Overview

Water is a vital resource, and access to safe and reliable water is fundamental to society. As a result, its use, supply, quality and management are all highly regulated. The laws are complicated and compliance is complex.

BB&K is uniquely positioned to help our public and private clients navigate this challenging landscape. BB&K is recognized as a California Powerhouse for our water-related work, and our Environmental Law & Natural Resource practice is among the leading in the nation. Our lawyers have counseled clients on building, operating and maintaining water supply systems for more than a century, offering integrated, coordinated, cross-disciplinary knowledge and experience to address and effectively resolve all water-related issues and concerns.

We literally wrote the book on California water law, an authoritative treatise that addresses the many complicated issues that arise regarding water rights, supply and quality. Our water law lawyers have played an integral role in advocating and helping to develop water-related policies and regulations.

On the Cutting Edge of Water Law

Always on the cutting edge when it comes to water issues, laws and regulations, we helped shape the grant and loan distribution guidelines of California’s Proposition 1, which authorized issuance of more than $11 billion in bonds to overhaul California’s water system. We were involved in drafting other water legislation, including the California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, and one of our lawyers was selected by the United States Supreme Court to serve as Special Master of a large water rights dispute between two states. Through these various endeavors, we have gained extensive experience and a comprehensive knowledge of the rules and their application, making BB&K the go-to firm on water issues.

Comprehensive Service

From environmental concerns to water rights, water quality, wastewater recycling, sewage treatment, stormwater and solid waste management systems to infrastructure development, construction and finance, BB&K lawyers are
experienced in addressing the issues that water projects implicate. We advise cities, counties, water districts, public agencies and private clients, devising innovative and cost-effective solutions that assure compliance with all legal requirements and regulatory restrictions.

Our lawyers often team with engineers, environmental consultants and architects to offer guidance and develop the best possible solutions for our clients. Additionally, we assist clients with:

- Permitting, approvals, land use, zoning and siting issues
- Treatment, storage and distribution of water resources
- Remediation and restoration
- Wetlands
- Compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Water Act, California’s Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and all other applicable environmental laws, including California Environmental Quality Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, and the Endangered Species Act

BB&amp;K maintains an extensive Environmental Litigation practice that engages nearly a quarter of the firm’s lawyers and utilizes the firm’s knowledge and experience to effectively resolve issues before regulatory bodies and in courts at all levels.

**How Can Government Relations Help You?**

Environmental, water, telecommunications and transportation projects by both public agencies and businesses can benefit from our advocacy services. Let us help you be heard!

Learn more about BB&amp;K’s Government Relations services.

**People**

**Steve M. Anderson**

**Partner**

STEVE.ANDERSON@BBKLAW.COM

(951) 826-8279

**Areas of Focus:** Endangered Species | Environmental Law & Natural Resources | Environmental Litigation | General & Special Counsel | Special Districts | Water

**Our Perspective**

Public Infrastructure | Water
Water
Overview
Water is a vital resource, and access to safe and reliable water is fundamental to society. BB&K's water law practice that engages comprehensive knowledge of the rules and their application, making BB&K the practice is among the leading in the nation. Our lawyers have counseled clients on a variety of practice areas.

Areas of Focus: Environmental Law & Natural Resources | Environmental Litigation | Municipal Law | Water | Water Quality | Water Rights

Benjamin Bodell
ASSOCIATE
BENJAMIN.BODELL@BBKLAW.COM
(925) 977-3337

Areas of Focus: California Public Utilities Commission | Environmental Law & Natural Resources | Renewable Energy | Transportation | Water

Joseph P. Byrne
PARTNER
JOSEPH.BYRNE@BBKLAW.COM
(213) 617-7496

Areas of Focus: Environmental Law & Natural Resources | General & Special Counsel | Government Policy & Public Integrity | Municipal Law | Special Districts | Water

Sonia Rubio Carvalho
PARTNER
SONIA.CARVALHO@BBKLAW.COM
(949) 263-2603

Areas of Focus: Economic Development, Real Estate & Affordable Housing | Elections | Government Policy & Public Integrity | Public Contracts & Construction

