



## INTRODUCTION

Each regulatory agency of California government hears from those trades or industries it respectively affects. Usually organized through various trade associations, professional lobbyists regularly formulate positions, draft legislation and proposed rules, and provide information as part of an ongoing agency relationship. These groups usually focus on the particular agency overseeing a major aspect of their business.

In addition, a number of organizations which do not represent a profit-stake interest in regulatory policies appear before these agencies and the legislature. These organizations advocate more diffuse interests—the taxpayer, small business owner, consumer, environment, future. The following is a listing of some of the major public interest organizations which represent these important interests before state regulatory agencies and the legislature, with a brief description of the issues they address.

## AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

5858 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 300  
Los Angeles, CA 90036-0926  
(213) 935-5864

The American Lung Association of California emphasizes the prevention and control of lung disease and the associated effects of air pollution. Any respiratory care legislative bill is of major concern. Similarly, the Association is concerned with the actions of the Air Resources Board and therefore monitors and testifies before that Board. The Association has extended the scope of its concerns to encompass a wider range of issues pertaining to public health and environmental toxics generally.

## NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

555 Audubon Place  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
(916) 481-5332

The National Audubon Society has two priorities: the conservation of wild-

life, including endangered species, and the conservation and sound use of water. The society works to establish and protect wildlife refuges, wilderness areas, and wild and scenic rivers. To achieve these goals, the society supports measures for the abatement and prevention of all forms of environmental pollution.

## CALIFORNIA COMMON CAUSE

10951 W. Pico Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90064  
(310) 475-8285

California Common Cause (CCC) is a 55,000-member public interest lobbying organization dedicated to obtaining a more open, accountable, and responsive government and decreasing the power of special interests to affect the legislature. CCC focuses its efforts on campaign finance reform and governmental ethics issues.

## CALIFORNIANS AGAINST WASTE

926 J St., Suite 606  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 443-5422

In 1977, Californians Against Waste (CAW) was formed to advocate for a recycling bill in the legislature which would require a minimum refundable deposit of five cents on beer and soft drink containers. After being repeatedly thwarted legislatively by well-financed industry opponents, CAW sponsored and organized a coalition for a statewide citizen initiative which appeared on the ballot in 1982 as Proposition 11. That measure failed after can and bottle manufacturers and their allies raised and spent \$6 million to defeat it. CAW then worked for the 1986 passage of the "bottle bill" (AB 2020-Margolin), which for the first time established redemption values for glass, aluminum, and two-liter plastic beverage containers. As of January 1, 1990, under SB 1221 (Hart), redemption values increased from one cent per glass or aluminum container to five cents for every two containers returned. Two-liter plastic beverage containers are now worth five cents each. Under SB 1221, redemption values for aluminum, glass, and plastic beverage containers will increase if a recycling goal of 65% is not reached by 1993.

## CALIFORNIA PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP

11965 Venice Blvd., Suite 408  
Los Angeles, CA 90066  
(310) 397-3404

CalPIRG is a nonprofit statewide organization founded by students from several California universities. It is the largest student-funded organization of its kind in the state. There are CalPIRG chapters on four campuses of the University of California. CalPIRG now has approximately 120,000 members statewide, including thousands of citizen members.

In recent years, CalPIRG has been active on a number of consumer issues ranging from supermarket pricing surveys to restrictions on the use of pesticides to advocacy in opposition to the state's plan to locate a nuclear waste dump near Needles.

## CAMPAIGN CALIFORNIA

1187 Stanley Avenue  
Chico, CA 95928  
(916) 342-2717

Founded in 1977 by now-Senator Tom Hayden as the Campaign for Economic Democracy, Campaign California (CC) has over 25,000 members and helped lead the successful 1989 Sacramento campaign to close the Rancho Seco nuclear power plant. CC has played a significant role in statewide initiatives, including Propositions 65, 99, and 128.

CC supports efforts to frame workable progressive solutions to problems in the areas of child care, education, environment, transportation, personal safety, insurance, and health care. It targets the private entrepreneur as a source of economic growth, jobs, and innovation.

## CENTER FOR LAW IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

5750 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 561  
Los Angeles, CA 90036  
(310) 470-3000

The Center for Law in the Public Interest (CLPI), founded in 1971, provides public interest law services. CLPI's major focus is litigation in the areas of environmental protection, civil rights and liberties, corporate reform, arms control, communications, and land use planning. Due to economic considerations, in 1988 CLPI began using outside counsel instead of employing a full-time legal staff.



