Joe Gibson

Principal

Education

Bachelor of Sciences, Environmental Geosciences Indiana University (1974 to 1976)

Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Indiana (1973 to 1974) – undergraduate studies in natural and physical sciences

University of California, Los Angeles, (1993 to 2006) – various continuing education studies in land use planning, land use law and environmental impact analysis

Mr. Gibson has 33 years' experience in managing and conducting environmental studies. He has participated in a variety of projects involving the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for federal, state, and local government and private-sector clients. As a project manager, Mr. Gibson has completed numerous CEQA documents for large-scale development projects in Southern California.

Mr. Gibson has also recently served as CEQA Program Director for the Los Angeles Unified School District when he oversaw the preparation of dozens of EIRs for the district's new school construction program. In addition, he oversaw the development of guidelines for a variety of special studies required for school facilities including rail safety, pipeline safety and other issues.

Mr. Gibson has experience serving on both elected and appointed boards that have land use responsibilities. In the mid-1990s, he served as a planning commissioner for the City of Thousand Oaks. During his term on the commission, he reviewed numerous development projects and assisted other commissioners with understanding the CEQA review process. He reviewed numerous EIRs and mitigated negative declarations; he understands the need to for clearly providing the decision maker with a document that is easily understood.

In addition, Mr. Gibson serves as an elected official on the Conejo Recreation and Park District, a special district responsible for administering 15,000 acres of open space, parks, and facilities. He is also a board member and past president of the California Association of Recreation and Park Districts, and a member of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) the California Park and Recreation Society (CPRS).

Mr. Gibson has worked with a variety of clients in completing environmental projects including the U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Interior (National Park System), U.S. Department of Agriculture (National Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management) California State University Office of the Chancellor, Los Angeles Unified School District, the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Wal-Mart, and Westinghouse Electric Corp. Mr. Gibson has experience working projects through a variety of agencies including the State and Regional Water Quality Control Boards.

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He has extensive experience in briefing and making presentations to high-level officials in both the public and private sectors. This includes providing testimony to state governors and legislators; the federal Departments of Defense, Agriculture, and Interior; the U.S. EPA; and state planning, resource and solid waste management, and environmental/regulatory agencies.

Representative Project Experience

- Principal involved and Key Investigator/Author of numerous plans and policies for environmental issue management. Projects have included land use planning documents at the state, regional and local level including General Plans, Conservation Management Plans, Natural Resource Protection Plans, Siting Elements, and others. Developed land use and environmental policies for numerous agencies including the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, EPA, Department of Energy, Department of Defense, Corps of Engineers for both public and private projects, local agencies and jurisdictions including counties, cities and special districts, airports and harbors, and other groups. Experienced in public and agency involvement and interaction including the development and implementation of public hearings, study sessions, and focus groups.

Water Resource Projects

- Project manager for the **Cachuma Project EIR**, which evaluates water rights permit changes for Lake Cachuma and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (operator of Bradbury Dam). The project is under consideration by the State Water Resources Control Board Water Rights Division for changes to existing permits for water rights in the Santa Ynez River watershed downstream of Bradbury Dam. Mr. Gibson oversees the work of engineers, hydrogeologists, biologists, aquatics and fisheries specialists, and other professionals to assess implication of water level changes downstream of Bradbury Dam. Impacts to other trust resources (including steelhead trout and other listed species) are being evaluated to assessment implications of surcharges at Lake Cachuma.

- Completed environmental documentation for Castaic Lake Water Agency (CLWA) for development of their **Phase II Recycled Water Project**. This project involved diversion of water from the Saugus Waste Treatment Plant and the Santa Clara River to provide recycled water to areas of the CLWA's service area in Santa Clarita. The environmental documentation complied with both CEQA and NEPA and involved resolutions of issues regarding stream flow and diversion of water from the Santa Clara River and habitat of the listed species Three Spined Stickleback. The project included coordination with CDFG, US Fish and Wildlife Service and the US EPA.

- Completed joint EIS/EIR for the United Water Conservation District (UWCD) proposed **Pyramid Lake Water Release Program** in Ventura County, California. UWCD proposed the release of 25,000 acre-feet of water from Pyramid Lake to spreading grounds on the Oxnard Plain via Piru Creek and the Santa Clara River. The environmental issues considered included impacts to sensitive amphibian populations located in Piru Creek, impacts associated with sport fishing, surface water and groundwater quality, and cultural resources. Because portions of Piru Creek are located in the Los Padres National Forest, the U.S. Forest Service participated as the NEPA lead Agency.