Lowry A. Crook
PARTNER
Areas of Focus: Endangered Species | Environmental Law & Natural Resources | Government Relations | National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) | Public-Private Partnerships | Water

Amanda E. Daams
ASSOCIATE
AMANDA.DAAMS@BBKLAW.COM
(951) 826-8236

Areas of Focus: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) | Endangered Species | Environmental Law & Natural Resources | Land Use, Planning & Zoning | National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) | Water

Paula C. P. de Sousa Mills
PARTNER
PAULA.DESOUSAMILLS@BBKLAW.COM
(619) 525-1328

Areas of Focus: Environmental Law & Natural Resources | General & Special Counsel | Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) | Municipal Law | Public Contracts & Construction | Special Districts

Jeffrey V. Dunn
PARTNER
JEFFREY.DUNN@BBKLAW.COM
(949) 263-2616

Areas of Focus: Economic Development, Real Estate & Affordable Housing | Environmental Litigation | Municipal Law | Public Agency Litigation | Special Districts | Water

Jeffry F. Ferre
PARTNER
JEFF.FERRE@BBKLAW.COM

Areas of Focus: Endangered Species | Environmental Law & Natural Resources | Government Relations | National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) | Public-Private Partnerships | Water
Water
Overview
Water is a vital resource, and access to safe and reliable water is fundamental to society. As a result, its use, supply, quality and management are all highly challenging.

Areas of Focus: Environmental Law & Natural Resources | General & Special Counsel | Government Policy & Public Integrity | Municipal Law | Public Contracts & Construction | Special Districts

Sarah Christopher Foley
ASSOCIATE
SARAH.FOLEY@BBKLAW.COM
(213) 787-2560

Areas of Focus: Endangered Species | Environmental Litigation | Municipal Law | Special Districts | Water | Water Quality | Water Rights

John D. Freshman
SENIOR DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS*
JOHN.FRESHMAN@BBKLAW.COM
(202) 370-5301

Areas of Focus: Air Quality | Endangered Species | Environmental Law & Natural Resources | Government Relations | Hazardous Waste | Water

Eric L. Garner
PARTNER
ERIC.GARNER@BBKLAW.COM
(213) 787-2561

Areas of Focus: Environmental Law & Natural Resources | Environmental Litigation | Municipal Law | Special Districts | Water | Water Rights

Shawn D. Hagerty
PARTNER
SHAWN.HAGERTY@BBKLAW.COM
(619) 525-1327

Areas of Focus: Environmental Law & Natural Resources | Municipal Law |
Areas of Focus: General & Special Counsel | Government Policy & Public Integrity | Municipal Law | Renewable Energy | Water
Water is a vital resource, and access to safe and reliable water is fundamental to society. BB&K is uniquely positioned to help our public and private clients navigate this complex area of law, providing a comprehensive approach to water rights, public infrastructure, renewable energy, and water quality issues.
### Areas of Focus:
- Environmental Law & Natural Resources
- Government Policy & Public Integrity
- Municipal Law
- Special Districts
- Water

### Legal Alerts
- Proposition 218 Challenge
- BB&K Partner Recognized for Contributions to Riverside School Integration
- Country OK'd by Court
- Local Taxes on Non-Indian Possessory Interests in Indian

### CLIENT SUCCESSES
- Calif. County Tax On Leased Tribal Lands Gets Judge's
- House Passes California Water Bill

### AUTHORED ARTICLES & PUBLICATIONS
- Association of California Water Agencies
- ACWA Legal Affairs Committee CLE Workshop
- Proposition 218 Dispute Over Lead Testing in School Drinking Water
- Supreme Court WOTUS Decision Vacates Sixth Circuit Been Waiting For