Some legal services for the Center are provided by the law firm of Hall & Associates. CLUPI sponsors law student extern and fellowship programs, and periodically publishes a newsletter called *Public Interest Briefs*.

## CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEREST LAW

*University of San Diego  
School of Law  
5998 Alcalá Park  
San Diego, CA 92110  
(619) 260-4806*

The Center for Public Interest Law (CPIL) was formed in 1980 after approval by the faculty of the University of San Diego School of Law. The faculty selected Professor Robert C. Fellmeth as the Center's director. CPIL is funded by the University and private foundation grants, including the Price Public Interest Law Chair endowment donated by philanthropists Sol and Helen Price in November 1990.

The Center's goal is to make the regulatory functions of state government more efficient and more visible by serving as a public monitor of state regulatory agencies. CPIL studies approximately seventy agencies, including most boards, commissions and departments with entry control, rate regulation, or related regulatory powers over business, trades, professions, and the environment.

CPIL's professional staff consists of public interest litigators, research attorneys, and lobbyists. Center staff members actively represent the public interest in a variety of fora, including the courts, the legislature, and administrative agencies.

Each year, approximately fifty law students participate as CPIL interns for academic credit. Students in the center attend courses in administrative law, regulated industries, environmental law, and consumer law, and attend meetings and monitor activities of assigned regulatory agencies. Each student also contributes periodic agency updates to the *California Regulatory Law Reporter*. After several months, the students choose clinic projects involving active participation in rulemaking, litigation, or writing.

The Center is headquartered in San Diego and has a branch office in Sacramento.

## CONSUMER ACTION

*116 New Montgomery St., Ste. 223  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 777-9635*

San Francisco's Consumer Action (CA) is a nonprofit consumer advocacy and education organization formed in 1971. Most of its 1,500 members reside in northern California but significant growth has taken place in southern California over the past year. CA is a multi-issue group which since 1984 has focused its work in the banking and telecommunications industries.

CA has filed petitions with and appeared before the California Public Utilities Commission in the field of telephone rates. State-wide pricing surveys are published periodically comparing the rates of equal-access long distance companies and the prices of services offered by financial institutions. Once each year, CA publishes consumer service guides for the San Francisco Bay area and the Los Angeles area which list agencies and groups offering services to consumers and assisting with complaints. A free consumer complaint/information switchboard is provided by CA, and the group publishes a regular newsletter which includes its pricing surveys.

## CONSUMERS UNION

*1535 Mission Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
(415) 431-6747*

Consumers Union (CU), the largest consumer organization in the nation, is a consumer advocate on a wide range of issues in both federal and state forums. At the national level, Consumers Union publishes *Consumer Reports*. Historically, CU's West Coast Regional Office has been very active in California consumer issues ranging from the proper implementation of Proposition 103 to banking regulation reform.

## ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND

*Rockridge Market Hall  
5655 College Ave., Suite 304  
Oakland, CA 94618  
(510) 658-8008*

The Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) was formed in 1967 by a group of Long Island scientists and naturalists concerned that DDT was poisoning the environment. EDF was a major force behind the 1972 federal ban of DDT.

Staffed by scientists, economists, and attorneys, EDF is now a national organization working to protect the environment and the public health. Through extensive scientific and economic research, EDF identifies and develops solutions to environmental problems. EDF currently concentrates on four areas of concern: energy, toxics, water resources, and wildlife.

## ENVIRONMENTAL LAW FOUNDATION

*1736 Franklin Street, 8th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612  
(510) 208-4555*

The Environmental Law Foundation (ELF) was incorporated on Earth Day 1991 to improve environmental quality for those most at risk from environmental threats, particularly the inner city and communities of color, children, and workers. ELF is not a law firm, but provides access to information on and strategies for enforcement of environmental, toxics, and community right-to-know laws. ELF complements the approach of environmental law firms by enforcing existing environmental regulations, providing a bridge of direct service to people in need, and serving as a critical link between at-risk communities and the legal, scientific, financial, and other resources they need to effectively address environmental problems.

## FIRST AMENDMENT PROJECT

*1736 Franklin Street, 8th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612  
(510) 208-7744*

The First Amendment Project (FAP) is a nonprofit public interest law firm established in 1991 to protect, defend, and further Californians' rights to participate in and know about government activities and speak and write freely about public issues. FAP provides legal representation to individuals, groups, journalists, and others who need help in enforcing the federal Freedom of Information Act, the California Public Records Act, and the state's open meeting laws.

