

Navigating the Regulatory Environment and Entitlement Process in California

Thursday, August 19, 2021



Instructors:



Larry J. Kosmont, CRE®, Chairman & CEO, Kosmont Companies

Larry J. Kosmont is Chairman and CEO of Kosmont Companies, which he founded in 1986. Kosmont Companies is an industry leader in public/private real estate/land use transactions and economic development. In 1990, he founded Kosmont Realty, a real estate brokerage firm. In 2015, in compliance with licensing regulations, he launched Kosmont Transactions Services, Inc. (KTS) as an SEC/MSRB registered Municipal Financial Advisory firm. KTS sources financing for public agencies, public/private projects, P3 initiatives, and infrastructure funding. He is a co-principal of California Golden Fund, a USCIS approved EB-5 Regional Center. Mr. Kosmont's 40-year career encompasses public/private financial structuring, negotiation, development, and management of real estate and public finance transactions exceeding \$12B. He has assisted hundreds of local government agencies in public finance and real estate matters ranging from large-scale economic development programs to site-specific real estate strategies and projects. He has guided over 1,000 private sector projects in obtaining public approvals, structuring deal terms, and securing public/private financing. He currently serves as a Board Advisor to the California Association for Local Economic Development (CALED) and as a Board member for BizFED.



Mark Persico, AICP, Principal, Persico Planning Partners, LLC

Persico Planning Partners was originally formed in 2003 to provide planning and entitlement services to the public and private sectors. Mark H. Persico, AICP, Principal, has 30 years of economic and community development experience. Most recently Mark served as Assistant City Manager in the City of West Covina. Mr. Persico has worked for eight socioeconomically diverse cities across southern California. Through these experiences he has developed a personal approach to community building through collaborative leadership and clear vision. Persico Planning Partners excels at Entitlement & Due Diligence; Negotiations & Facilitation; Planning & Zoning; Leadership & Management and CEQA Review.



*Steven Graham, Senior Principal
Cole Huber LLP*

Mr. Graham is an attorney with Cole Huber LLP who focuses on municipal law. He began his career in the San Bernardino City Attorney's Office during a period of dramatic transformation, including the city's Chapter 9 bankruptcy, as a member of the city's legal team. A collaborative attorney that has worked with city staff and special counsel on diverse and complex issues, Steven has advised internal teams responsible for drafting local cannabis regulations, litigating wastewater issues, and updating development codes. Steven assists clients by providing advice on an array of municipal legal issues requiring expertise in land use, real estate, contracts, construction, public utilities, transportation, CEQA, and Proposition 218. He is the City Attorney for the City of Canyon Lake and serves as special counsel on land use issues for several of the firm's municipal clients.

Course Description:

This advanced course in navigating the regulatory environment and entitlement process will provide students with a detailed understanding of the various regulatory issues that most economic development practitioners in California face. A focus on CEQA and how to interface with state agencies will be included in the instruction. The session will also provide an overview of state and local governmental agencies' regulatory process including the resources available to assist with resolving permitting issues. In addition, the course will highlight best practices in the field that streamline the permit process and improve a community's regulatory climate.

Course Core Competencies:

- Overview of regulatory issues most relevant to economic development practitioners
- CEQA from an economic developer's perspective
- Overview of state and local governmental regulatory permit processes and effective strategies to interface these agencies
- Use of third-party facilitators to resolve permitting issues
- Best practices that streamline the permitting process

Student Outcomes:

After successful completion of this course, students will have:

- An understanding of emerging post-COVID-19 economic development trends – changes in the commercial, housing and entertainment landscape

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- An understanding of CEQA and effective ways to manage projects within this complex regulatory framework
- A working knowledge of state and local governmental regulatory agencies' permit requirements and resources available to assist communities navigate this landscape
- Suggestions on ways to improve your community's business environment through streamlining the regulatory compliance process

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