

Alisha M. Winterswyk

Partner

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At a Glance

Alisha frequently speaks on CEQA and land use issues at professional conferences, seminars and continuing legal education events.

Alisha reviews and drafts hundreds of CEQA-related documents.

She taught environmental law as an adjunct professor at Whittier Law School.

Profile

Alisha Winterswyk’s practice centers on advising public and private clients on an array of state and federal environmental laws, with a specific focus on the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. A partner in the Best Best & Krieger LLP’s Environmental Law & Natural Resources practice group, Alisha regularly counsels clients on the substantive and procedural mandates of CEQA/NEPA. When her clients face legal challenges to their decisions or projects, Alisha successfully and zealously defends those clients in court. Throughout her career, Alisha has reviewed and/or drafted hundreds of CEQA-related documents.

A trusted land use advisor, Alisha is regularly called upon to assist public and private clients with navigating the land entitlement process. In her land use practice, Alisha advises public and private clients on complex land use matters involving the Planning and Zoning Law, the Subdivision Map Act, the California Coastal Act, the State Mining and Reclamation Act, the Cortese-Knox Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act, the Religious Land Use and

Areas of Focus

Practices

[California Coastal Act](#)

[California Environmental Quality Act \(CEQA\)](#)

[Environmental Law & Natural Resources](#)

[Environmental Litigation](#)

[Local Agency Formation Commission \(LAFCO\)](#)

[National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\)](#)

Industries

[Municipal](#)

[Special Districts](#)

Institutionalized Persons Act, and other related laws. With an eye toward environmentally responsible development, Alisha has advised public agency clients on myriad annexations, development agreements, general plan updates and amendments, specific plan adoption and amendments, coastal development permits, and various subdivisions. As a former assistant city attorney to several southern California cities, Alisha has extensive experience advising planning, engineering, and public works departments. She looks for practical approaches to solving difficult land use questions.

Alisha served as an adjunct law professor at Whittier Law School where she taught California environmental law. Alisha has guest lectured at several other Southern California universities on environmental and land use matters. Alisha frequently speaks on CEQA and land use issues at professional conferences, seminars and continuing legal education events. Over the past several years, she has contributed as a panelist to several AEP essential and advanced CEQA workshops. Each year Alisha coaches or advises a team of law students who participate in the California Lawyers Association's Annual Environmental Negotiations Competition. Alisha is an advisor and former secretary to the California Lawyers Association Environmental Law Section Executive Committee, and the past director and president of the Orange County Association of Environmental Professionals.

While in law school, she served as the editor-in-chief of the *Whittier Law Review* and she was a member of the Moot Court Honors Board. Alisha was a judicial law clerk to the late Honorable Presiding Justice David G. Sills of the California Court of Appeal, Fourth District, Division Three. In her free time, Alisha enjoys being with her family, fishing, rock climbing, mountain biking, quilting, knitting and reading. She is admitted to practice law in the State of California.

Education

- Whittier Law School, J.D., *magna cum laude*
- Whittier College, B.S.

Awards

- Southern California Super Lawyers Rising Star, Environmental, 2013-2015

Memberships

- State Bar of California Environmental Section Executive Committee
- Orange County Association of Environmental Professionals, chapter president

Authorships

LEGAL ALERTS | MAR 15, 2018

Defining “Existing” Structures in Sea Rise Shoreline

Protection

California Coastal Commission and City of San Clemente Reach LUP Agreement

LEGAL ALERTS | DEC 11, 2017

California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Increases CEQA Document Filing Fees

Filing Fees for CEQA Notices of Determination Increase Jan. 1

LEGAL ALERTS | DEC 01, 2017

Proposed “Comprehensive Update” to the State CEQA Guidelines Released

California Governor’s Office of Planning and Research Proposal Also Addresses SB 743

LEGAL ALERTS | SEP 11, 2017

Legislature May Expedite CEQA Review for Transportation Projects Connected to 2028 Olympic Games

Bill Introduced in Advance of Los Angeles Being Awarded the Games This Week

LEGAL ALERTS | AUG 17, 2017

Property Owner to Maintain Public Beach Access Over Coastal Property

California Court of Appeal Weighs in on California Coastal Act

LEGAL ALERTS | DEC 13, 2016

CEQA Document Filing Fees Increase

Fee Increase for CEQA Notices of Determination Effective Jan. 1

LEGAL ALERTS | SEP 26, 2016

New Legislation Seeks to Expedite CEQA Administrative Record Process

Provides Opportunity to Streamline Litigation

LEGAL ALERTS | SEP 21, 2016

CEQA Allows Developers to Recover Administrative

Record Costs when Reimbursing Agency

Appellate Victory for Developers and Public Agencies

LEGAL ALERTS | SEP 20, 2016

California Supreme Court Clarifies CEQA's Subsequent Review Rules and Standard of Review

Decision Issued After Years of Uncertainty

LEGAL ALERTS | AUG 18, 2016

Air Quality District's CEQA Thresholds Limited

California Appellate Court Weighs in Following State Supreme Court Decision

LEGAL ALERTS | AUG 15, 2016

New Guidance Issued for Analyzing Climate Change in National Environmental Policy Act Documents

Guidance May Impact Agency Actions Currently Undergoing NEPA Review and Joint NEPA/CEQA Documents

LEGAL ALERTS | JUN 28, 2016

Case Clarifies California's Subdivision Map Act Requirements

Cities and Counties Impacted

LEGAL ALERTS | DEC 21, 2015

California Supreme Court Addresses the "Reverse CEQA" Problem

CEQA Does Not Require Agencies to Consider the Impact of Existing Conditions on Future Project Users — Except in Certain Circumstances

LEGAL ALERTS | OCT 13, 2015

EPA Issues New Regulation Governing Air Quality Standards for Ozone

New Standards Could be Costly for California's Public Agencies

- "Specific Plan EIRs and Exemptions for Follow-On Actions," *BBKnowledge*, Feb. 19, 2014