



Nicolas D. Chapman Associate

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Practice Areas

Endangered Species | Flood Protection Law | Groundwater Law |
Infrastructure | Public Trust Doctrine | Sustainable Groundwater
Management Act (SGMA) | Water Law | Water Rights Litigation

Nicolas Chapman's ("Nico") practice focuses primarily on water resources, encompassing surface and groundwater rights litigation, endangered species issues, flood protection, and public agency issues.

In addition to assisting private and public clients navigate the complex realm of **water rights**, Nico has experience assisting public clients secure water resources infrastructure financing. Clients rely on Nico's discerning eye and straightforward approach to achieving client success.

Experience

- Assisted in counseling clients to prove pre-1914 appropriative water right by tracking historical records.
- Assisted in counseling clients to form improvement districts for financing water infrastructure projects.
- Assisted in counseling clients in Federal Endangered Species Act litigation regarding the central valley project.
- Assisted in counseling clients on duties and liabilities of flood control districts.
- Assisted in counseling clients in a groundwater adjudication in Southern California.
- Drafted motions and briefs on client behalf in inverse condemnation action.

Professional & Community Service

- Sacramento County Bar Association, Environmental Law Section
- California Lawyers Association, Environmental Law Section
- *California Water Law & Policy Reporter*, Contributing Author
- *University of the Pacific Law Review*, Chief Articles & Symposium Editor, 2020-2021

- *University of the Pacific Law Review*, Staff Writer, 2019-2020

Education

- J.D., University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, with distinction, 2021
- B.A., University of California at Davis, 2016

Honors & Rankings

- Traynor Honor Society, University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law
- Dean's List, University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, 2018-2021
- Judicial Extern, Honorable Morrison C. England, Eastern District of California, 2021

Speaking Engagements / Events

- *Ethics Training (AB 1234)*, 2023 ACWA Fall Conference & Expo, November 30, 2023
- *Ethics Training (AB 1234)*, Presenter, ACWA Spring Conference, May 11, 2023

Publications

- *State Water Resources Control Board Again Addresses Instream Flow Concerns in Scott and Shasta Rivers Through Emergency Rulemaking*, California Water Law and Policy Reporter, Volume 34, Number 6, March 2024
- *Environmental Groups Challenge State Water Resources Control Board's Order Modifying Irrigated Lands Program Order for Central Coast Region*, California Water Law & Policy Reporter, Volume 34, Number 3, December 2023
- *District Court Vacates National Marine Fisheries Services' Biological Opinion and Environmental Assessment for Safe Harbor Agreements Regarding Shasta River Coho Salmon*, Environmental, Energy & Climate Change Law and Regulation Reporter, Volume 3, Number 11, August/September 2023
- *California Court of Appeal Upholds State Water Resources Control Board's General Waste Discharge Requirements in WQO 2018-0002*, California Water Law and Policy Reporter, Volume 33, Number 8, May 2023
- *California Tribes and Environmental Organizations File Civil Rights Complaint and Petition for Rulemaking with EPA for Bay-Delta Water Quality Standards*, California Water Law & Policy Reporter, Volume 33, Number 5, February 2023
- *Ninth Circuit Holds That Native Alaskan Tribe has an Implied Right to Fish off the Tribe's Reservation*, Western Water Law & Policy Reporter, Volume 27, Number 1, November 2022
- *Department of Water Resources Begins Preparation of Environmental Impact Report for West False River Drought Salinity Barrier*, California Water Law & Policy Reporter, Volume 32, Number 7, April 2022
- *Water Agencies File Lawsuits Challenging State Water Board's Sacramento-San Joaquin Curtailment*

Order, California Water Law & Policy Reporter, Volume 32, Number 2, November 2021

Legal Alerts

- *Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Reverses RCRA Citizen Suit Decision Affecting Drinking Water Supply Agencies in California River Watch v. City of Vacaville*, July 7, 2022
- *State Water Board Issues Sweeping Water Right Curtailment Order in 2022 for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed*, June 9, 2022