CARA M. MACDONALD

ASSOCIATE

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OFFICE:
Oakland

LANGUAGES:
English, Spanish

Cara MacDonald guides clients through complex environmental regulation, permitting, and litigation, with a focus on renewable energy development.

Cara's practice spans matters arising under the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, CERCLA, CEQA, and NEPA, including preparing permit applications, responding to agency actions, and guiding clients through CEQA and NEPA review processes. Her experience includes renewable energy development projects involving onshore wind, offshore wind, solar, and hydroelectric power, where she advises on Clean Air Act permitting and Endangered Species Act and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act compliance.

Before joining Meyers Nave, Cara practiced at an AmLaw 100 firm in San Francisco, where she supported complex environmental litigation in federal and state courts, including matters arising under the Clean Air Act and CERCLA. She has assisted with all aspects of the litigation process, ranging from depositions and discovery to a trial in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California that resulted in a favorable outcome for the client.

Cara's regulatory experience includes advising industrial clients on stormwater and California hazardous waste compliance.

Cara also has experience coordinating real estate transactions, including title due diligence, analysis of zoning and local laws affecting real estate investments, environmental due diligence, and drafting purchase agreements, leases, and closing documents.

EDUCATION

Pepperdine Caruso School of Law, JD, *cum laude,* 2022

The University of Utah, BS, Journalism, with Honors, 2019

ADMISSIONS

California, 2022 – Bar No. 347562

U.S. District Court, Northern District of California

U.S. District Court, Central District of California

PRACTICE AREAS

Land Use & Environmental

Air Quality

CEQA/NEPA

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- **Clean Air Act** – Assisted with high-stakes litigation, including depositions, witness preparation, and trial, under the federal Clean Air Act regarding alleged Title V permit violations, achieving a favorable outcome for the client. Also provided permitting and regulatory compliance advice for two offshore wind projects.
- **Clean Water Act** – Assisted industrial clients in achieving compliance with federal and state stormwater discharge laws.
- **Endangered Species Act / Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act** – Assisted onshore wind farm facilities with compliance under the Endangered Species Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.
- **California Fish and Game Code** – Assisted a nonprofit animal rescue organization with compliance under the California Fish & Game Code and California Department of Fish & Wildlife regulations.
- **CERCLA** – Advised clients on CERCLA implications arising from environmental site assessments that triggered CERCLA concerns. Also assisted with a CERCLA cost recovery litigation matter.
- **Land Use** – Advised private and public clients on CEQA and NEPA processes applicable to their projects. Analyzed zoning and local laws and advised clients on how such laws affect their real estate investments.
- **Real Estate** – Provided legal assistance on real estate transactions, including drafting purchase agreements, coordinating with opposing counsel and title companies, conducting real estate and environmental due diligence, and drafting closing documents.
- **California Hazardous Waste Control Laws** – Advised a variety of industrial clients on regulatory compliance with California hazardous waste laws.