



Denise S. Bazzano

Partner

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Pronouns: she, her, hers

PRACTICES

Public Law

Tort Claims and Products
Liability

EDUCATION

J.D., Golden State University
School of Law, 2001

B.S., Business Administration,
Saint Mary's College of
California, 1995

ADMISSION

State Bar of California

AFFILIATIONS

Alameda County Bar
Association, Public Law Section

Contra Costa County City
Attorney's Association

Cal Cities Municipal Law
Handbook Committee

Denise Bazzano is a member of Burke's **Public** Law Practice Group where she leverages her multi-faceted experience in municipal law and litigation to assist public entities in a variety of legal and regulatory matters. Denise currently serves as Assistant City Attorney for the cities of Pacifica, Foster City and Watsonville and the Assistant Town Attorney for the Town of Moraga.

Denise regularly advises city councils, planning commissions, boards and staff on a wide range of both transactional and litigated matters including issues relating to conflicts of interest, code enforcement, cannabis regulation, contracts, land use, public works projects, purchasing, elections and areas of liability such as dangerous conditions of public property. Additionally, she provides regular advice regarding compliance with the Political Reform Act, Brown Act, the California and U.S. Constitutions, the Subdivision Map Act, and the Public Records Act. To assist her clients in understanding the law, Denise regularly provides AB 1234 training as well as specialized training in the Public Records Act and Brown Act.

Denise regularly advises city councils and staff on elections related issues including ballot measures and campaign activity. She has also assisted several cities in transitioning to district based elections and redistricting under the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 and the Fair And Inclusive Redistricting for Municipalities And Political Subdivisions (FAIR MAPS) Act.

Denise also advises councils, planning commissions and staff on a broad range of land use and planning matters, including advising public agencies on issues related to CEQA compliance, land use approval procedures, and processing of land use applications for both commercial and residential development projects. Additionally, Denise provides advice on real estate transactions and has experience drafting and negotiating purchase and sale agreements, lease agreements, lease terminations, easements and development agreements.

Denise has extensive experience in code enforcement issues and regularly advises city councils, commissions, and staff on the interpretation and application of administrative laws and procedures, zoning regulations, as well as criminal enforcement of municipal codes. Denise advises clients on constitutional considerations relating to a public agency's enforcement efforts such as a city's sign regulations. She has also worked with several cities to develop programs relating to the regulation of special industries such as massage and cannabis. Due to Denise's skills and experience, she is able to provide both advisory and litigation services to her clients on enforcement issues relating to blighted property and substandard buildings. For each of her clients, she works closely with staff to develop an enforcement strategy that complies with legal requirements and achieves the code enforcement goals of the client.

Denise is currently a member of Cal Cities Municipal Law Handbook Committee.

INSIGHTS

Public Law Update – SB 346: The Short-Term Rental Facilitator Act of 2025

Public Law Update – Permitting Curbside Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (AB 2427)

Public Law Update – Expedited Review of Hydrogen-Fueling Station Permits (SB 1418)

Public Law Update – New Conservation Element Requirement to Consider Wildlife and Habitat Connectivity (AB 1889)

Two New CEQA Exemptions for Contracts to Provide Services to Persons Experiencing Homelessness and for Junior Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinances

AB 2631: Fair Political Practices Commission Required to Make AB 1234 Ethics Training Course Available

How Your Local Agency is Impacted by SB 684

General Conflict of Interest Laws Under the Political Reform Act

Understanding California's Ethics Training Requirements for Local Officials (Known As AB 1234)

Public Law Update – AB 1307: Noise By Residential Occupants On Other People Is Not A Significant Effect For Purposes Of CEQA

PUBLICATIONS

Court of Appeal Rejects City's Reliance on Setback Standard Under Housing Accountability Act

Public Records Act's Catchall Exemption Applies to COVID-19 Outbreak Location Information

Protected: Increased Limits on Campaign Contributions and Gifts to CA

Officials, Candidates

Appeals Court Rules Governor Newsom's Use of Emergency Powers Was Constitutional

A Refresher on General Conflict-of-Interest Rules

Bill Summaries: Animal Protections

SB 288 – CEQA Exemption for Alternative Transportation Projects

Changes to Public Generally Exception and New Requirement for Posting of Campaign Disclosure Documents Filed in Paper Format

Bill Summaries | AB 2231 and AB 2311

Housing Roundup: New Housing Bills Signed by Governor Newsom

Recent Legislation Affecting Scooters, Skateboards and Parking Penalties

AB 992 | The Brown Act & Social Media

COVID-19 Updates for Employers

Protecting Our Water and Environmental Resources v. County of Stanislaus

Santa Monica's At-large Method of Elections Does Not Violate the California Voting Rights Act

Local Public Agencies Must Ensure Emails and Other Documents Are Retained Throughout CEQA Process and Override Automated Deletion Policies

Local Special Taxes Proposed by Voter Initiative Subject to Majority Voter Approval

FPPC Disclosure Revisions to Close Conflict of Interest Loophole

National Lawyers Guild v. City of Hayward: No Cost for Redaction of Bodycam Footage in Response to CPRA Request

National Lawyers Guild v. City of Hayward: No Cost for Redaction of Bodycam Footage in Response to CPRA Request

Navigating the Brown Act During a Period of Local Emergency Due to COVID-19

Zoning Ordinance Did Not Violate the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA)

Are you Compatible? Second Appellate District Considers Incompatible Offices and Finds Offices of Mayor and Board Director are Incompatible

Brown Act: The Importance of Sticking to Your Agenda

Brown Act: Avoiding Violations by Responding to Cease and Desist Letters

Using The "Committee Exception" To Exclude Public Comment At Special Meeting Violates Brown Act

Access to Private Entity Records is Not Enough to Compel Disclosure Obligations Under CPRA