FAP also defends people and groups who are sued for exercising their first amendment rights to participate in government and speak out on public issues. FAP has successfully used California's anti-SLAPP law (Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation), securing court orders dismissing lawsuits brought



# PUBLIC INTEREST ORGANIZATIONS

to punish people for exercising their rights and awarding the victims all of their costs and attorneys' fees.

## FUND FOR ANIMALS

*Fort Mason Center, Bldg. C  
San Francisco, CA 94123  
(415) 474-4020*

**F**ounded in 1967, the Fund for Animals (FFA) works for wildlife conservation and to combat cruelty to animals locally, nationally, and internationally. Its motto is "We speak for those who can't." The Fund's activities include legislation, litigation, education, and confrontation. FFA has divisions in eighteen states, 200,000 members nationwide, and a \$2 million annual budget. It also runs a 4.5-acre Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Ramona, California. The Fund's New York founder, Cleveland Amory, continues to serve without salary as president and chief executive officer.

## LEAGUE FOR COASTAL PROTECTION

*71 Stevenson St., Suite 1825  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 777-0220*

**C**reated in 1981, the League for Coastal Protection (LCP) is a coalition of citizen organizations and individuals working to preserve California's coast. It is the only statewide organization concentrating all its efforts on protecting the coast. The League maintains a constant presence in Sacramento and monitors Coastal Commission hearings.

## NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

*71 Stevenson St., Suite 1825  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 777-0220*

**T**he Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) is a nonprofit environmental advocacy organization with a nationwide membership in excess of 170,000 individuals, more than 30,000 of whom reside in California. NRDC's stated goal is a world in which human beings live in harmony with the environment, a harmony NRDC believes is predicated on two ethical imperatives: human health (including pure air and water and safe food for every human being) and a belief in the sanctity of the natural environment.

Since 1972, NRDC's western office in San Francisco has been active on a wide range of California, western, and national environmental issues. NRDC focuses on six program areas: air and energy; water and coastal; land; international and nuclear; public health; and urban. On behalf of the underrepresented interests of environmental integrity, NRDC attorneys and scientists appear before numerous state and federal forums.

NRDC has been a leading force in seeking to combat global warming through enhanced energy conservation and renewable energy alternatives to new fossil fuel power plants and offshore oil drilling. NRDC has actively pursued resource-conserving land use policies in California's coastal counties and federally-managed lands. Notable recent achievements include leadership of coalitions that have developed broadly-supported federal legislative initiatives on pesticide regulation and efficiency standards for household appliances. Forest, desert, and prairie protection and cooperation with environmental groups in the former Soviet Union are taking on growing significance within the organization.

NRDC's unique commitment to urban ecological issues and "environmental justice" is reflected in the growing activities of its branch office in downtown Los Angeles, which opened in October 1989. NRDC headquarters is located in New York City, with additional branch offices in Washington, D.C. and Honolulu.

## NETWORK PROJECT/ PROPOSITION 103 ENFORCEMENT PROJECT

*10951 W. Pico Blvd., Third Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90064  
(310) 475-0883*

**F**ounded in 1985, the Network Project is a nonprofit, citizen-supported consumer research and protection organization. Utilizing the tools of legal advocacy, policy research and development, and public education campaigns, the Network Project has developed a broad consumer agenda, including an ongoing joint investigation with consumer advocate Ralph Nader of billing errors involving medical, utility, credit card, and other industries.

Network Project's Proposition 103 Enforcement Project has assumed responsibility for ensuring the implementation of Proposition 103, the insurance reform initiative approved by the voters in 1988. Since the passage of Proposition 103, over

six million Californians have received a total of \$775 million in rate rollbacks; further, the initiative has blocked between \$4-\$6 billion in rate increases. Judicial and regulatory challenges by insurance companies to many of the initiative's key provisions have delayed its full implementation. The Proposition 103 Enforcement Project was created in July 1993 to represent the public's interest in Proposition 103 and other insurance-related matters before legal and legislative tribunals.

## PACIFIC LEGAL FOUNDATION

*2151 River Plaza Dr., Suite 305  
Sacramento, CA 95833  
(916) 641-8888*

**T**he Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF) is a public interest law firm which supports free enterprise, private property rights, and individual marketplace freedom. PLF has been particularly active and influential in defending the rights of owners whose ability to benefit economically from their property has been circumscribed by government regulations. The firm has also fiercely defended Proposition 13's limits on taxation.

