



Dustin D. Peterson Associate

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Practice Areas

Appellate & Writ Practice | CEQA / NEPA | Environmental/Toxics Litigation
| Land Use | Real Estate | Real Property & Land Use Litigation | Water Law

Dustin Peterson is a results-oriented attorney that is focused on helping both private and public sector clients find creative and efficient solutions to navigating complex environmental and land use issues.

Dustin's current practice focuses on **land use** and planning, and he is experienced in dealing with a variety of land use-related subjects and entitlements, including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Housing Accountability Act (HAA), the Density Bonus Law, the Public Records Act, and the Subdivision Map Act. Using a strategic approach that utilizes his knowledge of both state and federal law, Dustin is passionate about helping clients resolve a wide range of **environmental** and land use issues.

While in law school, Dustin worked as a research assistant at the UC Davis School of Law for Professors Christopher Elmendorf and Darien Shanske, where he researched state preemption of charter cities, the HAA, and Community Facilities Districts. He also worked as a Teaching Assistant in a Legal Research/Writing course. Before law school, Dustin was a music teacher and a strings specialist at a public high school in Fresno, CA.

Experience

- Contributed to helping a volunteer hospice for the homeless navigate the entitlements process.
- Assisted in drafting a request for publication, which was granted by the California Court of Appeal.
- Assisted in environmental document review, drafting litigation materials, and coordinating with clients in CEQA litigation.
- Assisted in conducting legal research for clients regarding the Housing Accountability Act and the Density Bonus law.
- Assisted in compiling and tracking housing and CEQA legislation and judicial opinions.

Professional & Community Service

- Sacramento County Bar Association, Environmental Law Section
- California Lawyers Association, Environmental Law Section
- UC Davis Environmental Law Society, 2018-2021

Education

- J.D., University of California at Davis School of Law, 2021
- B.A., *summa cum laude*, California State University, Fresno, 2018

Honors & Rankings

- King Hall Environmental Law Certificate, 2021
- King Hall Public Service Law Program Certificate, 2021
- Jun Aoki Book Award, 2021
- Michael H. Remy Memorial Scholarship, 2020
- Academic Excellence Award in Lawyering Process, 2019

Publications

- *Downey Brand Compilation of Published CEQA Cases in 2023*, January 23, 2024
- *District Court Finds U.S. Forest Service Failed to Adequately Address Environmental Impacts From Amendments to Tree-Removal Standards in National Forests*, Environmental, Energy, & Climate Change Law and Regulation Reporter, Volume 4, Number 2, November 2023
- *Ninth Circuit Finds FAA Failed to Take Requisite 'Hard Look' Under NEPA at Noise Impacts From Airport Terminal Replacement Project*, Environmental, Energy & Climate Change Law and Regulation Reporter, Volume 3, Number 8, May 2023

Blogs

- *Trial Court Upholds City's Discretion Regarding Whether Resources Qualify as Tribal Cultural Resources; AB 52 Consultation Not Required with Tribe that Failed to Timely Request Consultation*, January 19, 2024
- *City's Decision to Reduce Floor Area Ratio in Single-Family Residential Zone Violates State Housing Law*, January 8, 2024
- *Environmental Real Parties may be entitled to attorney's fees for helping agency defend against private party attacks on highway route extension*, September 26, 2023
- *Four Populations of Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog Listed as Endangered or Threatened Under Federal Endangered Species Act*, September 7, 2023

- *Harm to Public Interest in Informed Decision-making Can Tip the Scales When Courts Weigh Preliminary Injunctions*, June 30, 2023
- *Neighbor vs. Neighbor Dispute Over Home Remodel Leads to Reversal of Anti-SLAPP Motion in Court of Appeal*, May 19, 2023
- *Privately Owned Public Utility Not Required to Comply With CEQA in Eminent Domain Action*, April 17, 2023
- *Substantial Changes to Marilyn Monroe Art Installation Extends Statute of Limitations to Challenge Under CEQA* , March 14, 2023
- *Petitioner Required To Post Bond For Costs Incurred As A Result Of Delay In Carrying Out Affordable Housing Project In Livermore*, February 1, 2023
- *Design Changes to State Capitol Renovation Revealed in FEIR Did Not Adequately Allow for Public Input or Informed Decision-Making*, January 20, 2023
- *Construction of 90-Foot-Tall Lights at Athletic Field Not Categorically Exempt as either an Existing Facility or Construction of a Small Structure*, December 29, 2022
- *Exhausting Administrative Remedies Does Not Toll the Statute of Limitations When the CEQA Determination Is Not at Issue*, December 23, 2022
- *Court Finds Site Visits and Reports Taken Before and After Issuance of NOP Adequate for Establishing Biological Resources Baseline, EIR's Emergency Evacuation Analysis Upheld*, December 21, 2022