### PRESS RELEASES
- Environmental, Public Agency, Litigation and Bankruptcy Partners Recognized
- Court Decision on California Water Code Authority
- Argent's 2018 California Land Use Law & Policy MCLE Conference
- BB&K Free Webinar
- Environment, Natural Resources and Infrastructure Law

### BB&K IN THE NEWS
- Served Senior Positions with the Army Corps of Engineers and the White
- BB&K Welcomes Water and Environmental Partner
- Five BB&K Partners Named to 2019 San Diego Super

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### Areas of Focus:
- Municipal Law | Public Contracts & Construction | Special Districts | Transportation | Water

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ward H. Simmons</td>
<td>Of Counsel</td>
<td><a href="mailto:WARD.SIMMONS@BBKLAW.COM">WARD.SIMMONS@BBKLAW.COM</a></td>
<td>(951) 826-8366</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patrick D. Skahan</td>
<td>Associate</td>
<td><a href="mailto:PATRICK.SKAHAN@BBKLAW.COM">PATRICK.SKAHAN@BBKLAW.COM</a></td>
<td>(213) 542-3869</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gene Tanaka</td>
<td>Partner</td>
<td><a href="mailto:GENE.TANAKA@BBKLAW.COM">GENE.TANAKA@BBKLAW.COM</a></td>
<td>(925) 977-3301</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roderick E. Walston</td>
<td>Of Counsel</td>
<td><a href="mailto:RODERICK.WALSTON@BBKLAW.COM">RODERICK.WALSTON@BBKLAW.COM</a></td>
<td>(925) 977-3304</td>
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### Areas of Focus:
- Endangered Species | Environmental Law & Natural Resources | General & Special Counsel | Municipal Law | Special Districts | Water | Water Quality | Water Rights

### Areas of Focus:
- Elections | Eminent Domain | Environmental Law & Natural Resources | Environmental Litigation | Municipal Law | Special Districts | Water | Water Quality | Water Rights

### Areas of Focus:
- Environmental Law & Natural Resources | Environmental Litigation | Hazardous Waste | Public Agency Litigation | Water
Areas of Focus: Environmental Law & Natural Resources | Environmental Litigation | Municipal Law | Public Contracts & Construction | Special Districts | Water

News & Events

EVENT | JUL 25, 2019
SGMA’s Next Phase
Sustainable Groundwater Planning in California

LEGAL ALERTS | JUL 24, 2019
Complying with America’s Water Infrastructure Act Requirements
New Risk, Resilience and Emergency Preparedness Requirements for Community Water Systems

LEGAL ALERTS | JUL 09, 2019
Irrigation District May Refuse Water Delivery to Rule Violators
Calif. Appellate Court Decision May Also Apply to Other Types of Water Providers

CLIENT SUCCESSES | JUL 01, 2019
BB&K Contributes to Successful Rate Ordinance Defense
Partner Kelly Salt Represented Public Agencies as Amicus Curiae

EVENT | JUN 20, 2019
2019 California Water Law & Policy MCLE Conference
Argent Communications Group

LEGAL ALERTS | JUN 18, 2019
Resolution Adopting New Water Rates Not Subject to Referendum
Calif. Court of Appeal Holds that Referendum Power Not Applicable to Local Water Rate Resolutions

PRESS RELEASES | JUN 11, 2019
Two BB&K Partners Named Coachella Valley Top Lawyers
Henry Welles and Robert Hargreaves Selected by Palm Springs Life Magazine

LEGAL ALERTS | MAY 02, 2019
SGMA: DWR Announces Draft Basin Prioritization
Comments Accepted Until May 30

AUTHORED ARTICLES & PUBLICATIONS | APR 30, 2019
"California Water," Third Edition
Eric Garner's Updates to Text on Historical, Legal and Policy Issues Affecting California Water Use

PRESS RELEASES | APR 24, 2019
BB&K’s Christi Hogin and Andre Monette Honored for Amicus Work by IMLA
The Attorneys Argued About Short-Term Rentals and the Clean Water Act in the Ninth Circuit

