Shawn J. Zovod

Partner

San Francisco
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OVERVIEW

Shawn's practice focuses on sophisticated environmental and natural resources law and strategy, with deep experience in the Clean Water Act (CWA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and their California counterparts, the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, California ESA, and Lake and Streambed Alteration program. She is well versed in the preparation of environmental documents under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Shawn also advises clients on environmental, social, and governance and climate-related reporting, including guidance to clients on the applicability of and compliance with California's Climate Corporate Data Accountability Act (SB 253) and the Climate-Related Financial Risk Act (SB 261), and she advises clients across multiple industries on compliance with extended producer responsibility (EPR) laws.

Shawn represents a diverse array of clients, including developers, local agencies, institutions, energy companies, public utilities, resource extraction companies, and other property owners in negotiations with federal and state regulators, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Office of Historic Preservation, and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards. She has extensive experience with Section 7 consultations under the ESA, and in preparing and processing Incidental Harassment Authorizations, Habitat Conservation Plans, Safe Harbor Agreements, complex individual CWA permits, Nationwide Permit authorizations, Streambed Alteration Agreements, Special Area Management Plans, Historic Property Treatment Plans, NEPA and CEQA documents, conservation easements, and mitigation funding agreements.

Shawn has successfully represented clients throughout California and the western states in evaluating the suitability of properties for development, securing federal and state resource permits, complying with Tribal consultation requirements, implementing wetland and species permits and mitigation plans, and when necessary, resolving violations and securing after-the-fact permits. She also provides guidance to wetlands conservation organizations.

In addition to her legal practice, Shawn frequently authors articles on trends in natural resources law and speaks at professional conferences, sharing her insights with peers and industry leaders.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Represents the Local Reuse Authority for the former Concord Naval Weapons Station base-wide permits under

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the Clean Water Act, National Historic Preservation Act, federal and state Endangered Species Acts, and related habitat management plans and agreements.

- Represents numerous homebuilders and residential/commercial developers, both local companies and large national companies, in securing Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act permits and other natural resource approvals for large multiuse projects.
- Represented utility-scale photovoltaic solar energy projects in California requiring Clean Water Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and Endangered Species Act compliance.
- Guides clients on ESG matters, including the applicability of and compliance with California's climate disclosure laws (SB 253 and SB 261).
- Advises construction material, tobacco, retail, restaurant, and other clients on compliance with extended producer responsibility (EPR) laws, including state packaging, paper, electronic smoking devices, textiles, and food serviceware EPR programs.
- Represents an aggregate mine developer with long-term operations requiring federal and state Endangered Species Act permits, Clean Water Act and Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act permit/waste discharge requirements, and ongoing species and water quality monitoring.
- Obtained CalGEM authorizations for oil, gas, and underground injection control well developments.
- Obtained ESA Section 10 permit and state Consistency Determination in connection with a Habitat Conservation Plan for a prestigious California university that permits take of several endangered species, and streamlines future Section 7 consultations.
- Handled a university-sponsored Safe Harbor Agreement to reintroduce an extirpated endangered butterfly species.
- Prepared a Programmatic Agreement and subsequent Programmatic Historic Properties Treatment Plan under the National Historic Preservation Act and complex Section 404 Clean Water Act permit compliance for a statewide water infrastructure project.
- Handled numerous conservation easement deeds, deed restrictions, and funding agreements for large habitat mitigation and wetland preserves.
- Represented vineyard developments requiring local, federal, and state compliance with natural resources, including endangered species and the fill of wetlands and other "waters of the United States."
- Initiated a regional Special Area Management Plan under the Clean Water Act.
- Prepared Environmental Impact Statements, Environmental Impact Reports, and other environmental documents pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and California Environmental Quality Act.

AWARDS

- *Best Lawyers in America®:* Land Use and Zoning Law (2025-2027), Environmental Law (2027)
- *Chambers USA*: Environment, California (2026)
- *Legal 500 United States*: Environment: Regulatory (2025-2026)
- *Northern California Super Lawyers* (2025)
- *Super Lawyers*, Environmental Law, Energy & Natural Resources Law (2019-2025)
- Named one of the Top Women Attorneys in Northern California
- Bisnow, Outstanding Excellence & Influence in Bay Area Commercial Real Estate

TOP AREAS OF FOCUS

- Chemicals, Pesticides + Product Regulation
- Environmental + Natural Resources
- Environmental, Social + Governance (ESG)

- Natural Resources
- Water Quality + Water Resources

ALL AREAS OF FOCUS

- Chemicals, Pesticides + Product Regulation
- Environmental + Natural Resources
- Environmental, Social + Governance (ESG)
- Land Use + Zoning
- Natural Resources
- Real Estate
- Water Quality + Water Resources

