

Tara E. Paul

Associate | Los Angeles

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Tara Paul represents public agencies and investor-owned utilities. Her practice is focused on water industry issues, and her experience includes representing clients in complex water rights litigation and groundwater contamination disputes. Tara also provides legal counseling and advice to public agencies regarding regulatory compliance, including issues related to the Brown Act, Public Records Act, Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Prior to joining Nossaman, Tara served as a clerk with the 5th District of the California Court of Appeal.

EXPERIENCE

Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency v. Whittaker Corporation. Key member of litigation team representing a public water agency in an on-going groundwater contamination case, involving claims arising under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), as well as state common law claims, including trespass and nuisance.

Goleta Water District v. Slippery Rock Ranch, LLC. Key member of litigation team representing public water district in successful litigation of a high-profile water rights dispute.

Abatti v. Imperial Irrigation District. Represent irrigation district in a writ action involving numerous water-related issues, including equitable distribution of water.

San Gabriel Valley Water Company, Fontana Water Company, and Fontana Union Water Company. Assisted with a complex water rights dispute involving numerous issues arising under the Orange County judgment, the Western-San Bernardino judgment, and other water-related decrees and doctrines.

Various Public Agencies. Assist with General Counsel services to public agency clients on various aspects of operations and management, including legal advice concerning water rights transactions, Brown Act compliance, Proposition 218, environmental issues, labor and employment issues, and local ordinances.

INSIGHTS

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Moderator, "PFAS: Updates on the Regulatory Landscape," Association of California Water Agencies' 2020 Summer Virtual Conference, 07.29.2020

Speaker, "WOTS Next? An Update on the Clean Water Act and Regulation of Waters of the State & Waters of the U.S.," Nossaman's 2020 Water Webinar Series, 07.16.2020

Speaker, "PFAS in Water," ELI Master Class Webinar Series, PFAS: From Common Use to Concern, 05.05.2020

Speaker, "Keeping Current on COVID-19 Challenges for the Water Industry," Nossaman's 2020 Water Webinar Series, 04.16.2020

PUBLICATIONS

Co-Author, "Power Shutoffs: What California Water Providers Should Know," *Daily Journal*, 11.19.2020

Co-Author, "The Water Resilience Portfolio: An Ambitious Blueprint for California Water in the Face of Climate Change," *Daily Journal*, 08.18.2020

Co-Author, "Companies Should Track Microplastic Research And Regulations," *Law360*, 08.05.2020

Co-Author, "Middle Ground, or Muddy Waters? SCOTUS Issues Vague Rule in Clean Water Act Decision," *Nossaman eAlert*, 04.28.2020

Co-Author, "Keeping Current on COVID-19 Challenges for the Water Industry," *Nossaman eAlert*, 04.09.2020

Co-Author, "State Water Board Imposes Stricter Response Levels for PFOA and PFOS," *Nossaman eAlert*, 02.10.2020

Co-Author, "Pleadings in Response to Petition," *CEB 2019 California Administrative Mandamus*, 2019

Co-Author, "Fixing Finances: The Department of Water Resources Seeks Validation of Bonds to Fund the California WaterFix Project," *Nossaman eAlert*, 07.28.2017

Co-Author, "California Groundwater Pumpers May Be Subject to Proposed "State Intervention Fees" Under SGMA," *Nossaman eAlert*, 03.20.2017

Co-Author, "Wheeling & Dealing with California Water: "Fair Compensation" under the Wheeling Statute," *Nossaman eAlert*, 02.13.2017

Co-Author, "Deadlines Fast Approaching to Modify Groundwater Basin Boundaries Under New Regulation," *Nossaman eAlert*, 12.01.2015

Author, "Governor Signs Amendments to SGMA, with Provisions for Water Utilities Regulated by CPUC," *Nossaman eAlert*, 10.16.2015

Author, "Union of Concerned Scientists Offers Approach to Achieving SGMA Groundwater Sustainability Goals," *Nossaman eAlert*, 09.30.2015

Author, "Plugging the Democracy Drain in the Struggle for Universal Access to Safe Drinking Water," *Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies*, 2013

HONORS & RECOGNITIONS

Selected for the 2019 California Water Education Foundation's Water Leaders Fellowship

COMMUNITY & PROFESSIONAL

American Bar Association, Member

California State Bar Association, Member

Los Angeles County Bar Association – Environmental Law Section, Executive Committee (2020-2021)

Southern California Water Committee, Inc., Stormwater Task Force

Association of Women in Water, Energy and Environment

Pacific Council on International Policy, Member

PRACTICES

Water Law
Groundwater Management & SGMA
Litigation
Environmental Litigation
Water Litigation
Water Rights
Water Quality
Clean Up of Groundwater & Contaminated Media
Climate Change & Resiliency
Public Agency Representation

INDUSTRIES

Water

EDUCATION

Indiana University, Maurer School of Law, J.D., 2014
Indiana University, School of Public and Environmental Affairs, M.P.A., 2014
California State University, Fresno, B.A., 2007, *magna cum laude*

ADMISSIONS

California
Minnesota
U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
U.S. District Court, Central District of California