

Willis Hon

Associate | San Francisco

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Willis Hon focuses on serving water industry clients across California on a broad range of administrative and regulatory matters. He has extensive experience before the California Public Utilities Commission where he has participated in a number of ratesetting, adjudicatory, and rulemaking proceedings on behalf of water utility companies, industry associations, and regional transportation agencies. He also provides legal counseling and governance advice to public agencies on regulatory compliance issues, including matters relating to the Brown Act and public procurement laws.

Willis has written and presented on climate change resilience and adaptation matters, with a particular expertise on recent legislation addressing wildfire risks and the doctrine of inverse condemnation. He also has experience representing clients in federal court and before administrative agencies on environmental law matters involving the Clean Water Act and local air quality regulations.

Prior to joining Nossaman, Willis was an associate at a boutique environmental law firm in New York City, where he worked on federal and state environmental litigation and advised clients in regulatory investigations. He also served as a law clerk with the U.S. Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resources Division, Law and Policy Section.

EXPERIENCE

California Water Association. Represents the statewide association of investor-owned water utilities regulated by the CPUC and the SWRCB in proceedings relevant to records confidentiality and other policy matters impacting the delivery of safe, reliable water service at reasonable rates. Represents member companies in adjudicatory and ratesetting matters, including general rate cases and cost of capital proceedings.

San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). Represented SANDAG in rail crossing authorization proceedings before the CPUC in connection with SANDAG's Mid-Coast Trolley Extension project to bring Blue Line Trolley service from Santa Fe Depot in Downtown San Diego to the University City community.

San Francisco County Transportation Authority. Member of team that serves as General Counsel to the Authority, which administers and oversees the delivery of the local transportation sales tax program to fund major transportation infrastructure projects.

Manufacturing Company. Member of team that represented client in an Order of Abatement hearing before the South Coast Air Quality Management District regarding air emissions and in a Clean Water Act citizen suit relating to allegations of stormwater pollution.

INSIGHTS

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Moderator, "After the Fire: Navigating Post-Wildfire Water Contamination Challenges," Association of California Water Agencies 2019 Fall Conference & Exhibition, San Diego, CA, 12.04.2019

Speaker, "The Emerging PFAS Framework: Testing, Reporting, and Response Obligations for Public Water Systems," Nossaman's 2019 Water Webinar Series, 10.30.2019

Moderator, "Handling the Heat: The Evolving Nature of Washington's Wildfires," Joint Nossaman/Environmental Law Institute (ELI) Live Webinar, Seattle, WA, 10.08.2019

Moderator, "Strategizing Against the Flame: What's Next for California's Wildfires?," Joint Nossaman/Environmental Law Institute (ELI) Live Webinar, Los Angeles, CA & Webinar, 06.12.2019

Speaker, "Preparedness, Relief, and Recovery: Developments in Disaster Management for California Water Providers," International Right of Way Association/Nossaman Webinar, Webinar, 05.15.2019

Speaker, "Preparedness, Relief, and Recovery: Regulatory Developments in Disaster Management for Water Providers," Nossaman's 2019 Water Webinar Series, 02.28.2019

PUBLICATIONS

Co-Author, "As California Burns, Inverse Condemnation and Cost Recovery Issues Dominate California's Electric Utilities' Legal Framework," *Daily Journal*, 11.07.2019

Co-Author, "California Supreme Court Provides Rare Update on Inverse Condemnation Doctrine," *Nossaman eAlert*, 08.16.2019

Co-Author, "Landmark Legislation Creates New Wildfire Fund and Overhauls California's Approach to Catastrophic Wildfires," *Nossaman eAlert*, 07.12.2019

Co-Author, "New De-Energization Guidelines Implemented Just in Time for the 2019 Wildfire Season," *Nossaman eAlert*, 06.11.2019

Co-Author, "Reconsidering Strict Liability in Light of Recent California Wildfires," *Daily Journal*, 06.11.2019

Co-Author, "New Tools & Sweeping Changes Proposed in Draft Wildfire Commission Report," *Nossaman eAlert*, 05.30.2019

Co-Author, "Governor Newsom Outlines Ambitious Strategy to Tackle Wildfires," *Nossaman eAlert*, 04.17.2019

Author, "Proposing a Statewide Low-Income Water Service Program for California?," *Nossaman eAlert*, 01.14.2019

Co-Author, "Governor Brown Signs Legislation on Wildfire Prevention & Recovery," *Nossaman eAlert*, 09.24.2018

COMMUNITY & PROFESSIONAL

Asian American Bar Association
California Minority Counsel Program
Conference of California Public Utility Counsel
Bar Association of San Francisco

PRACTICES

Water Law
Environment & Land Use
Eminent Domain & Valuation
Water Utility Regulation

Environmental Litigation
Inverse Condemnation & Regulatory Takings
Public Agency Representation
Water Litigation
Water Quality

INDUSTRIES

Energy & Utilities
Public Utilities Regulation
Water

EDUCATION

Columbia University School of Law, J.D., 2014
University of California, Berkeley, B.S., 2010, *with honors*

ADMISSIONS

California
New York