CLIENT SUCCESSES | APR 24, 2019
Tribe Lacks Standing in Water Suit
Representing Desert Water Agency, BB&K Attorneys Won Partial Dismissal of Case

PRESS RELEASES | APR 10, 2019
Five BB&K Partners Named to 2019 San Diego Super Lawyers List
All Are Returning to the Annual List

LEGAL ALERTS | APR 04, 2019
New Wetlands Protections in California Proposed
LEGAL ALERTS | JAN 10, 2019
**New Year, New Laws Impacting Public Agencies in California – Part II**
Housing and Land Use and Environmental Laws Saw Changes in 2019

LEGAL ALERTS | JAN 09, 2019
**New Year, New Laws Impacting Public Agencies in California – Part I**
2019 Brings Changes to Election, Revenue, Conflict of Interest, Property and Public Safety Laws… and More

PRESS RELEASES | JAN 02, 2019
**BB&K Announces Three New Partners**
Additional Changes to Leadership Roles

PRESS RELEASES | DEC 19, 2018
**Cities’ Struggles to Meet Obligations Are Real — BB&K Municipal Law Team Grows to Help**
New and Expanded Services and More Attorneys and Staff Added in 2018

PRESS RELEASES | DEC 17, 2018
**BB&K Welcomes Water and Environmental Partner Lowry Crook**
Served Senior Positions with the Army Corps of Engineers and the White House

LEGAL ALERTS | DEC 12, 2018
**Proposed Federal Clean Water Rule Impacts Cities and Residents**
Comments Being Sought

CLIENT SUCCESSES | DEC 07, 2018
**Water and Wastewater Bond Deal**
BB&K Attorneys Served as Bond Counsel

BB&K IN THE NEWS | DEC 04, 2018
Groundwater Rights Jury Finds in Favor of Public Water Suppliers
BB&K Team Successfully Defends City in First-of-its-Kind Trial in California

PRESS RELEASES | AUG 21, 2018
Best Lawyers in America Lists 27 BB&K Attorneys for 2019
Representing a Variety of Practice Areas

VIDEOS | AUG 14, 2018
Lauren Langer Video Bio
Partner

LEGAL ALERTS | AUG 06, 2018
Groundwater Extraction Permits Not Subject to CEQA in San Luis Obispo County
Approval is a Ministerial Action, not subject to CEQA, Appellate Court Finds

LEGAL ALERTS | JUL 26, 2018
Federal Draft Infrastructure Bill Released
Aims to Provide Revenue to Repair Failing Infrastructure

BB&K IN THE NEWS | JUL 20, 2018
Kavanaugh and the Clean Water Act
Partner Andre Monette Interviewed by Bloomberg Environment on SCOTUS Nominee

EVENT | JUN 13, 2018
Water Projects: How to Successfully Navigate a Growing But Complicated Process
American Water Works Association

EVENT | JUN 11, 2018
California Water Law & Policy Conference
Argent Communications Group

LEGAL ALERTS | MAY 31, 2018
Does a Federal Reserved Right to Surface Water Extend to Groundwater?

ABA Water Law Conference

EVENT | APR 17, 2018
Now Comes the Hard Part... Implementing Groundwater Management Under SGMA

UCLA IoES Water Resources Group and UCLA School of Law's Emmett Institute on Climate Change and the Environment

PRESS RELEASES | APR 13, 2018
San Diego Super Lawyers 2018
Five BB&K Attorneys Recognized on Annual List

EVENT | APR 08, 2018
Biennial Conference of the Section on Energy, Environment, Natural Resources and Infrastructure Law

International Bar Association

| MAR 29, 2018
[WEBINAR] Fairly (or Unfairly?) Traceable: Are Discharges Through Groundwater Subject to the Clean Water Act?

BB&K WEBINAR | MAR 29, 2018
Fairly (or Unfairly Traceable?) Traceable: Are Discharges Through Groundwater Subject to the Clean Water Act?

