



Response to Request to Provide
Qualifications for Legal Services to

Upper Valley Waste Management Agency

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Overview

Hanson Bridgett is a Bay Area-based law firm of more than 160 attorneys engaged in a diversified and expanding general practice, with several areas of strong specialization including solid waste and recycling, environmental law, and California public agency law. We have maintained a distinguished public sector practice advising California public agencies for more than 60 years, and more than 25 attorneys in the firm are devoted exclusively to the representation of public agencies – many with specific waste management and environmental experience. Our attorneys serve as legal counsel to private and public waste management contractors, counties, cities, districts, planning agencies, universities, community services districts, sanitation districts, hospital districts, joint powers authorities, retirement boards, and associations of local governmental agencies.

Summary of Waste Management and Recycling Experience

In particular, we have specific experience in municipal solid waste management through representation on both sides of the table: private and public waste management contractors, cities, special districts and joint powers authorities in negotiating and enforcing collection and recycling franchise agreements, landfill capacity contracts, contracts for construction and operation of materials recovery facilities and transfer stations, and “flow control” agreements. We have worked with many public agencies, such as the City of Napa, City of Palo Alto, City of Millbrae, City of Sunnyvale, City of Pacifica, City of Sutter Creek, City of Jackson, Amador County, Placer County Waste Management Authority, and South Bayside Waste Management Authority (San Mateo County), to name a few. Having represented both municipal bodies and waste management collection/landfill operators, we understand the expectations and needs of all parties to a solid waste contract, and we bring that 360° awareness to our representation.

Our attorneys offer practical solutions to waste management issues from first-hand knowledge of working in the industry. This unique perspective has positioned us to successfully help clients resolve and avoid solid and hazardous waste compliance and permitting issues under the RCRA and California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) regulations. We provide full service to our clients including assistance in waste characterization, waste management and disposal, treatment, reduction, transportation, cleanup, closure of waste units, and emergency planning. Our experience spans the entire spectrum of waste management issues faced by the industry and the ever-changing laws. This includes implementation of the hazardous waste generator and onsite treatment program, solid waste, chemical and pharmaceutical waste, medical wastes, battery reuse/recycling operations, Underground Storage Tank (UST) operations, Universal wastes, and the DTSC’s Restrictions on the use of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electronic Devices.

Proposed Team



Allison C. Schutte (Partner) specializes in municipal law and her work encompasses solid waste management, negotiating operating agreements, drafting RFPs and design-build construction and operating agreements for solid waste and public water supply projects, environmental compliance, public contracting, rate structure, issuer's counsel, disclosure matters, legislative drafting, and open government and ethics.

Allison also has significant experience with many aspects of resource recovery and waste reduction projects as well as solid waste franchise agreements. She serves as special counsel to cities that own their own materials recovery and composting facilities, and special districts and cities that contract out for collection, composting, and disposal services. She has been counsel to a number of agencies seeking to develop anaerobic digestion facilities to maximize the use of the organics stream.

Specifically, Allison has served the City of Napa since the early 2000s with all aspects of solid waste management with the outside operator, Napa Recycling and Waste Services. This experience included RFP preparation, contract negotiation, public works oversight of MDF facility construction, contract implementation, rate setting and, most recently, contract amendment and extension.

Allison also serves as general counsel to the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA), a special district formed by special legislation drafted by Hanson Bridgett attorneys, which represents the interests of 24 cities and water districts, plus two private utilities, that purchase water wholesale from the San Francisco regional water system. Allison recently served as Issuer's Counsel to BAWSCA's inaugural issuance of \$336 million in both taxable and tax-exempt bonds to finance the prepayment of capital debt owed to the City and County of San Francisco.



Jasun C. Molinelli (Counsel) has a lifelong involvement in the solid waste industry, with roots in the garbage industry going back three generations. Since entering the practice of law, Jasun has worked with waste management companies and municipalities throughout California for 20 years. He has always been proud of his work and views it as his duty, serving all Californians, by helping California continue to be a world leader in sustainability and environmental preservation.

His experience spans the full range of all matters involving the administration and operation of solid waste and recycling collection contracts, landfill operations, transfer stations, and all other waste facility types. His work has included defense of contractors, cities and counties in Prop.

218 lawsuits, solid waste facilities NOV defense, and a very recent landfill wrongful death lawsuit.

Jasun has negotiated and drafted well over 50+ solid waste/recycling contracts and amendments. Jasun regularly participates in panels and provides classroom instruction on waste management related topics, including teaching courses on Solid Waste Franchise Agreement Drafting and Solid Waste and Recycling Law for the California Refuse & Recycling Council.

Specific Examples of Similar Work:

Negotiated and drafted Collection Agreements and Amendments in Alpine County, Amador County, Kern County, Los Angeles County, Sacramento County, Shasta County, San Joaquin County, and Sonoma County.

Negotiated and drafted Solid Waste Facility (incl. Landfill Operations) Contracts and Amendments in Amador County, Kern County, and Sonoma County.

Extended Team:

As described above, in addition to Allison and Jasun, Hanson Bridgett has a deep pool of experienced solid waste/environmental attorneys at your disposal.



Kristina D. Lawson (Partner) specializes in complex entitlement, land use, environmental, and municipal matters. She is a respected authority on California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance and strategy. Kristina represents clients in local, state and federal administrative and judicial proceedings throughout California, primarily in the Greater San Francisco Bay Area and California's Central Valley.

From 2010–2014, she served on the city council and as the mayor of the city of Walnut Creek. Kristina also previously served on the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority's board of directors. Recognized in January 2014 by the Daily Journal as one of the Top 20 Under 40 lawyers in California, Kristina is also an active member of the Bay Area Council and Urban Land Institute and a frequent author and speaker on land use and environmental law topics.



Samir J. Abdelnour (Senior Counsel) focuses his practice on environmental litigation, advice, and counseling. He routinely advises and represents public and private entities in regulatory enforcement actions and litigation involving natural resources and other environmental issues. Samir's practice includes a broad range of state and federal environmental and land use laws, including the Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), Resource Conservation and

Recovery Act (RCRA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, and Carpenter-Presley-Tanner Hazardous Substance Account Act.

Hourly Rates and Budget

Our hourly rate for this matter is set at a uniform rate, for all attorneys, at **\$450** per hour. This hourly rate is adjusted down from our standard rates for similar matters. The total budget for this matter, as indicated by Upper Valley Waste Management Agency, is \$10,000.

Hanson Bridgett understands the challenging budgetary constraints for California's municipal agencies and has adjusted its standard rates accordingly and will provide the Agency with comprehensive, superior legal services while coming in at or under budget.