



Christopher M. Marellich

Associate

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Practice Areas

Air Quality & Climate Change | CEQA / NEPA | Energy | Energy Project Development | Environmental Enforcement Defense | Environmental Remediation & Due Diligence | Environmental/Toxics Litigation | Infrastructure | Pipelines & Terminals | Proposition 65 | Public Utility Regulation

Christopher Marellich is committed to helping clients navigate California's complex energy and environmental regulatory landscape.

Chris' current practice has a particular focus on proceedings and rulemaking before the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the California Energy Commission (CEC). Chris leverages his passion for energy law and his prior experience as a law clerk for the California Public Utilities Commission's Legal Division to assist clients with a wide range of issues. Chris also advises clients on matters pertaining to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), and California Proposition 65.

During law school, Chris served as the Alumni Relations Chair and a Notes & Comments Editor for the University of Washington Law Review and also worked as a Hazelton Research Fellow. In addition, Chris' gained extensive experience as a mediator for both a non-profit focused on dispute resolution and the University of Washington, School of Law's Mediation Clinic.

Chris regularly contributes to *CEQA Chronicles*, a firm blog that provides up-to-date information and analysis on key developments in environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Professional & Community Service

- Power Association of Northern California, 2024
- Conference of California Public Utility Counsel, 2024
- Asian/Pacific Bar Association of Sacramento, 2024
- Sacramento County Bar Association, Environmental Section, 2024
- *University of Washington Law Review*, Alumni Relations Chair and Notes & Comments Editor

- King County Dispute Resolution Center, Mediator
- University of Washington School of Law Mediation Clinic, Mediator

Education

- J.D., University of Washington School of Law, 2023
- B.A., University of California at Irvine, 2020

Publications

- *California Legislature Shelves Bill Intended to Facilitate Farmland Conversions For Renewable Energy Development*, California Water Law & Policy Reporter, Volume 36, Number 1, October 2025
- *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Finalizes Recommended Aquatic Life Criteria and Benchmarks for PFAS*, California Water Law & Policy Reporter, Volume 35, Number 3, December 2024
- *California Public Utilities Commission Tags the Department of Water Resources to Procure up to 10.6 Gigawatts of Clean Energy*, California Water Law & Policy Reporter, Volume 34, Number 11, August/September 2024
- *California Public Utilities Commission Establishes its Senate Bill 884 Expedited Undergrounding Program for Power Lines*, California Land Use Law & Policy Reporter, Volume 33, Number 7, April 2024
- *California Public Utilities Commission Extends Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant Operations Until 2030*, California Land Use Law & Policy Reporter, Volume 33, Number 4, January 2024

Legal Alerts

- *California Public Utilities Commission Stretches Out the Reimbursement Period for Data Center's Energization Costs to Reduce Ratepayer Risk*, November 19, 2025
- *The CAISO Maps Out Transmission Additions Needed to Connect 165 GW of New Resources by 2045*, August 5, 2024
- *EPA's Final Rule Enhances Risk Evaluations Process For Scrutiny of TSCA Chemicals*, July 3, 2024
- *CAISO Proposes Transmission Links to North Coast Offshore Wind Resources*, April 3, 2024
- *Department of Transportation Announces \$426.7 Million Grant to Develop Deepwater Port and Marine Terminal in Humboldt Bay*, January 29, 2024
- *Supreme Court of California Rejects Class Action Suit Against PG&E for its 2019 Blackouts*, November 20, 2023

- *Newly Signed SB 286 Streamlines and Clarifies Permitting Process for Offshore Wind*, October 19, 2023

Blogs

- *Project's Completion Did Not Moot CEQA Claim*, June 21, 2024
- *Court Upholds Master Plan EIR's Climate Change Analysis that Used Sector and Region-Specific Data to Develop a Threshold of Significance*, December 20, 2023
- *Third Circuit Makes Clear That Lead Agencies and Responsible Agencies Alike Must Make Findings Under CEQA*, September 20, 2022