BB&K Free Webinar

EVENT | MAR 25, 2018
2018 AEP State Conference
Association of Environmental Professionals

BB&K IN THE NEWS | MAR 22, 2018
Debating an Environmental Water Right in California
Managing Partner Eric L. Garner Interviewed by the Water Education Foundation
LEGAL ALERTS | JAN 31, 2018
A Peek Inside the Trump Infrastructure Plan: What Local Government Agencies Should Know
The State of the Union Address and a Leaked Memo Give the Insight We’ve Been Waiting For

LEGAL ALERTS | JAN 22, 2018
Supreme Court WOTUS Decision Vacates Sixth Circuit Decision
District Court Stays and EPA Delay of Rule Implementation Remain in Effect

EVENT | JAN 17, 2018
An Update on Federal Policy Changes Impacting Mid-Pacific Water Users
Mid-Pacific Region Water Users’ Conference

LEGAL ALERTS | JAN 10, 2018
2018 California Public Agency Laws – Part II
Housing and Land Use, Environment, Public Property/Public Works and Economic Development

LEGAL ALERTS | DEC 20, 2017
Dispute Over Lead Testing in School Drinking Water Continues
State Water Resources Control Board Says It Will Enforce Permit Amendment

LEGAL ALERTS | DEC 04, 2017
California Supreme Court Holds Groundwater Pumping Charges Are Not Property-Related Charges Subject to Proposition 218
Case May Impact Groundwater Pumping Charges Authorized Under SGMA

EVENT | NOV 28, 2017
ACWA Legal Affairs Committee CLE Workshop
Association of California Water Agencies

BB&K IN THE NEWS | NOV 27, 2017
Two Service Districts Form LAFCO
EVENT | SEP 25, 2017
There’s a Lot Going on in Water Quality Law!
CASQA’s 13th Annual Conference

AUTHORED ARTICLES & PUBLICATIONS | SEP 20, 2017
The Little Hoover Commission Issues Report on Special Districts
By Whitney Blackhurst

AUTHORED ARTICLES & PUBLICATIONS | AUG 30, 2017
August 2017 Federal Report: Infrastructure, Debt Ceiling and Budget
By John Freshman and Ana Schwab

PRESS RELEASES | AUG 15, 2017
22 BB&K Attorneys Earn Spot on Best Lawyers in America 2018 List
Two Recognized as Lawyers of the Year

LEGAL ALERTS | JUL 27, 2017
EPA and Army Corps Propose Reinstating Longstanding WOTUS Definition
Step One in a Two-Step Process to Rescind and Revise the WOTUS Definition Pursuant to an Executive Order

AUTHORED ARTICLES & PUBLICATIONS | JUL 12, 2017
House Passes California Water Bill
By Ana Schwab

BB&K IN THE NEWS | JUN 22, 2017
Calif. County Tax On Leased Tribal Lands Gets Judge’s OK
Law360 Interviews Partner Rod Walston on Ruling

CLIENT SUCCESSES | JUN 22, 2017
Local Taxes on Non-Indian Possessory Interests in Indian
Country OK’d by Court
BB&K Wins Major Victory for Local Agencies Confirming Authority for Taxation

LEGAL ALERTS | JUN 19, 2017
No Mandatory Exhaustion of Administrative Remedies for Proposition 218 Challenge
California Court of Appeal Allows Challenge to Prop. 218 Without Public Protest

EVENT | JUN 15, 2017
Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District In Lieu Fee Program
CLE International's 4th Annual California Wetlands Conference

LEGAL ALERTS | JUN 14, 2017
New Filing Deadline for JPAs Approaches
JPAs Providing Municipal Services Must File with LAFCOs by July 1

EVENT | JUN 12, 2017
Coping with Drought, Floods and the New Federal Administration
Argent's 2017 California Water Law & Policy MCLE Conference

EVENT | JUN 08, 2017
Developing Water Resources in Southern California
Law Seminars International

EVENT | MAY 30, 2017
Identifying Aquifers for Successful Management
IWRA XVIth World Water Congress