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Building Industry Association, Bay Area
- Women's Energy Network
- Pro Bono Legal Services: Regularly donates 50 to 100 hours of pro bono legal services per year; received special thanks from the Aquatic Outreach Institute and The Restoration Trust
- University of California, Hastings College of the Law, Center for Negotiation & Dispute Resolution, coaching students on effective mediation, negotiation, and settlement techniques
- University of California, Hastings College of the Law Moot Court Competitions, critiques students' moot court briefs and oral arguments
- Stanford University Conservation Program, mentor in university's "Diversity in Environmental Careers" program
- Stanford University School of Law, Moot Court Competitions, critique students' moot court briefs and judge oral arguments
- Contra Costa County High School Mock Trial Competitions, critiques students' pre-trial motions, direct and cross examinations, and opening/closing arguments

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

- University of California College of the Law, San Francisco, J.D., 1995, articles editor, *Constitutional Law Quarterly*
- The University of Arizona, B.A., *magna cum laude; Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi; Dean's List with honors*, 1992
- University of Oxford, politics and economics

BAR ADMISSIONS

- California

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Speaker, "The State of Packaging EPR in America," ACI's EPR Think Tank – West Coast, October 5, 2026.

- Speaker, “Navigating California’s Climate Disclosure Laws: What’s Next in 2026 for SB 253 and SB 261,” Troutman Pepper Locke Webinar, January 22, 2026.
- Speaker, “2025 Public Company Seminar,” Troutman Pepper Locke Webinar, October 29, 2025.
- Speaker, “Regulatory Hot Topics,” Northwest Hydroelectric Association Annual Conference 2024.
- Speaker, “California Resources Permitting,” County Counsels’ Association of California, Land Use Spring 2023 Conference.
- Speaker, “Environmental Permitting,” Bay Area Building Industry Association, New Gen, 2022, 2023.
- Moderator, “San Francisco Construction & Development, Getting Creative, Problem Solving & Expediting Projects to Build a Better City,” Bisnow, 2022.
- Moderator, “2021 Bay Area Power Women,” Bisnow, 2021.
- Speaker, “Endangered Species Act Compliance in Project Development and Land Use,” Stafford Publications, Inc., 2016.
- Speaker, “Endangered Species Act and California Endangered Species Act: Incidental Take Permitting; Basic Provisions; Permitting Nuts and Bolts; Practice Tips,” CLE International, Endangered Species Act, 2014, 2009, 2007, 2006.
- Speaker, “The Federal Endangered Species Act, Overview, Permitting and Practice Tips,” Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) 2010 CLE for Water Professionals, 2010.

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author, “Trade Association Challenges Colorado Packaging EPR Law,” *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor*, August 13, 2026.
- Co-author, “California’s Recyclability Labeling Law Hits a Roadblock: California District Court Enjoins SB 343,” *Environmental Law & Policy Monitor*, July 29, 2026.
- Co-author, “CARB Provides Insights on 2027 GHG Emissions Reporting Requirements Including Plan to Capture Insurance Companies,” *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor*, July 27, 2026.
- Co-author, “Rescission of the Harm Definition: Is a New Day Dawning?,” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, July 13, 2026.
- Co-author, “Multistate Coalition Challenge to California’s Packaging EPR Law Raises Stakes for Producers,” *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor*, June 24, 2026.
- Co-author, “California’s Responsible Textile Recovery Act Registration Deadline Looms As CalRecycle Moves Forward With Industry Engagement,” *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor*, June 16, 2026.
- Co-author, “Packaging EPR Hits Full Swing: Key Milestones Across California, Maryland, and Beyond,” *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor*, June 8, 2026.
- Co-author, “EPR Takes a Drag: Maine Enacts Vape-Specific Stewardship Program,” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, May 27, 2026.
- Co-author, “Oregon Calls Out Noncompliant Producers as Packaging EPR Enforcement Era Begins,” *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor*, April 16, 2026.
- Co-author, “The Pit Bull Still Bites: District Court Cuts Down Recent (And Potentially Future) Endangered Species Act Regulatory Amendments,” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, April 9, 2026.
- Co-author, “California Advances Climate Disclosure Regulations,” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, March 9, 2026.
- Co-author, “Court Enjoins Oregon’s Extended Producer Responsibility Law for Some Companies, but Others Face Continued Compliance Obligations,” *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor* and *Regulatory Oversight*, February 11, 2026.
- Co-author, “EPA’s Proposed CWA 401 Rule Narrows Scope of State Reviews, Reins in Timelines,” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, January 20, 2026.
- Co-author, “US Army Corps of Engineers Finalizes 2026 Nationwide Permit Package,” *Troutman Pepper Locke*,

January 13, 2026.