## PLANNING AND CONSERVATION LEAGUE

*926 J Street, Suite 612  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 444-8726*

**T**he Planning and Conservation League (PCL) is a nonprofit statewide alliance of several thousand citizens and more than 100 conservation organizations devoted to promoting sound environmental legislation in California. Located in Sacramento, PCL actively lobbies for legislation to preserve California's coast; prevent dumping of toxic wastes into air, water, and land; preserve wild and scenic rivers; and protect open space and agricultural land.

PCL is the oldest statewide environmental lobbying group. Founded in 1965 by a group of citizens concerned about uncontrolled development throughout the state, PCL has fought for over two decades to develop a body of resource-protective environmental law which will keep the state beautiful and productive.

Since its creation, PCL has been active in almost every major environmental effort in California and a participant in the



passage of numerous pieces of significant legislation, including the California Environmental Quality Act, the Coastal Protection Law, the act creating the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, the Lake Tahoe Compact Act, the Energy Commission Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and laws which enhance the quality of urban environments.

PCL is supported by individual and group membership fees, with a current membership of more than 9,500 individuals. PCL established its nonprofit, tax-deductible PCL Foundation in 1971, which is supported by donations from individuals, other foundations, and government grants. The Foundation specializes in research and public education programs on a variety of natural resource issues. It has undertaken several major projects, including studies of the California coast, water quality, river recreation industries, energy pricing, land use, the state's environmental budget, and implementation of environmental policies.

## PUBLIC ADVOCATES

1535 Mission St.  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
(415) 431-7430

**P**ublic Advocates, Inc. (PA) is a nonprofit public interest law firm whose mission is to fight the persistent, underlying causes and effects of poverty and discrimination against low-income, minority, and immigrant residents of California. PA has concentrated its efforts in the areas of education, employment, health, homelessness, insurance, public utilities, and banking. Since its founding in 1971, PA has filed over 100 class action suits and represented more than 70 organizations, including the NAACP, the League of United Latin American Citizens, the Filipino-American Political Association, Chinese for Affirmative Action, the National Organization for Women, and the World Institute of Disability. In addition, PA has helped to form major and now independent organizations such as the Health Access Coalition, Latino Issues Forum, Urban Strategies Council, and HomeBase.

## PUBLIC INTEREST CLEARINGHOUSE

200 McAllister St.  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4978  
(415) 255-1714

**T**he Public Interest Clearinghouse (PIC) is a resource and coordination center for

public interest law and statewide legal services. PIC is partially sponsored by four northern California law schools: Hastings College of the Law, University of Santa Clara School of Law, Golden Gate School of Law, and University of California at Davis School of Law. The Clearinghouse is also funded by the California Legal Services Trust Fund and a subgrant from the Legal Services Corporation.

Through the Legal Services Coordination Project, PIC serves as a general resource center for all legal services programs in California and other states in the Pacific region. Services include coordinating project directors' meetings, publishing a quarterly *Legal Services Bulletin* and a monthly calendar of events, and offering technical assistance and information on funding sources and regulations.

PIC's Public Interest Computer Project coordinates the computerization of legal services throughout the west coast. Project components include a quarterly newsletter, user group meetings, trainings, information and referral, technical assistance, and staffing an advisory group that considers long-range technological planning for the legal services community as a whole. The project established and maintains Legal Aid/Net, a national information and communications computer network for legal service providers and other public interest poverty law practitioners containing information on health, public benefits, and housing issues.

PIC's biweekly *Public Interest Employment Report* lists positions for a variety of national, state, and local public interest organizations, including openings for attorneys, administrators, paralegals, and fundraisers. There is no charge for listing jobs in the employment report. A job resource library at PIC's office is available to employment report subscribers and to the general public.

PIC's Public Interest Law Program, currently operative at five participating northern California law schools, is designed to help public interest law students survive law school "with their goals and ambitions intact." The program prepares students for careers in public service through a combination of coursework, individual academic and career counseling, and practical experience. The program also publishes a monthly newsletter, *The Public Interest Advocate*. PIC anticipates expanding this program to southern California law schools in the near future.

PIC's Academic Project promotes and facilitates the interaction of law school faculty and legal services attorneys in furtherance of law in the public interest. Faculty members assist practicing attorneys

with legal services cases, and staff attorneys help faculty with research and course materials.

