



# An Introduction to the San Mateo County Attorney's Office

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JOHN NIBBELIN

OCTOBER 25, 2023

# Outline

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1. WHO WE ARE



2. WHAT WE DO



3. QUESTIONS



# Who are we?

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[John D. Nibbelin](#)  
County Attorney





# Who we are (cont.)?

33 Attorneys

19 non-Attorney staff members

- Legal Secretaries
- Paralegals
- Legal Office Assistants
- Administrative managers



# Who are we (cont.)?

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All experienced attorneys and a Michael P. Murphy Fellow

We come from:

- DA's Office
- AG's Offices (state and federal)
- Private Law Firms
- Non-profit agencies
- Former law enforcement and military

# Purposes

The Office of the County Attorney provides quality and timely legal services to the Board of Supervisors, the County Executive's Office, elected County officials, all County departments, and boards and commissions. We also provide services to school districts, special districts, and other public agencies operating within the county, allowing them to carry out their responsibilities in a manner fully consistent with the law.





What do we do?

## General Counsel to:



Board of Supervisors



County Departments



Elected Officials



School Districts



Special Districts



Joint Powers Authorities

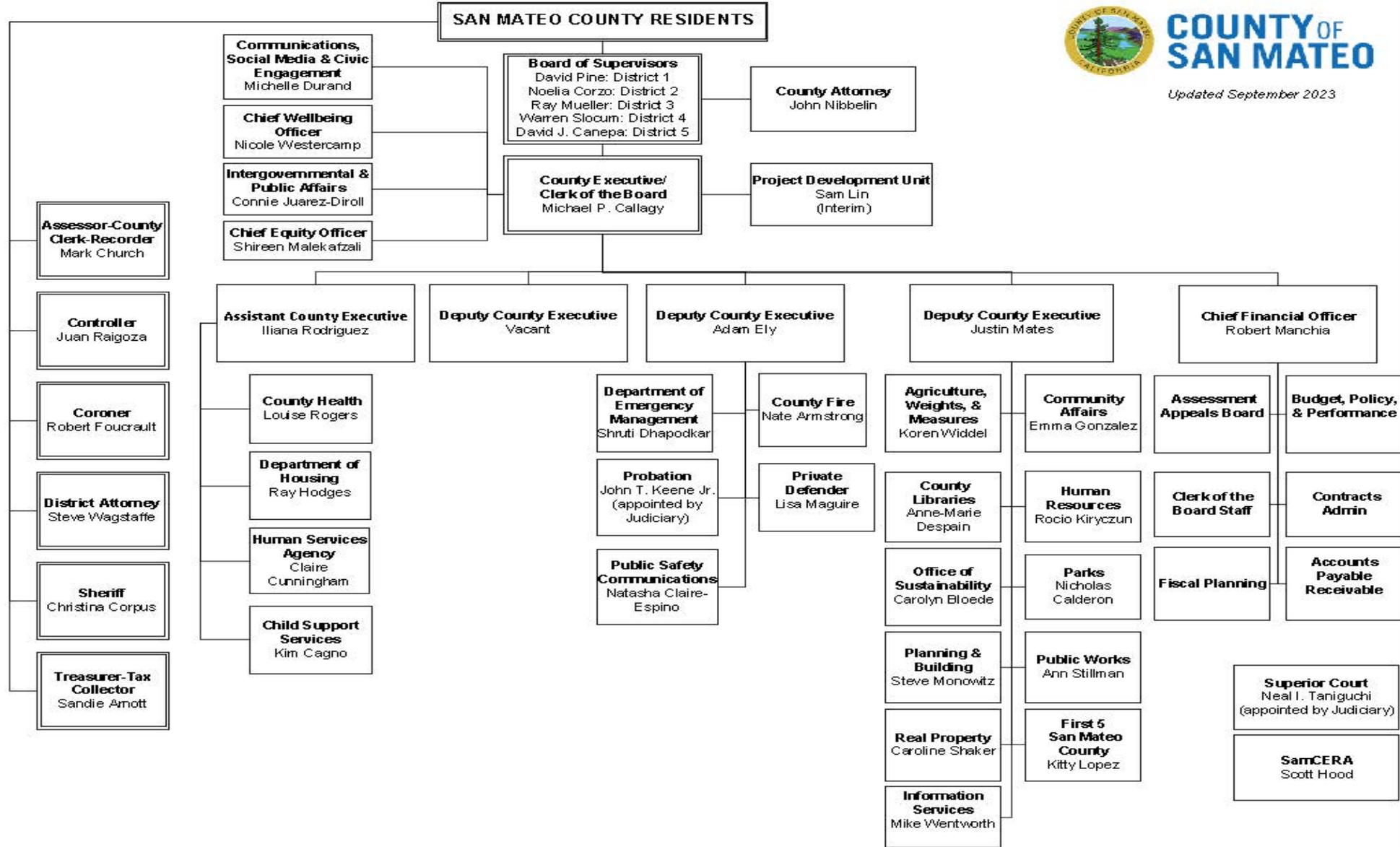


Miscellaneous other public entities



# COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Updated September 2023



# 2023 Board of Supervisors



## District 1

Dave Pine  
President

### Represents:

Burlingame, Hillsborough, Millbrae, San Bruno (east of Interstate 280 and areas west of 280 and south of Sneath Lane), South San Francisco (east of Junipero Serra Boulevard and south of Hickey and Hillside Boulevards).

### Unincorporated Areas:

Burlingame Hills, Highlands/Baywood Park, San Francisco Airport.



## District 2

Noelia Corzo

### Represents:

Belmont (excluding southeast portion), Foster City, San Mateo



## District 3

Ray Mueller

### Represents:

Atherton, Belmont (southeast portion only), Half Moon Bay, Menlo Park (west of El Camino Real), Pacifica, Portola Valley, San Carlos, Woodside

### Unincorporated Areas:

Devonshire Canyon, El Granada, Emerald Lake Hills, Harbor Industrial Park, La Honda, Ladera, Loma Mar, Los Trancos Woods/Vista Verde, Menlo Oaks, Miramar, Montara/Moss Beach, Palomar Park, Pescadero, Princeton-by-the-Sea, Rural South Coast/Skyline, San Gregorio, Sequoia Tract, Skylonda, Stanford Lands.



## District 4

Warren Slocum  
Vice President

### Represents:

East Palo Alto, Menlo Park (east of El Camino Real), Redwood City.

### Unincorporated Areas:

North Fair Oaks



## District 5

David Canepa

### Represents:

Brisbane, Colma, Daly City, San Bruno (north of Sneath Lane and west of Interstate 280), South San Francisco (east of Junipero Serra Boulevard and north of Hickey and Hillside Boulevards).