- Co-author, “CARB Kicks Off Holiday Season with Release of Proposed Initial Rule Implementing California Climate Disclosure Laws,” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, December 17, 2025.
- Co-author, “Spin Doctor: Court Strikes Down Wind Permitting Freeze As Illegal,” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, December 10, 2025.
- Co-author, “Groundhog Day: Proposed Revisions to ESA Regulations (Mostly) Reinstate the 2019 Rules,” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, November 24, 2025.
- Co-author, “Navigating a New WOTUS Definition: Agencies Redefine the Line,” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, November 21, 2025.
- Co-author, “Groundhog Day: Proposed Revisions to ESA Regulations (Mostly) Reinstate the 2019 Rules,” *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor*, November 21, 2025. Republished in *E-Outlook – The Environmental & Natural Resources Section of the Oregon State Bar’s Newsletter*, December 2025.
- Co-author, “CARB Delays Rulemaking on California Climate Laws,” *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor*, October 27, 2025.
- Co-author, “CARB Releases List of Entities Potentially Subject to Climate Disclosure Requirements,” *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor*, September 26, 2025.
- Co-author, “Clarity on California’s Climate Disclosure Rules Could Be on the Horizon,” *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor*, August 13, 2025.
- Co-author, “CARB Releases FAQs Addressing Upcoming California Climate Disclosures,” *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor*, July 17, 2025.
- Co-author, “Déjà vu? FWS Solicits Feedback to Update Section 10(a) of the ESA,” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, June 11, 2025.
- Co-author, “CARB Workshop on Climate Disclosure Laws: More Questions Than Answers,” *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor*, June 3, 2025.
- Co-author, “California’s AB 550: A Blueprint for Balancing Development and Species Conservation,” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, May 8, 2025.
- Co-author, “Citizen Suits and Larger Penalties May Be the Future of California Water Quality Protections,” *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor*, April 22, 2025.
- Co-author, “No Harm, No Foul? Services Propose to Remove Harm Definition from Endangered Species Act Regulations,” *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor*, April 18, 2025.
- Co-author, “New Executive Order Challenges State Climate Laws,” *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor*, April 11, 2025.
- Co-author, “California Sets Stage to Improve Hazardous Waste Management,” *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor*, March 20, 2025.
- Co-author, “Court Order Hobbles Challenge to California’s Climate Disclosure Laws,” *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor*, February 7, 2025.
- Co-author, “CARB Solicits Public Input on Greenhouse Gas and Climate Risk Disclosure Laws,” *Troutman Pepper*, December 17, 2024.
- Co-author, “California Offers Enforcement Relief on GHG Disclosures,” *Troutman Pepper*, December 12, 2024.
- Co-author, “California Open to Input on Endangered Species Listing for Burrowing Owl,” *Troutman Pepper,* November 11, 2024.
- Co-author, “California Law Highlights the Need to Prepare for Climate Disclosures,” *Troutman Pepper*, October 14, 2024.
- Co-author, “SEC Issues Final Climate Disclosure Rules, Paring Down Its 2022 Proposal, With Implications for Greenwashing Claims,” *Troutman Pepper*, March 13, 2024.
- Co-author, “Western Pond Turtle Listing Will Impact Land and Water Managers Throughout the Western U.S. ” *Troutman Pepper*, November 29, 2023.
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Co-author, "Regulatory Round-Up: How Recent Changes to Clean Water Act and National Environmental Policy Act Regulations May Affect Permitting and Licensing Actions," *Hydro Leader Magazine*, November/December 2023.

- Co-author, "California Adopts Landmark GHG Emissions and Climate Risk Reporting Laws, Eclipsing Anticipated Federal Requirements," *Troutman Pepper*, October 13, 2023.
- Author, "House Passes New Endangered Species Legislation," *Endangered Species Committee Newsletter*, Vol.8, No. 1, December 2005.
- Author, "District Court Issues Opinion in No Surprises Litigation," *Endangered Species Committee Newsletter*, Vol. 6, No. 2, January 2004.
- Author, "Geologic Hazard Abatement Districts: California's Experience With Hazard Mitigation Through Special Purpose Districts," *Land Use Law & Zoning Digest*, Vol. 55, No. 6, June 2003.
- Author, "Lagging Localities, Recent Decisions Differentiate Normal and Abnormal Delays," *San Francisco Daily Journal*, March 20, 2000.

MEDIA COMMENTARY

- Quoted, "Climate Reporting Is Still a Thing for US Companies," *Financial Times*, June 10, 2026.
- Quoted, "California Delays Rulemaking Timeline for Climate Disclosure Laws to 2026," *Utility Dive*, October 16, 2025.
- Quoted, "Utilities on 'Preliminary' List of Entities Subject to California Climate Disclosure Rules," *Utility Dive*, September 29, 2025.
- Quoted, "EPA Wins Federal Court Challenge to Amended 'Waters of the United States' Rule," *The National Law Journal*, June 25, 2024.
- Quoted, "Biden Water Rule Restarts WOTUS Controversy Machinery," *Law360*, August 30, 2023.
- Quoted, "States at the Forefront of Fights Over Wetlands Protections After Justices Slash Federal Rules," *AP News*, August 30, 2023.
- Quoted, "EPA Narrows 'Waters of the US' Definition to Align With Supreme Court Decision," *Law.com*, August 29, 2023
- Quoted, "Water Permitting Uncertainty Remains as Industry Blasts EPA Rule," *Bloomberg Law*, August 29, 2023.
- Mentioned, "Troutman Pepper Drafts Partner Zovod to San Francisco Office," *Bloomberg Law*, June 22, 2023.
- Quoted, "Troutman Pepper Lands Ex-Lubin Olson Enviro Ace in Calif." *Law360 Pulse*, June 22, 2023.