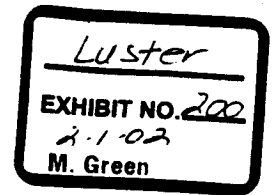


Thomas R. Luster
California Coastal Commission
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Environmental Scientist, California Coastal Commission – Energy, Ocean Resources, and Water Quality Unit, San Francisco, CA, January 2001-current. I am responsible for reviewing proposed projects in California's coastal zone for compliance with the state Coastal Act and associated regulations. I review proposed facilities and activities related to energy production, offshore oil and gas leases, desalination, and other similar projects. Includes determining impacts of proposed projects on coastal resources and, if appropriate, developing measures to adequately mitigate for those impacts. I also prepare staff reports for the Commission addressing project conformity to the Coastal Act and recommending conditions for the Commission to adopt to ensure Coastal Act conformity.

Environmental Specialist 5, Washington State Department of Ecology, Olympia, WA, 1998-2001. As the agency's senior technical and policy expert on Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 water quality certifications and Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) consistency determinations, I was responsible for the following:

- Developed and implemented policy and guidance for federal permit review: represented agency as lead policy/technical advisor and legislative liaison on 401/CZMA issues. Coordinated with local and tribal governments, state and federal agencies, various interest groups, and the public to develop and implement rules, guidelines, policies, legislative actions, and permit conditions.
- Reviewed proposed projects requiring federal permits: served as lead reviewer on projects of statewide significance or on especially controversial or complex projects. Included site inspections, coordinating with other technical experts, developing permit conditions, holding public hearings, and writing the final state position on these permits.
- Provided agency and staff support, and public education: provided technical support, training, and regulatory supervision to the agency's Federal Permits Team to ensure permit decisions had a strong regulatory basis and were based on consistent decision-making processes. Also provided ongoing training and education on state aquatic resource regulations to staff of other agencies, various interest groups, and the public.

Accomplishments:

- Successfully strengthened the state's role in regulating stormwater and the water quality impacts of mining activities through interpretation of existing regulations.
- Improved the regulatory basis for several legal standards in permit decision-making, including the interaction of 401 and NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permits, and definitions of "waters of the state" and "reasonable assurance".
- Led the successful transition of permit review from a centralized headquarters function to a regional function, and trained eight regional permit staff over the past three years.

Environmental Specialist 1 – 4, Washington Department of Ecology, Olympia, WA, 1993-98 (included three promotions). I evaluated proposed projects requiring federal permits to ensure compliance with state water quality standards and consistency with the state's Coastal Zone Management Program. Worked with project applicants, staff from local and tribal governments, state and federal agencies, consultants, attorneys, and interested stakeholders to provide technical assistance and to develop environmentally sound permit decisions.

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Accomplishments:

- Wrote over 700 successful permit decisions on proposed projects around the state.
- Led several initiatives to streamline or improve various permit processes, allowing the agency to maintain or improve environmental protection using fewer agency resources.
- Successfully initiated one of the agency's first self-directed teams.

Environmental Specialist, Sediment Management Unit, WA Department of Ecology, 1989-1993. Held two positions on team that created the nation's first state-level rule on contaminated sediments:

- Technical lead staff for developing freshwater sediment standards: led agency effort to develop chemical and biological criteria for freshwater sediment standards.
- Public involvement and education: developed and implemented plan for public outreach during agency rule-making for state sediment management standards.

Accomplishments:

- Managed over \$100K of environmental laboratory contracts for bioassay studies.
- Successfully established and facilitated multi-interest work group to assist in rule-writing.
- Developed and completed public involvement plan for rule-making, resulting in successful adoption of final sediment rule.

Research Associate, Snohomish County Public Utility District, Everett, WA, 1988.

Performed independent field investigations and environmental assessments of sites suspected to be contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

Accomplishments:

- Developed hazard assessment method to prioritize sites with the highest risk to human and environmental health.
- Project resulted in several hundred PCB-contaminated transformers being removed from county-wide electric transmission system.

PROFESSIONAL HONORS, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND MEMBERSHIPS:

- Presented at numerous conferences and workshops, including the Society of Wetland Scientists, Association of State Wetland Managers (Washington D.C.), Law Seminars International, Marine Technology Society, and others.
- Served as invited faculty at University of Wisconsin's short course on Successful Dam Decommissioning, 1999.
- Various awards from Department of Ecology including agency's Environmental Stewardship Award in 1997, agency program's Team Award in 1996.
- Member, Society of Wetland Scientists, California Association of Professional Scientists.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

M.S. in Resource Geography, Oregon State University, 1988. Emphasis in environmental and landscape analysis, watershed management, visual assessment tools, stream and riparian systems, and cultural resources.

B.S. in Geography, Humboldt State University, 1981. Emphasis in environmental analysis and land/water use and perception. Included extensive coursework in landscape architecture.

Extensive coursework in professional development: including training in Corps of Engineers wetland delineation, wetland mitigation, stormwater management, stream dynamics, streambank protection, salmon ecology, fish habitat, aquatic toxicity, and various legal and regulatory topics.