### Unincorporated Areas:

Broadmoor

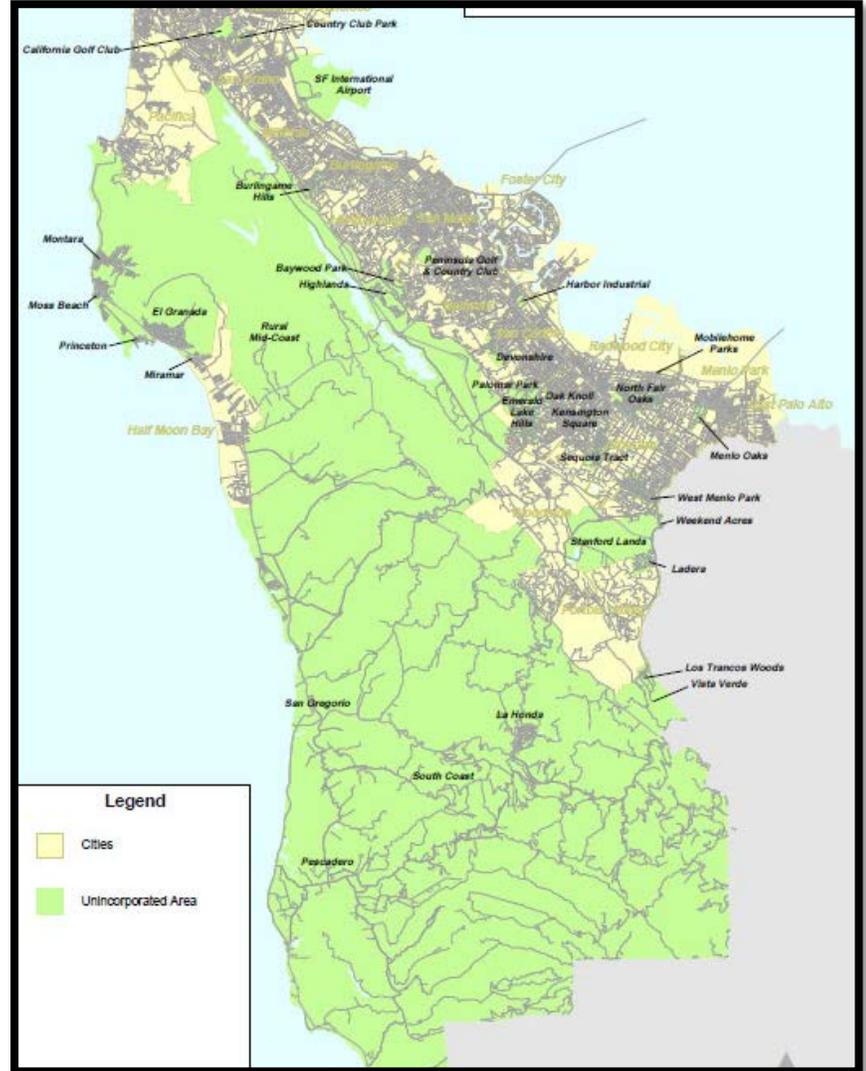


# Cities/Towns

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## 20 Cities/Towns in SMC

1. Atherton
2. Belmont
3. Brisbane
4. Burlingame
5. Colma
6. Daly City
7. East Palo Alto
8. Foster City
9. Half Moon Bay
10. Hillsborough
11. Menlo Park
12. Millbrae
13. Pacifica
14. Portola Valley
15. Redwood City
16. San Bruno
17. San Carlos
18. San Mateo
19. South San Francisco
20. Woodside



# Unincorporated San Mateo County

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# County & City Functions

Cities - Municipal powers/services (public works, planning & building permits, parks, etc.)

The County “acts like a city” for residents in the unincorporated areas

The County is a “political subdivision” of the state

- Fulfills certain “state” functions (i.e., implementation of programs re social services, health services, prosecution of crimes, etc., at the local level)

The County has no authority over the cities but sometimes acts on cities’ behalf

- Limited examples: animal control, environmental health, contracts for law enforcement services, etc.



# Some of Our Clients/Acronym Soup

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- Probate
- Public Administrator
- LPS
- Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer
- Property Assessment (and Appeals Board)
- Coroner
- Grand Jury
- LAFCO
- SMMC
- CPS (CFS)
- First Five
- HAA/CEQA/LCP/LAND USE



# Recent Priorities and Focus

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- Economic Recovery
- Housing, including Project Homekey
- Addressing Homelessness, including ordinance to move folks to housing
- Equity
- Personnel Safety Issues
- Assessment Appeals involving hundreds of millions of dollars
- Law Enforcement Oversight
- Litigation including cases alleging past sexual abuse



 **HOUSING  
IS KEY**



# Recent Priorities (cont).

- Emergency Response
- Response to COVID, Wildfires and 2022-23 Flooding
- Farmworker Housing Task Force





# Assistance in Forming /Advising Local Agencies

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One Shoreline

High Speed Lanes

Peninsula Clean Energy

- Billion Dollars of Power (negotiations)
- Public Solar
- Expansion
- Credit rating
- 7 years later



# Public Interest Work

- PCBs
- Sea Level Rise/ Climate Deception
- Opioids
- Lead Paint
- Elder Abuse
- Minimum wage ordinance
- Immigration Matters



# Office Priorities

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Building/sustaining office and wider County culture

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Affordable housing; farm labor housing; housing element

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Move to COB3

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Fiscal law issues (excess ERAF/VLF shortfall)

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Procurement

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Commitment to DEI and Supporting County-wide DEI efforts

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Hiring, engagement, retention, succession planning



Questions?

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