollar verdict for his clients. In addition to his courtroom experience, Brian frequently achieves favorable resolutions for his clients through successful mediation and negotiated settlements.

Experience

- Experience in all phases of civil litigation, including discovery, pre-trial motion practice, and trial preparation.
- Advise and represent clients in a wide variety of commercial litigation matters, including real estate, contract, construction, shareholder, and business disputes.
- Manage all aspects of discovery, from propounding and responding to written discovery, managing extensive document productions, and preparing for, defending, and taking depositions.
- Represent clients in numerous mediations to resolve construction contract disputes, fraud claims, and real property disputes.

Professional & Community Service

- Sacramento County Bar Association, Environmental Law Section, Board of Directors, 2018-present
- California Lawyers Association, Environmental Law Section
- Sacramento Metro EDGE

- *California Water Law & Policy Reporter*, Contributing Author

Education

- J.D., with distinction, University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, 2012
- B.A., University of California at San Diego, 2007

Honors & Rankings

- Best Lawyers in America[®], Ones to Watch, Litigation – Environmental Law, 2024
- Best Lawyers in America[®], Ones to Watch, Environmental Law, Natural Resources Law, 2023-2024
- *Super Lawyers*, Northern California Rising Star, Energy & Natural Resources, 2018-2023
- Clerkship, Justice Ron D. Parraguirre, Supreme Court of Nevada, 2012- 2014
- Externship, Honorable Kimberly J. Mueller, United States District Court, Eastern District of California, 2011
- Outstanding Student Achievement Award, Day Division, 2012
- Traynor Honor Society
- *University of the Pacific Law Review*, Editor-in-Chief

Speaking Engagements / Events

- *SGMA and Groundwater Comprehensive Update: Basin Boundaries, Sustainability Agencies and Plans, and Streamlined Adjudications*, County Counsels' Association of California Fall 2023 Land Use Study Section Meeting, December 1, 2023
- *California Water Management, Policy, and Regulation in This Time of Extremes*, Argent Communications 36th Annual California Water Law & Policy Virtual Conference, May 17 & 19, 2022

Publications

- *January 2023 Floods Blamed on Permitting Delays by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife - Lawsuits Filed*, California Land Use Law & Policy Reporter, Volume 33, Number 4, January 2024
- *District Court Dismisses Claim That 2018 Amendments to the Bay-Delta Plan Discriminate Against the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation*, California Water Law & Policy Reporter, Volume 34, Number 1, October 2023
- *California Drought and Flood Streamlining Trailer Bill: Floodwater Diversion Exception and Drought Control Measures*, Environmental, Energy & Climate Change Law and Regulation Reporter, Volume 3, Number 10, July 2023
- *In a Major Regulatory Step, FERC Approves Removal of Four Dams on the Klamath River*, Environmental, Energy & Climate Change Law and Regulation Reporter, Volume 3, Number 4, January 2023
- *Ninth Circuit Finds no Waiver of California's Water Board's Section 401 Certification Authority--The Latest in the Battle of Authority to Regulate Federal Hydropower Projects*, Western Water Law & Policy Reporter,

Volume 27, Number 1, November 2022

- *California Department of Water Resources Releases Draft Update Central Valley Flood Protection Plan*, California Water Law & Policy Reporter, Volume 32, Number 9, June 2022
- *DWR Deems Groundwater Sustainability Plans for 12 Critically Overdrafted Basins Incomplete and Require Revision*, California Water Law & Policy Reporter, Volume 32, Number 6, March 2022
- *Fresno County Superior Court Denies Westlands Water District's Validation Action on its Federal Water Repayment Contract*, California Water Law & Policy Reporter, Volume 32, Number 3, December 2021
- *Congress Considers Amendment to Expand Reach of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act*, Argent Communications Group, November 18, 2020
- *Court Finds Delta Plan Valid Despite Lack of Enforceable Numeric Compliance Targets*, California Water Law & Policy Reporter, Volume 30, Number 10, July 2020
- *Court Declines to Address Issue of Future Prescription in Appeal to Santa Maria Groundwater Adjudication*, California Water Law & Policy Reporter, Volume 30, Number 5, February 2020