

1. WHAT IS YOUR FAMILIARITY WITH PUBLIC AGENCY BUDGETING?

As the Executive Director of a nonprofit organization, I have experience developing budgets and am comfortable navigating financial documents. Through my work, I helped to develop the concept for a “green bond” that was considered by the Board of Supervisors prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a private citizen, I monitor and comment on the budgets for local governments, in particular the budget for my city, Eureka.

2. DESCRIBE YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

Through my work, I routinely comment on matters before the Board of Supervisors, primarily related to environmental issues.

3. WHY ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MEASURE Z EXPENDITURES?

I am interested in ensuring that tax money is spent appropriately and efficiently. By being good stewards of the public's money, we can best ensure that similar tax measures are funded by voters in the future.

Furthermore, I am interested in the unique issues that funding of law enforcement and other public safety and essential services present in the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd and the call for accountability for police misconduct. I believe that funding decisions demand public oversight and scrutiny.

THOMAS WHEELER

HIGHLIGHTS OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Executive Director + Staff Attorney, Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC), Arcata, CA, 2014 – Present

- Responsible for overseeing the administration and strategic programs of the organization and serving as the in-house attorney. Other key duties include: fundraising, grant writing, marketing, community outreach, and developing the program work of the organization.

Lecturer, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA, 2018 – May 2019

- *ESM 325 Environmental Law & Regulation*

EDUCATION

J.D., University of Washington School of Law, Seattle, WA, 2014

Concentration: Environmental Law

Activities + Awards:

- GPA 3.68; Top 25% of class
- *Washington Journal of Environmental Law & Policy*, Articles Editor
- Environmental Law Society, President
- Student Animal Legal Defense Fund

B.A., Environmental Studies & Philosophy, Green Mountain College, Poultney, VT, 2010

Honors Thesis: *Pawing the Courtroom Door Open: Granting Legal Standing to Nonhuman Animals*

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Board of Directors, Northcoast Environmental Center, 2014-Present

Vice President, Coalition for Responsible Transportation Priorities, 2016-Present

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member, California Bar Association (License #304191)

PUBLICATIONS + PRESENTATIONS

- Wheeler, T. 2014. "The Concept of Species with Constant Reference to Killer Whales." *Wash. J. Env'tl. L. & Pol'y* 4: 250.
- Wheeler, T. 2017. "Land Use and Environmental Law in the Age of Marijuana Legalization," Public Interest Environmental Law Conference, Eugene, OR. Oral presentation.
- Wheeler, T. 2015. "Environmental Law and Marijuana Cultivation," Public Interest Environmental Law Conference, Eugene, OR. Oral presentation.