



Palmer Hilton
Of Counsel

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Practice Groups
Land Use & Environmental

California Bar Number
324846

Education
University of North Carolina School
of Law, JD, 2018

Bucknell University, BA, Political Science
and History, 2014

Palmer Hilton is Of Counsel in the Land Use & Environmental practice group. He currently advises the cities of Rancho Cordova, Manteca, and Salinas, and has served as Interim General Counsel to Bear Valley Community Services District since 2023.

Palmer's practice is focused on advising his clients on a wide range of matters including public works, economic development, environmental law, land use, water law and water rights litigation, the Brown Act, and general contract compliance. In connection with these matters, Palmer currently advises the cities of Rancho Cordova and Manteca on public works issues and economic development, including complex logistics projects involving land use, environmental permitting and CEQA compliance, and the City of Salinas on planning issues. Palmer has served as lead counsel for the Planning Commission of Rancho Cordova since January 2024, and has served as the General Counsel to Bear Valley Community Services District since April 2023. Palmer has former experience advising cities on water rights issues related to State Water Board curtailment order compliance on the Russian River and litigation experience representing the State of Texas in a water rights interstate compact dispute brought as an original action before the United States Supreme Court.

While in law school, Palmer served on the Executive Board of the University of North Carolina Environmental Law Project and participated in pro-bono legal work for Southern Environmental Law Center. He also served as a staff member for both the North Carolina Journal of Law and Technology and the University of North Carolina Community Development Law Clinic. In this role he provided corporate and transactional legal assistance to nonprofit organizations. Prior to law school, Palmer was an intern for the Nevada Attorney General's Office/Colorado River Commission in Las Vegas, Nevada and performed research in areas of environmental, water, and land use law.

Professional and Community Affiliations

- Member, Sacramento County Bar Association

Presentations and Publications

- Contributing author, *Legal Tides*
- Contributing author, *Coast Watch*
- Contributing author, *North Carolina's Blue Economy*
- Staff Member, *North Carolina Journal of Law & Technology*

Representative Experience

- Represented a state in the United States Supreme Court regarding water rights issues.
- Represented a California water district in litigation regarding an irrigation canal easement and other land use issues.
- Represented a California county in proceedings before the California State Water Resources Control Board.
- Represented an Oregon water association in an Endangered Species Act matter.
- Advised a Joint-Powers Agency in legislative and policy matters.

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