



Stephen E. Velyvis

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PRACTICES

Education Law
Environmental Land Use and
Natural Resources
Litigation
Public Law
Real Estate and Business Law

EDUCATION

J.D., Vermont Law School, 1998
B.A., Ohio University, 1993

ADMISSION

State Bar of California
State Bar of Colorado

AFFILIATIONS

California Bar Association,
Environmental Law Section
Legislation Committee
(member) and Environmental
Law Update publication (regular
contributor)
American Planning Association,
Northern California Chapter
(Board of Directors, Legislative
Director)
California Solar Energy
Industries Association

Steve Velyvis is a well-respected land use and environmental law attorney with over 18 years of expertise advising and representing public agency and private clients in administrative proceedings and before state and federal trial and appellate courts.

Steve has extensive advisory and litigation experience with and works daily on projects addressing complex legal issues spanning the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Power Act, and the California Coastal Act, as well as the state and federal legal and regulatory frameworks governing clean water, clean air, endangered species and electricity generation and transmission. He also routinely represents clients in land use-related matters including local and state planning and zoning laws, the Subdivision Map Act, timber harvests/timberland conversions, and vineyard expansions.

While Steve has extensive advisory and litigation experience with a multitude of environmental laws, he is most experienced with CEQA, having represented parties on all three “sides” of the CEQA equation. In other words, in addition to successfully representing Burke’s many municipal and public agency clients, Steve has also successfully represented numerous private clients (e.g., project applicants and project opponents.) In this regard, Steve distinguishes himself as a leading CEQA practitioner. Steve’s deep and varied experience gives him invaluable insight into what all three sides on a given CEQA project are thinking at every step along the way. This unique perspective also enables him to develop cutting-edge legal strategies aimed at resolving conflicts and prevailing in litigation, as opposed to simply posturing or falling back on routine “cookie cutter” advice and litigation tools. In sum, Steve draws on his collective experience to help Burke’s clients think outside the box and routinely provides successful, cost-effective results.

USGBC Northern California Chapter (founding member, former steering committee member and emerging professionals chair of the Chapter's Diablo East Bay Branch)

California Special Districts Association: CEQA Expert Feedback Team

Bay Area City Attorneys' Association

Contra Costa City Attorneys' Association