

2011

Center on Urban Environmental Law (CUEL) Brochure

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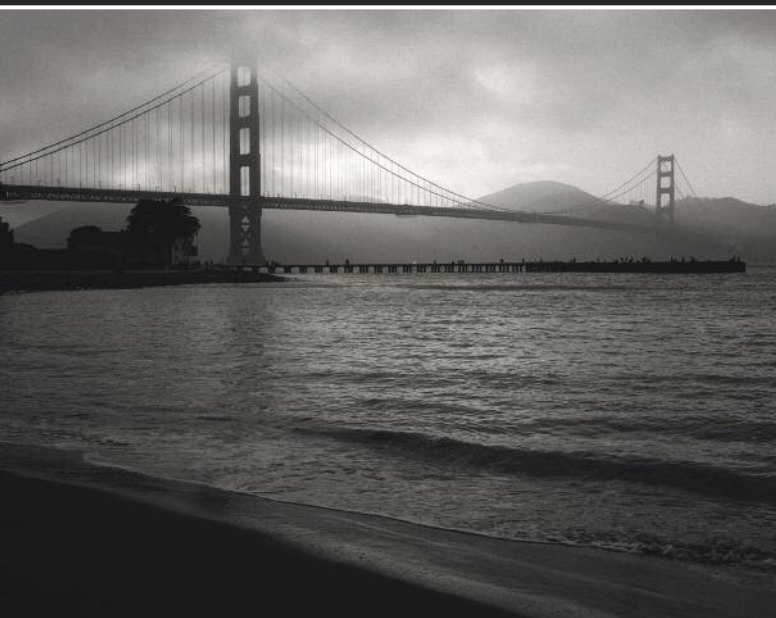
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CUEL

CENTER ON URBAN
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW



LEGAL RESEARCH ON NATURE IN CITIES
AND THE NATURE OF CITIES

GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY

School of Law

THE CENTER ON URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW (CUEL) AT GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW TAKES THE CITY AS A NATURAL STARTING POINT TO ASSESS HOW THE LAW SHAPES ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS.



THE CITY – A NATURAL STARTING POINT

Cities are not located outside the natural environment. Buildings, industry and urban infrastructure consume resources, change landscapes and discharge pollutants into air and waters. Forests, waterfronts and waterways within city limits serve as ecosystems and habitat corridors on which species depend. Where we site factories, freeways and parkland impacts the health of urban residents and defines the character of urban neighborhoods.

The Center on Urban Environmental Law (CUEL) at Golden Gate University School of Law takes the city as a natural starting point to assess how the law shapes environmental conditions.

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CUEL WORK ON WATER

CUEL examines the diversion of fishery-sustaining rivers to meet urban water demands, the ecological damage to urban creeks and rivers from channelization, and the discharge of polluted stormwater runoff into urban waterways. This work includes CUEL's publication of the proceedings of the January 2011 California Water Law Symposium (*The End of Paper Water: Natural Limits, Unlimited Demands and Reliable Supply*) at Golden Gate University School of Law.

CUEL WORK ON AIR & CLIMATE

CUEL evaluates legal policies addressing air quality and climate change impacts in the urban environment. CUEL focuses on the siting practices and operation of urban power-generation facilities in urban neighborhoods, the use of land use policies such as City General Plans and sustainability strategies to achieve greenhouse gas emission reductions, and the policy implications of climate change-induced smog and heat waves and other impacts on low income and minority urban residents. This work includes research on policies affecting the viability of urban distributed renewable energy generation versus utility-scale renewable energy generation, options for storage of renewable energy to meet urban demand, and the implications of climate change-induced sea level rise on urban waters such as San Francisco Bay and the communities that depend upon urban waters.



Where we site factories, freeways and parkland impacts the health of urban residents and defines the character of urban neighborhoods.

Photography by Richard Sintchak

CUEL WORK ON GREENSPACE

CUEL investigates open space and park holdings in cities and the extent to which low income and minority urban residents can readily access such lands. These investigations build on the Golden Gate University School of Law City Parks Project's 2007 publication *Access to Parkland: Environmental Justice in East Bay Parks*. CUEL's work includes research on the prospects for transforming portions of the former Alameda Naval Air Station (in the East Bay flatlands) into a landmark bayfront natural park.

CUEL WORK ON LAW SCHOOL CURRICULUM

CUEL creates law school curriculum to help ensure the next generation of lawyers is versed in the urban environmental implications of the law. This curriculum includes new courses (such as *Cities and Environmental Law* now offered at Golden Gate University School of Law) as well as urban-focused case studies, exercises and readings that can be integrated into existing law school courses on environmental law, land use law, natural resources law, toxics law and water law.

CUEL GREY PAPERS

Grey is the color of urban streets, factories and concrete flood channels, as well as the smokestack clouds, tailpipe emissions and stormwater runoff generated by our cities. CUEL Grey Papers steer clear of abstract debates and instead focus on tangible legal and regulatory strategies to improve environmental conditions in and caused by cities. CUEL Grey Papers are for use in the real world. Topics to be addressed by CUEL Grey Papers include the 2010 federal directive to remove vegetation along urban river and creek levees, urban open space and parkland under the federal *America's Great Outdoors* initiative launched in 2010, and the regulatory framework for expansion of distributed urban solar power generation in California.

CUEL Grey Papers focus on tangible legal and regulatory strategies to improve environmental conditions in and caused by cities.

LEARN MORE ABOUT CUEL'S WORK AT WWW.GGUCUEL.ORG

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