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Ventura County, CA

Practice Groups

Business Litigation

Environmental, Land & Resources

Litigation

Oil & Gas / Energy

Public Entity Law

Water Law

White Collar & Government Investigations

Education

Southwestern Law School, J.D.

St. Mary's College, B.A. in Integral Liberal Arts

Gregory J. Patterson

PARTNER

Greg Patterson is a member of the Water Law, Environmental, Land & Resources, Litigation and White Collar & Government Investigations Practice Groups.

Mr. Patterson is now in his 31st year of practice. Over the years, he has represented both public and private sector clients at both the federal and state levels on matters involving virtually all federal and state environmental and land use laws and regulations. Mr. Patterson's current practice can best be described as providing experienced and knowledgeable general counsel on issues related to state and federal environmental, water and land use law for both public and private entities.

At the federal level, Mr. Patterson has extensive experience representing clients under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the National Environmental Protection Act, and the Endangered Species Act.

At the state and local level, Mr. Patterson represents clients involving California's Hazardous Substances Control Act, the Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act, California's Clean Air Act, Fish and Game Code Act, California Environmental Quality Act, and Proposition 65. He has represented parties in numerous matters before the State Water Board, the Regional Water Quality Control Boards, the Department of Toxic Substances Control, the Department of Health Services, and the Air Quality Control Districts on various administrative, civil and criminal enforcement actions.

Mr. Patterson is experienced in handling complex environmental issues encompassing:

- Representing water rights holders involved with adjudication of water rights under the umbrella of the recently enacted Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)
- Acting as general counsel to public and private water entities
- Environmental litigation cost recovery actions at the state and federal level
- Negotiation and drafting of consent orders, corrective action agreements, and administrative compliance orders
- Representation of companies and persons charged with environmental criminal violations and civil violations including actions brought under the Business and Professions Code
- Representation throughout the remediation of contaminated properties, including oversight of Phase 1 and Phase 2 investigations, compliance with NCP requirements, negotiating economically feasible remediation plans, and closure requirements
- Counseling with respect to federal and state laws governing hazardous waste management and disposal, solid waste management, medical wastes, air emission requirements, water discharge and pollution requirements, storm water management, contamination and spill reporting obligations, underground storage tank requirements, groundwater and water resource management, and occupational health and safety requirements
- Environmental risk avoidance and risk allocations, including due diligence reviews and use of environmental insurance products

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- Indoor air quality matters, including vapor intrusion, asbestos management, and compliance with asbestos abatement regulations
- Defense of claims of violations of Proposition 65 warning requirements
- Review of environmental impact statements and related land use documents
- Compliance with Propositions 13, 26 and 218 procedural and substantive requirements
- Defense of environmental criminal violations

Admissions & Associations

State Bar of California, Environmental Section

Los Angeles County Bar Association, Environmental Section

Ventura County Association of Water Agencies

Representative Matters

Representation of a school district involving alleged exposure by school occupants to volatile organic compounds

Representation of individuals exposed to asbestos containing materials arising from a demolition project

Representation of individuals involving alleged exposure to chemicals arising from explosion of waste truck

Representing a private mutual water company in the first water adjudication case involving SGMA

Representing multiple agricultural and other overlying landowners in a separate water adjudication case also involving SGMA

Acting as general counsel to a private mutual water company

Representation of the City of Santa Monica in several actions against multiple oil companies involving the contamination of the City's ground water supplies with MtBE. This was one of the first cases in the country arising from MtBE contamination of a drinking water supply

Representation of the Los Angeles Unified School District in multiple matters to recover costs associated with the contamination of school property. These efforts resulted in the recovery of in excess of twenty million dollars

Representation of the City of American Canyon is an action against a large bottling company to enforce waste discharge requirements under the City's NPDES permit. The bottling company paid over seven million dollars in fines and settlement, the largest such fine for this type of municipal discharge violation

Representation of the City of Pasadena in an action involving contamination of a number of the City's drinking water wells

Representation of a water conservation district in four separate actions challenging the validity of the district's ground water extraction charges under Propositions 13, 26 and 218. Representation included two bench trials to conclusion. Greg appeared before the Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District and argued on the district's behalf regarding the correct interpretation and application of Propositions 13, 26 and 218 to the district's ground water extraction charges

Acting as court appointed liaison counsel to multiple defendants in a large superfund action

Representation of various companies in multi-party CERCLA and RCRA actions. Representation has included private party cost recovery actions as well as multi-party USEPA Superfund actions

Representation of numerous companies defending against citizen suits alleging violations of Proposition 65 warning requirements

Representation of companies defending against alleged storm water violations

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Representation of a private water company in multiple lawsuits involving the San Gabriel Valley ground water Superfund sites

Representation of a large national manufacturing company in a unique case involving the application of CEQA in the company's successful efforts to gain approval of its product for use in commercial and residential developments

Representation of manufacturing companies in efforts to obtain variances from the Air Quality Management District

Representation of multiple clients involved in property site cleanups, including interaction with the oversight agencies, purchase and sale of the properties, risk allocation and use of insurance products

Representation of multiple companies and individuals charged with civil and criminal violations of environmental laws