



Albert I. Herson
Senior Of Counsel

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Practice Groups
Land Use & Environmental Law

Bar Number
114507

Education
University of the Pacific, McGeorge School
of Law, JD, *summa cum laude*, 1984

University of California, Los Angeles,
MA, 1976

University of Illinois, BA, *summa cum
laude*, 1972

Practicing Since: 1984

Albert (Al) Herson is a Senior Of Counsel in the Meyers Nave Land Use and Environmental Practice Group. Al is an environmental attorney and planner with over 40 years of experience. A recognized authority on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and natural resources law, he provides counsel to public agencies on complex environmental and land use legal matters.

Al has prepared and reviewed hundreds of CEQA documents on land use and other government agency projects, both as an attorney and as a consultant prior to joining the firm. These include Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) prepared for large-scale water projects,, Regional Transportation Plans, General Plans, Climate Action Plans, and large-scale land use and transportation projects. Al provides in-depth guidance and reviews on priority topics such as land use, climate change, transportation, and air quality impact analysis. On many of his projects, he also reviews regional and local plans for compliance with Government Code requirements, and for compliance with state guidance such as the RTP Guidelines and the General Plan Guidelines.

Al served for 15 years as co-chair for CLE International's Annual CEQA Update conference, recognized as the state's leading CEQA legal conference. He has served on the Executive Committees of the State Bar and Sacramento County Environmental Law Sections. He is a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners (FAICP) and a Past President of both the American Planning Association California Chapter and the California Planning Roundtable.

In addition to his extensive project experience and professional involvement with legal and planning associations, Al maintains ongoing publishing and teaching roles, which require him to stay informed on the latest judicial, legislative, and regulatory developments in planning and environmental law—knowledge he regularly shares with clients.

Honors and Awards

- Award of Honor - *Planner Emeritus Network*, *American Planning Association*, California Chapter
- Distinguished Leadership Award, *American Planning Association*, California Chapter
- Outstanding Instructor Award, *UC Davis Extension*
- Outstanding Instructor Award, *UCLA Extension*

Professional and Community Affiliations

- The State Bar of California, Member (1984-Present)
- The State Bar of California Environmental Law Section, Executive Committee (1994-1997)
- CLE International, Annual CEQA Conference, Co-Chair (2004-2019)
- Sacramento County Bar Association, Environmental Law Section, Executive Committee (2018)
- American Institute of Certified Planners, Fellow
- California Planning Roundtable, President (2007-2008)
- American Planning Association (APA), California Chapter, President (1989-1991)
- Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP)
- California Water Plan Update Advisory Committees (2009, 2013)
- California Department of Water Resources Climate Change Technical Advisory Group (2012)

Presentations and Publications

- Instructor, *Land Use and Environmental Law (Four-Day Course)*, UC Davis Extension (2011-2017)
- Instructor, *Caltrans In-House Land Use Planning Course*, UC Davis Extension (2017)
- Instructor, *State Water Resources Control Board In-House CEQA Course*, UC Davis Extension (2015)
- Instructor, Numerous CEQA and NEPA workshops, UC Davis Extension
- Instructor, Numerous CEQA and NEPA workshops, UCLA Extension
- Panelist, Advanced CEQA Workshops (various advanced CEQA topics), Association of Environmental Professionals (2010-2021)

- Co-Author, [*California Environmental Quality Act Compliance*](#), A Practical Guidance® Practice Note, LexisNexis (2018-2025)
- Co-Author, *California Environmental Law and Land Use Practice Treatise* CEQA chapters (Chapters 20-24), including updates through 2021
- Author, *Proposed 2018 Comprehensive CEQA Guidelines Amendments*, California Environmental Law Reporter, February 2018
- Co-Author, *California Environmental Law and Policy: A Practical Guide*, 2017
- Co-Author, *The NEPA Book*, 2001
- Co-Author, *CEQA Deskbook*, 1999
- Author of numerous articles and case reviews in California Environmental Law Reporter

Representative Experience

- **Santa Clara Valley Water District - Santa Clara Valley Water District-Outside CEQA Counsel.** Represented Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) as outside CEQA counsel since 2010 on over 30 water supply or flood management projects. Provided strategic guidance and document review for complex EIRs prepared for projects such as the Fish and Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE), the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project, the Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project, the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project, and the Stream Maintenance Program. Also provided strategic guidance and document review for joint EIRs/EISs prepared for the San Luis Reservoir Low Point Project and the South SF Bay Shoreline Project.
- **San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) - Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy.** Collaborated closely with staff, leadership, and consultants to provide complex advice on the 2011, 2015, and 2021 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategies (RTP/SCSs) and their Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs). Currently advising on the next update to the 2021 Regional Plan. Drafted key EIR deliverables (memoranda on technical methodologies, significance criteria, and mitigation measures), prepared detailed analyses of compliance with transportation planning and environmental laws, and helped successfully litigate high-profile challenges to the 2050 RTP/SCS EIR (Cleveland National Forest Foundation, et al. v. SANDAG (2017) 3 Cal.5th 497; Cleveland National Forest Foundation, et al. v. SANDAG (2017) 17 Cal.App.5th 413).
- **County of Los Angeles - 2045 Climate Action Plan and EIR.** Played key role in providing strategic advice and reviewing both the 2045 Climate Action Plan (CAP) and its EIR. The 2045 CAP sets ambitious greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets through 2045 aligned with state legislative targets; identifies GHG reduction measures from major sectors to achieve those targets; and includes a development review consistency checklist for CEQA streamlining. CEQA compliance reviews included reviewing the 2045 CAP for compliance with CEQA Guidelines requirements for “qualified” greenhouse gas reduction plans intended to streamline project-level CEQA GHG analyses.

- **City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles World Airports - LAX Landside Access Modernization Program EIR.** As part of a long-standing role as special CEQA counsel, serve as special CEQA counsel for the \$5.5 billion LAX Landside Access Modernization Program, focusing on planning documents and the EIR, particularly alternative access modes. The project includes an Automated People Mover connecting to Metro's 96th Street Connector, Green Line extension, Intermodal Transportation Facilities, and a new Consolidated Rental Car facility.

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