- Project Manager for the review and evaluation of **saltwater intrusion into the Fox Canyon** aquifer in Ventura County, California. This included review of historic agricultural withdrawals, proposed long-term development, testing and analysis of aquifer characteristics, and development of a strategy to avoid future saltwater intrusion.

- Completed **water supply assessments** for numerous projects in California in accordance with SB 221 (Subdivision Map Act) and SB 610 (Water Code). Completed evaluation and assessment urban water management plans for major projects including industrial and commercial development and large-scale master-planned communities.

- Served as **expert witness** for litigation involving the implementation of a Biological Opinion and operation of a fish ladder as a fish passage for steelhead trout by United Water Conservation District in the Santa Clara River. Provide expert opinion on the environmental and permitting process relative to the requirements of CEQA, NEPA and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

Hydrology and Surface Water Quality

- Completed numerous studies requiring **analysis of surface water hydrology and water quality management**. This has included efforts to address stormwater runoff in both urban and non-urban environments, modifications to stormwater channels and floodways, and development of stormwater and surface water runoff control basins.

- Completed hydrologic analysis of proposed surface water improvements associated development within the Haun Creek drainage of the lower Santa Clara River watershed for the **East Area 1 Specific Plan** in Ventura County, California. Completed studies to determine extent of subbasin watersheds, stream flow velocities, channel characteristics, and flood history. Developed criteria for detention basin design and coordinated with project engineer on design implementation.

- Completed environmental review of proposed **Hitch Ranch Specific Plan** hydrologic study in eastern Ventura County, California. Efforts included review of the proposed surface water control measures for both Walnut Canyon and Gabbert Canyon watersheds west of the City of Moorpark. Completed analysis of proposed regional flood control basin to determine performance and design requirements to meet the requirements of the Regional Watershed Management Plan and Ventura County Watershed Protection District standards.

- Managed the review of hydrologic studies to determine the potential impacts of **siting schools** in flood inundation zones in the San Fernando Valley, California, for LAUSD. Coordinated and performed analysis to determine potential downstream impacts that would result from dam failure of Hanson Dam in the San Gabriel Mountains. Efforts included determining potential inundation zones, wave height and resulting flooded areas.

Port and Harbor Projects

- Completed analysis of proposed improvements for the **West Basin Terminal Widening and Chevron Tank Farm Decommissioning** project to provide for additional ship dock capacity for the Port of Los Angeles, California. Efforts included analysis of increased land area resulting from fill placement and dredging in the West Basin of the Port. Completed analysis of potential water quality impacts to both fresh water surface waters and marine waters. The project also

evaluated the decommissioning of a bulk fuel terminal for use future use a container terminal. Work included site characterization and design review of soil remediation alternatives, development of a community right-to-know plan, and outreach and interaction with state and local regulators. The site was contaminated with a variety of petroleum hydrocarbon products including bunker fuel, kerosene, crude oil, jet fuel, gasoline, and diesel. Site characterization included the installation of over 20 monitoring wells and a free product recovery system. Remediation alternatives considered included on-site and off-site *in situ* and *ex situ* bioremediation, thermal treatment, soil washing, oxidation and soil reuse, and off-site excavation and disposal.

- Conducted site investigations for wharf improvements and expansion for a major **metals exporter** in the Port of Los Angeles, California. Studies included drilling and testing to determine extent of soil contamination, engineering analysis of contamination area, and development of remedial action plan.

- Completed the environmental review for the City of Long Beach Redevelopment Agency and Port of Long Beach for expansion of the **Long Beach Convention Center and Waterfront Redevelopment** of surrounding parcels in downtown Long Beach, California, to provide for increased exhibit space, hotels, and museums. The work included the evaluation of issues related to the construction and operation of the center as a nationally prominent convention and trade show location. The project included the involvement of several agencies having jurisdiction over the site. Because the center is located in the tidelands area, the Port of Long Beach was the property owner and provided the financing of the project. Additionally, the project was located in the coast zone and was subject to the review and approval of the California Coastal Commission. The Lead Agency was the City of Long Beach Redevelopment Agency. Key issues evaluated included traffic and circulation, access to the waterfront, land use, historic and cultural resources, viewshed impacts along Ocean Boulevard, and impacts on the Long Beach Grand Prix. The work resulted in an EIR that received the Association of Environmental Professionals Outstanding Environmental Document Award.