PIC publishes the *Directory of Bay Area Public Interest Organizations*, which lists over 600 groups and information on their services and fees. PIC also publishes *Public Interest, Private Practice*, which lists over 250 for-profit law firms which devote a substantial portion of their legal work to the public interest.

## SIERRA CLUB

Legislative Office  
923 Twelfth St., Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 557-1100

**T**he Sierra Club has 185,000 members in California and over 530,000 members nationally, and works actively on environmental and natural resource protection issues. The Club is directed by volunteer activists.

In California, Sierra Club has thirteen chapters, some with staffed offices. Sierra Club maintains a legislative office in Sacramento to lobby on numerous state issues, including toxics and pesticides, air and water quality, parks, forests, land use, energy, coastal protection, water development, and wildlife. In addition to lobbying the state legislature, the Club monitors the activities of several state agencies, including the Air Resources Board, Coastal Commission, Department of Health Services, and Department of Parks and Recreation. The Sacramento office publishes a newsletter, *Legislative Agenda*, approximately fifteen times per year. The Sierra Club Committee on Political Education is the Club's political action committee, which endorses candidates and organizes volunteer support in election campaigns.

The Sierra Club maintains national headquarters in San Francisco, and operates a legislative office in Washington, D.C., and regional offices in several cities including Oakland and Los Angeles.

## TURN (TOWARD UTILITY RATE NORMALIZATION)

625 Polk St., Suite 403  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
(415) 929-8876

**T**oward Utility Rate Normalization (TURN) is a nonprofit advocacy group with approximately 50,000 members throughout California. About one-third of its



membership resides in southern California. TURN represents its members, comprised of residential and small business consumers, in electrical, natural gas, and telephone utility rate proceedings before the Public Utilities Commission, the courts, and federal regulatory and administrative agencies. The group's staff also provides technical advice to individual legislators and legislative committees, occasionally taking positions on legislation. TURN has intervened in about 200 proceedings since its founding in 1973.

## **UCAN (UTILITY CONSUMERS' ACTION NETWORK)**

*1717 Kettner Blvd., Suite 105  
San Diego, CA 92101  
(619) 696-6966*

**U**tility Consumers' Action Network (UCAN) is a nonprofit advocacy group supported by 52,000 San Diego Gas and Electric Company (SDG&E) residential and small business ratepayers. UCAN focuses upon intervention before the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) on issues which directly impact San Diego ratepayers. UCAN also assists individual ratepayers with complaints against SDG&E and offers its informational resources to San Diegans.

UCAN began its advocacy in 1984. Since then, it has intervened in SDG&E's 1985, 1988, 1989, and 1993 General Rate Cases; 1984, 1985, 1986, and 1989 Energy Cost Adjustment Clause proceedings; the San Onofre cost overrun hearings; and SDG&E's holding company application. Between 1988 and 1991, UCAN devoted much of its time and effort to challenging the proposed takeover of SDG&E by Southern California Edison Company. In May 1991, the PUC unanimously rejected the merger proposal.

During 1991, UCAN's Board of Directors decided the advocacy organization should expand beyond its traditional focus on gas, electric, and telephone utility issues, and represent the public interest in insurance matters. UCAN plans to intervene in Department of Insurance rate regulation proceedings and engage in public education on insurance issues.

## **UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS**

**Transportation Program**  
*2397 Shattuck Ave., Suite 203  
Berkeley, CA 94704  
(510) 843-1872*

**U**CS is an independent nonprofit organization of scientists and other citizens concerned about the impact of advanced technology on society. UCS programs focus on national and state energy, environmental, and transportation policy, as well as national security policy and nuclear power safety. UCS was founded in 1969 and currently has a membership of 100,000 (20% in California), a staff of 40, and offices in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Washington D.C., and Berkeley.

The newly-opened Berkeley office is home to UCS' innovative transportation program. The staff expertise and outreach focuses on promoting environmentally-sound transportation policies at the state and local governmental level. To pursue these goals, the transportation program works to educate the public about transportation issues and their impact on energy, the economy, the environment, and public health; develop innovative, market-based strategies to reduce vehicle use; and provide technical assistance to state planners and policymakers trying to forge new approaches to addressing transportation sector problems. UCS hopes to create successful, precedent-setting policies in California that can be replicated in other states and countries. The transportation program works regularly with the state Air Resources Board, California Energy Commission, and the legislature. The California office has an active internship program and encourages qualified applicants to contact the office.

