

prentice|LONG_{PC}



Prentice|LONG PC -
a law firm founded on
the principle of service.



MUNICIPAL
LAW



BUSINESS
LAW



LITIGATION



WORKPLACE
INVESTIGATION

THE HEAT IS ON

Summertime in California sees temperatures range from the 60's on the coast, to the mid 120's or higher in places like Death Valley. Our home base in Redding averages in the low 100's. This summer seems to be a bit hotter than usual, wildfires are abundant, and COVID 19 continues to keep all of us jumping to stay afloat with updates to masking, vaccination, and testing mandates.

Prentice|LONG PC has resumed travel and we are happy to be back out at our client locations interacting and catching up with our agencies in person. While we all enjoy a Zoom meeting, we have missed seeing your faces!

This summer finds the firm continuing to grow and to find success for our clients up and down the state. Amanda Uhrhammer successfully litigated an important wage and hour class action, ending with a settlement for the multiple clients who sought our help. It was Amanda's expertise as a litigator and her expert knowledge of wage and hour law that tipped the scales in our client's favor. In addition to court wins, the firm continues to add clients who want to work with a firm dedicated to service such as Prentice/LONG PC. Siskiyou County recently selected the firm for special counsel duties and we welcome them to the family. Our work in the area of Child Protective Services is also expanding and we look forward to helping our clients in this practice.

Speaking of serving our clients, our attorney PJ Van Ert and paralegal Caren Miller faced a new issue in real property law. They undertook the representation of a landowner who leased a property to a corporation. The corporation failed to continue paying the lease, using Covid 19 as a legal excuse. After PJ filed in court the matter was resolved in her client's favor. The client's response:

“...thank you for the great job you did against [corporation]. You and your firm did a great job at a reasonable price. Kind of unusual for lawyers today. You can be sure I will use you whenever necessary and will recommend you every chance I get. Thanks again, [client].”

Great job to PJ and her team. This is what we mean by, “a firm founded on the principle of service.”

Have a wonderful summer!

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SB 1383: Finalized Deadlines for Reducing Level of Statewide Disposal of Organic Waste

By Desta Lego, Law Clerk

Receiving approval by Governor Jerry Brown and having been filed with the Secretary of State in September of 2016, Senate Bill 1383 has finalized deadlines for reducing the level of statewide disposal of organic waste, or short-lived climate pollutants. Pursuant to Section 39730.6 of SB 1383, there is an expected reduction of 50 percent of the level of organic waste disposal from 2014 levels by 2020, and an expected 75 percent reduction from 2014 levels by 2025. SB 1383 further states that a minimum of 20 percent of preservable food that is thrown away must be recovered for the purposes of human consumption by the deadline of 2025.

Compliance with the “Short-lived Climate Pollutants (SLCP): Organic Waste Reductions,” set forth by the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery and approved by the Office of Administrative Law, are expected to take effect January 1, 2022. By this date, cities and local agencies will be required to come into compliance with:

- Recordkeeping and reporting requirements regarding organic waste recovery
- Transfer/processing operations and facilities regulatory requirements
- Measuring organic waste recovered from mixed waste organic collection streams
- Providing all generators of organic waste, including all single-family and multifamily homes, as well as businesses, with organic waste collection services



- Imposing requirements on generators and/or other relevant entities within their jurisdiction
- Education outreach to individuals, businesses, haulers, solid waste facilities, and local food banks on organic waste recycling

Jurisdictions that fail to come under compliance by the January 1, 2022 deadline may face penalties such as daily fines. However, those cities and towns that have made a reasonable effort to come into compliance may not accrue penalties until the date of January 1, 2023, according to Senate Bill 619. With the deadline fast-approaching, cities and towns should begin the process of implementing the organic waste recycling requirements as soon as possible in order to meet the standards set forth in SB 1383 and further elaborated on by the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery.

SPOTLIGHT - Sophia R. Meyer, PARTNER



Prentice|LONG PC is pleased to spotlight Partner Sophia R. Meyer, who joined the firm in 2016. As a life-long resident of Northern California, Ms. Meyer has intimate knowledge of the unique issues that rural counties face, including disaster preparedness and management, diverse agricultural issues encompassed in land use, zoning and water issues.

A former Assistant Modoc County District Attorney, Ms. Meyer currently serves as Assistant County Counsel for Modoc County and Alpine County, Deputy County Counsel for Sierra County, Trinity County, and Lassen County and City Attorney for the City of Ione. She is actively involved in providing these clients with a full range of services, and along with her skills in general counsel matters, she has developed an expertise in a number of areas, including the Brown Act, Ethics, Child Welfare Services, Adult Protective Services, public contracting, code enforcement, labor negotiations, and labor relations/human resources.