- Completed environmental review for a major **waterfront access** and **commercial development** as part of revitalization programs undertaken by the Port of Los Angeles, California. The project included the evaluation of historic resources associated with

Banning's Wharf and Wall in the Wilmington District of the City of Los Angeles immediately adjacent to the port. The project included the conversion of port-related container and cargo operations and the development of visitor-serving commercial and recreation area in the north harbor area of Berth 5 in the port. In addition to the evaluation of historic resources, other key issues included the evaluation of traffic and circulation impacts associated with the commingling of port and non-port traffic in the area, air quality and land use concerns. The project resulted in an EIR and Mitigation Monitoring Program administered by the port.

Transportation Projects

- Completed environmental review for **transportation-related projects** throughout Southern California including the Cities of Los Angeles, Rancho Palos Verdes, Calabasas, Alhambra, Fontana, Palmdale, Torrance, San Pedro/Wilmington, and Long Beach, California. Projects have included road design and implications, traffic forecasting and distribution, safety issues, conformance with local, state, and federal standards, neighborhood impacts, and other related issues.

- Completion of the **Port Integrated Transportation Plan** for the City of Los Angeles and Port of Los Angeles, California. The project identified transportation conflicts and constraints for the communities surrounding the Port of Los Angeles (primarily San Pedro and Wilmington) and developed program scenarios for implementation. The project also included environmental review of selected scenarios under CEQA.

- Completed transportation funding review for major projects in the San Gabriel Valley including the proposed **710 Freeway**, the **Pasadena Metro Gold Line**, the **Alameda Corridor East**, the **Alameda Corridor**, and other related projects in California. Efforts included analysis of funding sources at the federal, state, and local levels and the ability of funds to be made available at all levels.

Solid Waste Management Projects

- Project Manager and Principal Investigator for the evaluation of the **Elsmere Canyon EIR/EIS** prepared by the US Forest Service and Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning. The project included a proposed 190-million-ton solid waste management facility located in the Angeles National Forest near Santa Clarita,

California. To implement the project, the Forest Service would transfer approximately 1,500 acres of land from public ownership to private ownership in return for other specific holdings located within the Angeles National Forest boundaries. The project also considered the construction and development, operation, and closure of a proposed Class III landfill with an estimated life of 50 years. The evaluation of the EIR/EIS included significant issues such as faulting and seismicity, biological resources, groundwater and water quality, air quality, land use, recreational uses of the forestlands, economic considerations, traffic and circulation, and other issues.

- Project Manager and Principal Investigator for the evaluation of the **Gregory Canyon EIR** for the County of San Diego, Local Enforcement Agency (LEA). The project included a proposed 4,000-ton-per-day solid waste landfill near Fallbrook, California. The project considered the construction and development, operation, and closure of a proposed Class III landfill with an estimated life of 50 years. The evaluation of the EIR included significant issues such as faulting and seismicity, biological resources, groundwater and water quality, air quality, land use, recreational uses of forestlands, economic considerations, traffic and circulation, and other issues.

- Completed CEQA review for the **Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE)** and **Household Hazardous Waste Element (HHWE)** of the Solid Waste Management Plan for the City of Santa Clarita, California. Work included the evaluation of waste streams and the potential impacts that new or alternative diversion programs would have for both solid and household hazardous wastes. The CEQA review resulted in a Negative Declaration.

- Prepared time-to-crisis analysis for **solid waste landfill capacity** in Los Angeles County as part of a review of the need for expansion of existing landfills and development of new landfills. The study included inventory of all Los Angeles County solid waste landfills (both public and private), their current permitted capacity, plans for future expansion, ability to expand, use of remote landfills out of the County (i.e., Carbon Canyon, Utah and Eagle Mountain, Riverside County, California), and impacts on waste generation as a result of AB 939 implementation. The study developed likely and probable scenarios for loss of local landfills as a result of capacity and permit limits over the next 50 years.

- Completed environmental review pursuant to CEQA for a proposed **materials recovery facility** (MRF) in the City of Oxnard, California. Work included evaluation of existing trash hauling traffic and air quality to local and regional landfills and comparing impacts to revised hauling routes associated with the MRF. The project resulted in a Negative Declaration providing specific mitigation measures to reduce localized traffic impacts around the proposed facility.

- Conducted environmental review for the location of a major new landfill (**Weldon Canyon**) in Southern California for a local jurisdiction. Work included the application of both state and federal criteria for landfill development. The environmental review evaluated compliance with CEQA and analysis of technical issues including air quality, traffic and circulation, biological resources, land use, geology, hydrology, and others.

