

*Gregory Morrison is Parsons Behle & Latimer's Nevada water law specialist. His practice involves assisting clients ranging from the state's largest mine operators to independent farmers through the administrative and judicial processes necessary to secure and maintain water rights, a valuable real property asset.*



## Gregory Morrison

Shareholder | Reno

### Biography

Gregory Morrison has an array of experience in water, environmental, natural resource and real property law matters. Greg advises a variety of private and public interests on matters involving water acquisition and permitting, environmental compliance on the state and federal level and property and mine development and disputes.

Greg began his career in Carson City, Nev., where he was immediately immersed in one of Nevada's most extensive administrative hearings involving water rights. He remained involved in that matter through the administrative, district court and Nevada Supreme Court processes. Greg worked in conjunction with municipal, tribal and institutional parties toward the adoption of the 2008 Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA) as a federal regulation, a process involving administrative hearings in Nevada and California; modification of the 1944 federal court decree governing Truckee River operations; and judicial review in the state and federal courts of Nevada and California.

Following a lateral move to Santa Barbara, Calif., Greg returned home to northern Nevada in 2016 to Parsons Behle & Latimer's Reno office. Since joining Parsons' team, Greg has worked in water right permitting and maintenance for several Nevada mining industry clients as well as municipal water providers, developers and landowners to secure and permit water rights for commercial and residential projects. Greg has extensive experience at every level of the water appropriation process, from negotiations between buyers and sellers through judicial review of decisions of the State Engineer in the Nevada Supreme Court.

In his general real estate practice, Greg has negotiated and

### Contact information

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### Capabilities

Environmental Litigation &  
Administrative Appeals

Mining

Real Estate

Water Rights, Quality & Infrastructure

### Licensed/Admitted

Nevada

California

U.S. Dist. Court, District of Nevada

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BEHLE &  
LATIMER**

litigated land acquisitions, easements and rights-of-way and residential and commercial real property leases. Greg also has experience in the mining sector and understands the unique processes of mine diligence, conveyancing and permitting.

## Experience

### **Nevada Gold Mines, LLC**

Represented Nevada Gold Mines, LLC as lead counsel against the Pershing County Water Conservation District who contended that priority water rights had been negatively impacted by the State Engineer's alleged improper actions regarding water appropriations and conjunctive management of water rights in the Humboldt River Basin. After years of litigation, the District agreed to dismiss the case with prejudice.

### **Pershing County Water Conservation District v. Nevada State Engineer Nevada District Court Litigation Opposing Humboldt River Watershed Writ of Mandamus Petition.**

Represent mining interests in opposing attempt by surface water appropriators to mandate that the State Engineer declare 34 hydrologic basins in Humboldt River watershed critical management areas.

### **Corporation of the Presiding Bishop of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints v. Seventh Judicial District 132 Nev.Adv.Op. 6, 366 P.3d 1117 (2016)**

### **City of Santa Maria v. Adam, 248 Cal.App.4th 504 (2016)**

### **Water Rights Due Diligence**

Water rights and availability due diligence on behalf of commercial agricultural interest in California's central valley.

### **Defended Client Against Easement Claims**

Defended client who is a building owner in real property litigation against easement claims of neighboring homeowners association.

### **Water Use Litigation**

Federal District Court litigation involving petition to modify 1944 Orr Ditch Decree governing Truckee River water use.

### **Water Rights Permitting**

Water Rights permitting for eastern Nevada groundwater project from administrative hearing through Nevada Supreme Court appeal.

## Accomplishments

### Professional

Best Lawyers in America "Ones to Watch," Environmental Law, Natural Resources Law – since 2021

### Academic

University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law (J.D. with Great Distinction, 2011)

- Order of the Coif
- Traynor Honor Society
- Environmental Law Certificate
- McGeorge Law Review Comment Staff

Miami University, Oxford, Ohio – B.A., Political Science and English (Literature) 1994

## Associations

### Professional

Washoe County Bar Association

Nevada Water Resources Association

Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Association

American Exploration and Mining Association

Nevada Mining Association

## Articles

Nevada Supreme Court Clarifies Scope of Public Trust Doctrine October 29, 2020

Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, Water Law Newsletter—Vol. LIII, No. 3

Nevada District Court Rejects State's First Groundwater Management Plan July 13, 2020

Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, Water Law Newsletter—Vol. LIII, No. 2

## Presentations

U.S. Mining Law Short Course December 8, 2020

American Exploration and Mining Association