Ms. Meyer is currently the lead negotiator for Trinity County and Lassen County and has developed a rapport with the agencies and employee units based on trust and respect which assists her in effective and efficient bargaining. She earned her Certificate of Labor Relations Master from the California Public Employee Relations Association in 2018.

When not working, Sophia enjoys paddle-boarding, hanging out with her pup Kip, supporting youth activities, serving as the Past-President and Secretary of the Shasta-Trinity Counties Bar Association, and being an active member of the local Redding chapters of the B.P.O.E. and D.A.R. organizations.

The firm of Prentice|LONG PC is honored to have Partner, Sophia R. Meyer representing our agency clients throughout the North state.

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Emergency Preparedness in the Face of Catastrophic Incidents

By: Sophia R. Meyer, Partner



The week of July 26, 2021, will forever be one of my most memorable weeks as a municipal law attorney. I witnessed a community come together to support each other, and experienced first hand how, in times of trial and tribulation, County employees, elected officials, and emergency responders all put aside their own personal issues and fought for the continued existence of their community. The instance I am speaking of is Alpine County's response to the Tamarack Fire, which as of August 5, 2021 is sitting at 68,696 acres and 78% containment. I had the privilege of being in Alpine County (or the surrounding areas) working in the Emergency Operations Center for most of last week.

Our firm has also been supporting the firefighting and emergency response efforts of Lassen County as a result of the Sugar Fire, which destroyed a large part of the community of Doyle, and the Dixie Fire, which has already burned 322,500 acres as of August 5, 2021, and shows no sign of stopping soon, sitting at 35% containment.



These catastrophic incidents, which are becoming all too familiar in California, currently include out of control wildfires, however they can also include floods, earthquakes, dam failures, and other natural disasters. PLPC wanted to take this opportunity to remind

our clients and associated agencies to refresh their emergency management strategies.

Rural communities often are overwhelmed with need during a catastrophic incident and unfortunately the State and Federal responses are not always available due to being taxed by numerous incidents occurring at the same time, or resources being diverted to more populated areas. Often times, small agencies are left to fend for themselves at the initial moment of crisis, so it is imperative that all interagency responses, actions and activities be documented so that all responders know what their roles are in an emergency response and what the plans are for alternative communication systems and internet.

Ensure that there is a central location where important phone numbers and emails can be stored that is quick and easy to grab, should you get a 5-minute warning to evacuate your building. Include your local Tribal Government in your plans as well, so that lines of communication in an emergency can be open and clear for all citizens in your community.

There are many resources out there to develop or revise your emergency preparedness plans. Don't wait for the catastrophic incident to happen before you look at it and don't forget to train your employees, and upper management, on appropriate responses.

As always, we are available to assist you in developing or revising your emergency preparedness plans.

Our clients and their local agency partners should be commended for their dedication to their communities. Keep up the great work, we see you and appreciate your efforts!



NEWS

LEGAL UPDATE

Implementing Code Enforcement in the Midst of our Region's Booming Cannabis Proliferation

By: Gretchen Dugan, Legal Assistant

"Cannabis cultivation" is a popular term that has, within the last few years, captured the limelight in California and its surrounding states, since the enactment of Proposition 64. Long gone are the mid-century propaganda campaigns purporting the evil nature of "the reefer."

Since 2016, *Prentice|LONG*, PC had the distinct honor of navigating Trinity County's cannabis abatement battles which have ensued in today's prolific illegal cannabis industry. On a state level, parcel owners may privately cultivate cannabis based on the particular county's code, yet more and more choose to illegally grow by cultivating an excessive amount of this popular flora year after year.

Prentice|LONG, PC has, just this summer, been given the opportunity of undertaking cannabis abatement for Siskiyou County, in terms of developing a method for litigating against a multitude of cannabis growers who chose to illegally and excessively grow. *Prentice|LONG*, PC is currently assisting Siskiyou County in developing an effective strategy for citing illegal cannabis growers, monitoring their adherence to state and local ordinances, and carrying out injunctions when



necessary. We are looking forward to assisting Siskiyou County in designing their abatement process to best suit this County's specific codes and regulations.

Should your agency need assistance in developing a code enforcement process, please do not hesitate to reach out to *Prentice|LONG*, PC.



NEW CLIENTS

Prentice|LONG PC welcomes our newest clients.

**Siskiyou County
Humboldt County
County of Tehama**

Click [here](#) to see a list of all our clients.

MORE NEWS

We update our website news section on a weekly basis, click [here](#) to see what else is going on with *Prentice|LONG* PC.