- Completed health risk assessment for the proposed **expansion of an existing landfill** in Ventura County, California. Work included identification of probable release scenarios to surrounding areas, determination of probable release concentrations, and dispersal modeling.

Defense Projects

- Project Manager for the preparation of an EIS for the expansion of the **National Training Center** at Ft. Irwin, California. The project included the evaluation of private and public lands to be considered by the Department of the Army for use in force-on-force ground training. Part of the evaluation included the joint use of lands controlled by the Department of the Navy at China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station. Technical issues considered in the EIS included land use considerations for the expansion of the base through acquisition, exchange, and joint use of surrounding lands; the impact of DOD activities proposed on adjacent desert lands; the elimination of existing uses such as mining and agriculture; impacts to the then-proposed (now approved) California Desert National Park; impacts to wildlife and ecosystems, including endangered species such as the desert tortoise; air quality and dust impacts on existing naval air operations at China Lake; and infrastructure impacts.

- Project Manager for the **MX Missile Program** overseeing the evaluation of water resources in the Nevada and Utah Great Basin area to support construction and deployment of the MX missile. Responsible for overseeing water resource exploration activities

throughout the Great Basin, including drilling and pump test operations, development of hydrologic models, and determination of project impacts.

Hazardous Materials Projects

- Project Manager for the site characterization and remediation of USTs and clarifiers at over **50 gasoline station sites** for a major national oil company. Project included delineation of both soil and groundwater contamination. Responsible for site review, remedial action plan development, agency interaction, engineering system review and implementation, and closure.

- Project Manager for multiple Phase I and II environmental site assessments. Projects included **commercial and industrial facilities** located throughout southern California and Arizona. Conducted site investigations, including surface sampling and testing, subsurface investigations, and report preparation.

- Completed site selection and preliminary site characterization for the location of a low-level radioactive **waste disposal site** in the California desert. Work included the application of coarse screening criteria to determine relative suitability, detailed site analysis, and preliminary engineering analysis.

School and Education Projects

- As CEQA Program Director for the Office of Environmental Health & Safety (OEHS), provided CEQA Program Management services and oversight for **Phase I and II New School Construction** program **for Los Angeles Unified School District** (LAUSD) in Los Angeles, California. The LAUSD program is a $19 billion program responsible for constructing over 150 new schools and is the largest public works project in the United States in the 21st century. Responsibilities included direction and management of all environmental oversight activities for all projects from site selection through school construction and opening. Projects included elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, span schools, magnet schools, charter schools, primary center, early education centers, adult schools, and schools for students with special needs. Activities included coordination and liaison with other jurisdictions and agencies (e.g., City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation), review and approval of all CEQA documents, presentations to executive staff at LAUSD, and presentation and liaison with members of the Board of

Education. The program consisted of over 50 schools for Phase II and 45 schools for Phase III as well as 30 charter school sites and oversight of final CEQA efforts for numerous Phase I schools.

- Managed the preparation of the final EIR for the proposed **Central Los Angeles Learning Center No. 1** (Ambassador Hotel site) for LAUSD in Los Angeles, California. Coordinated preparation of the response to comments and final EIR with both LAUSD staff and outside legal counsel (Pillsbury Madison). Provided lead in strategic discussion with LAUSD executive staff and Board of Education.

- Completed the environmental review for Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and Urban Partners of the proposed **Central Los Angeles New Middle School No. 3** in Los Angeles, California. This project is part of LAUSD's new construction program and involved the construction and operation of an 800-student middle school (grades 6 through 8) in Koreatown in the City of Los Angeles. The project site included an MTA Redline subway station and presented numerous environmental concerns with joint use of the station and school.

- Prepared an EIR under CEQA for the proposed formation of the **Camarillo Unified School District**. The project addressed impacts associated with reorganizing three local school district (**Oxnard Union High School District** [grades 9 through 12], **Pleasant Valley School District** [grades K through 8], and **Somis School District** [grades K through 8]) to form the new district in California. The project would result in transferring some high school students who attend other high schools in the Oxnard High School District who would no longer be eligible to attend those schools as a result of the new boundaries. The EIR analyzed impacts associated with options available to the new district to house those students.

- Prepared environmental documents to meet CEQA compliance for a **proposed continuation high school** for the Conejo Valley Unified School District. The proposed project would provide for the relocation of high school students to a new location on a site located adjacent to State Route 23, a 6-lane freeway, as such the site required special consideration and evaluation to meet CDE siting requirements for air quality and freeway related emissions. The site is located adjacent to a major park site and would include provisions for joint use to accommodate parking and access.

