

**WE HAVE LED THE LEGAL INDUSTRY IN HELPING CLIENTS ANALYZE AND REDUCE CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS IN CALIFORNIA'S COMMUNITIES.**



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Many of our clients are public agencies who are either enacting climate change policies or need to stay ahead of—not just in step with—evolving state and national climate change regulations and “green chemistry” initiatives. Our position as legal advisor to these entities has given us a leading-edge vantage point on climate change and green chemistry issues, which benefits all our clients, both public and private.

The Climate Change and Green Initiatives Practice Group offers complete legal services in the many areas of law that relate to climate change. We advise on compliance with all national and state climate change laws and regulations.

**ANALYZING CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS UNDER CEQA & NEPA**

Perhaps the biggest climate change policy issue facing our clients is whether and how greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions should be addressed under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). We are recognized as leaders in analyzing GHG and climate change impacts under these two laws. We are closely monitoring how the enforcement of California Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32), the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2016, will change GHG regulation in the state.

Our work in this area grew out of our representation of California’s harbors, ports, airports, and utility and energy companies—entities that are acutely affected by mandates to reduce emissions of GHGs and other pollutants. Our experience includes:

- Advising on the disclosure and quantification of a project’s GHG emissions and potential adverse environmental impacts;
- Developing and applying standards to determine if the project’s emissions will have a “significant” impact;
- Developing effective and enforceable mitigation measures and plans to reduce emissions; and

- Advising on the use of exemptions and negative declarations for projects with potential global warming impacts.

**REDUCING GHG EMISSIONS THROUGH LOCAL LAND USE CHOICES**

Meyers Nave’s multidisciplinary structure allows our Climate Change practice to leverage the expertise of our attorneys throughout the firm to help clients create climate change programs and reduce GHG emissions locally.

We advise local governments on the following:

- Creation of climate action plans;
- Reduction of GHGs emitted by planned and existing transportation and building projects;
- Reduction of GHG emissions under broad-based planning policies for smart growth and transit-oriented developments; and
- Resource conservation.

**HELPING COMPANIES NAVIGATE EVOLVING GREEN CHEMISTRY REGULATIONS**

California’s Safe Consumer Products Regulations (“SCPR”), known as the state’s “Green Chemistry Initiative,” presents a myriad of issues that all companies doing business in California need to address.

Adding further complexity to the issue is how the SCPR complements, or may otherwise be affected by, proposed changes to the federal Toxic Substances Control Act, as well as international regulations such as REACH, which applies to the registration, evaluation, authorization and restriction of chemicals. Our Green Initiatives attorneys help clients plan for and understand the implications of these regulations, and we

*Climate Change & Green Initiatives Services*

- Greenhouse gas emissions regulations
- Green building and sustainability regulations
- Climate action plans
- CEQA/NEPA analysis of climate change
- Renewable energy
- Sustainable planning and development
- Utility company regulation
- Safer Consumer Products Regulations
- Toxic Substances Control Act

*Practice Awards*

"Tier 1" in "Litigation-Environmental" in the Los Angeles metro area and "Tier 1" in "Natural Resources Law" in the Oakland metro area (*U.S. News-Best Lawyers*, "Best Law Firms," 2016)

Top 10 "Leading Environmental Practices" in the San Francisco Bay Area (*The Recorder*, 2012)

guide them in complying with requirements that may affect their business practices, from product reformulation, supply-chain issues, and alternative analysis requirements.

**ADOPTING GREEN BUILDING PROGRAMS**

We advise public and private clients on green building programs and sustainable construction. We have helped public agencies draft and implement both mandatory and incentive-based green building regulations. Our advice addresses policy issues, such as enforcement, as well as practical considerations that are essential for success.

**ADDRESSING THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF UTILITY COMPANIES**

Utility companies face unique and significant challenges in order to comply with AB 32. We know how to help these companies identify and choose one or more of the options available to them. For example, we have negotiated and prepared agreements to exchange and/or purchase emission reduction credits, giving us insight into potential cap and trade programs for carbon emissions. We also have advised clients on the construction of renewable energy facilities (e.g., solar, hydroelectric and cogeneration facilities), including preparing contract documents and contracting under qualifications-based delivery methods rather than lowest-responsible-bidder methods.