About the Authors

Albert I. Herson, JD, FAICP, is a planner and attorney who has practiced, taught, and written about California environmental law for over 35 years. He is a recognized authority on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and natural resources law. Al serves as the Sacramento presence for Sohagi Law Group, a full-service land use and environmental law firm representing public agencies, where he advises public agency clients on complex environmental law issues. He also maintains an independent environmental consulting practice.

Mr. Herson has devoted much of his career to making CEQA, NEPA, and natural resource laws understandable and accessible to California planners and attorneys. He is a frequent speaker and writer on California environmental law topics and on several occasions advised state agencies on revisions to the CEQA Guidelines to make them more practical and user-friendly. For over 10 years he has co-chaired CLE International’s Annual CEQA Update conferences.

Mr. Herson is co-author of The NEPA Book (2000) and the CEQA Deskbook (second edition, 1999) published by Solano Press. He is co-author of the CEQA and wetlands regulation chapters in California Environmental Law and Land Use Practice (Matthew Bender), and a contributing editor and regular writer for California Environmental Law Reporter.

Mr. Herson is a member of the State Bar and a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). He is past president of the California Chapter, American Planning Association, which awarded him the Distinguished Leadership Award for a Professional Planner. He is also a past president of the California Planning Roundtable. He has served on the California State Bar Environmental Law Section Executive Committee, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Water Plan Advisory Committee, and the DWR Climate Change Technical Advisory Group. Mr. Herson received a J.D. from the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law, where he was class valedictorian, and an M.A. in Urban Planning from the University of California, Los Angeles, where he graduated summa cum laude.

Gary A. Lucks, JD, CPEA is a seasoned environmental attorney and scientist with deep expertise in environmental, health, and safety (EHS) law, legislative affairs, and sustainability strategy and implementation. He has over 30 years of experience advising Fortune 500 clients in clean tech, high tech, power, aerospace, biopharma, and many other industry sectors. He is a licensed attorney, a scientist, and a Certified Professional Environmental Auditor (CPEA) who has completed or overseen more than 400 major EHS compliance audits across the country. He advises clients on maintaining business continuity and license to operate while managing EHS risks.

Mr. Lucks has published extensively on environmental law, legislation, and policy. He wrote the Environmental Auditing Chapter in the California Environmental Law and Land Use Treatise and has published the lead article on new California law and policy in the California Environmental Law Reporter for over 20 years.

He served on the California State Bar Environmental Law Section’s Executive Committee and has served on the Environmental Legislation Committee for over two decades. He recently completed a four-year term as an advisor to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. He currently serves as the co-chair of the West Coast Institute of Internal Auditors.

Mr. Lucks has extensive teaching experience. He has taught courses on environmental law, auditing, sustainability, climate change, and legislation for over 25 years at the University of California Extension, for the Institute of Internal Auditors, and for industry clients.