- Completed school facility site studies for both a proposed **elementary school and high school** in the City of Santa Paula to meet CDE requirements for new schools. The two school sites are part of a new specific plan (East Area 1) and are located on parcels that experienced historic agricultural operations. Additionally, the sites are adjacent to or near natural gas and petroleum pipelines, and operating railroad tracks requiring special risk studies to determine potential hazards.

Open Space and Park Projects

- Completed EIS for the proposed exchange of lands between the National Park Service, Santa Monica National Recreation Area, and a private developer for the purpose of providing **access to a proposed development**. Conducted project scoping and public hearings. Project issues included loss of biological resources and wildlife corridors, historical and cultural resources, impacts to viewsheds, recreational impacts, and other issues.

Commercial and Residential Development Projects

- Project manager for environmental studies related to the development of a **5,000-acre master plan project at Travertine Point** on the western shore of the Salton Sea in Riverside and Imperial counties, California. Project included environmental review of potential impacts associated with development of prime agricultural land, cultural resources of tribal lands, water supply assessment, hydrologic and flooding studies, air quality and greenhouse gas studies, and other studies related to development of a new town. Project required multi-jurisdictional coordination with two counties and the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians to comply with both CEQA and NEPA. Mr. Gibson completed the water supply assessment for the Coachella Valley Water District. He has presented the project before members of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission, and has worked with all levels of staff for in both counties.

- Completion of a comprehensive EIR under CEQA for **Wal-Mart's** proposed **food distribution center** proposed in Barstow, California. The project includes the preparation of an EIR to address the construction and operation of a 1-million-square-foot facility to support retail store operations in southern California. Key aspects of the project included development of long-term transportation growth plans, water supply assessment, and biological impacts

associated with the development of the project in the Mojave Desert Protection Area, and other related development issues.

- Completed EIR for City of Long Beach Redevelopment Agency for the **Realignment of Shoreline Drive** in Long Beach, California, to provide for the development of commercial office space. Project included evaluation of traffic and circulation systems connecting the western portions of downtown Long Beach with the 710 Freeway and access to the Port of Long Beach. The project also included the potential impacts associated with relocating nearby houses and increased noise and air quality impacts of the re-located roadway.

- Project manager for a **mixed-use project** for the Long Beach Redevelopment Agency at 3rd Street and Pine Avenue. The project was one of the first for the redevelopment of downtown Long Beach. As proposed, the project included a six story building with underground parking. The mixed use complex provided for retail uses on the first (ground) floor, movie cinemas on the second level, and four stories of apartments/condominiums on the upper four floors.

- Prepare an EIR for a proposed **35-story office building** on west Ocean Boulevard in downtown Long Beach. The project site straddled Ocean Boulevard with the main building on the south side and a multi-level parking structure on the north. The lead agency was the City of Long Redevelopment Agency. Significant issues included the site location in the coastal zone, traffic and pedestrian safety, aesthetics, shade and shadow implications, and potential historic buildings.

- Completed EIR for a major **master-planned community** in the Antelope Valley as part of an annexation into the City of Palmdale. Project included development of residential and commercial uses on about 2,000 acres. The California Aqueduct, San Andreas Fault, and high-voltage (550 kV) transmission lines bounded the project site. Issues included evaluation of threatened and endangered plants, electromagnetic radiation, seismicity, land use, air quality, hydrology and flooding, and other issues. The environmental review resulted in plan revisions to alleviate impacts identified as significant or that posed health and safety concerns. Prepared mitigation monitoring program for use by City of Palmdale during project implementation.

- Completed environmental review pursuant to CEQA for the **County of Santa Barbara's Montecito Area General Plan Update and Growth Control Ordinance**. Project included the evaluation of several buildout scenarios for the Montecito Area that provided for buildout over the next 20 years. An EIR was completed using the results of the buildout scenarios to provide the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors information to decide on the implementation of a growth control ordinance that limited the number of dwelling units to be built in a given year. The project also included the inventory of existing second units (non-permitted) on parcels in the area and calculating the impacts associated with the maintenance of such units as if they were permitted.

- Development of environmental documents for a proposed **Boys & Girls Club** facility to be co-located at three public middle school campuses in Thousand Oaks, California. The work included development of project constraint and limitations, traffic evaluation, pre-construction planning, architectural and regulatory reviews, public agency coordination and interface, and preparation of CEQA documents.