



Board Appointment Form

City Clerk's Office

Appointing Office	Representative Chris Canales, District 8
Agenda Placement	Consent
Date of Council Meeting	January 17, 2024
Name of Board	Regional Renewable Energy Advisory Council
Agenda Posting Language	
Appointment of Matthew Behrens to the Regional Renewable Energy Advisory Council by Representative Chris Canales, District 8.	
Appointment Type	Regular
Member Qualifications	
Matthew Behrens has extensive experience in negotiating and implementing renewable energy projects and proven track record in strategic planning within the energy sector. His community involvement and board memberships further highlight his commitment to the region's sustainable energy goals.	
Nominee Name	Matthew K Behrens
Nominee Date of Birth	
Nominee Email Address	
Nominee Residential Address	
Nominee Primary Phone Number	
Residing District	District 8
City Employed Relatives	N/A
Prior Board Membership	
N/A	
Real estate owned in El Paso County	
Previous Appointee	Miguel Fraga
Reason for Vacancy	Term Expired
Date of Appointment	01/17/24
Term Start Date	03/03/23
Term End Date	03/03/25
Term	First Term

Matthew K. Behrens

EXPERIENCE

Partner, Kemp Smith LLP

April 2023 – Present (El Paso, Texas)

- **M&A and Entity Formation:** Negotiate and draft stock and asset purchase agreements as well as conducting necessary due diligence and drafting ancillary agreements. Draft operating, company, and partnership agreements for various client ventures as well as policies and other governing documents.
- **Renewable Energy:** Negotiate and draft engineering, procurement, and construction contracts and purchased power agreements for utility-scale renewable and battery energy storage systems. Provide guidance on state regulatory matters concerning distributed energy resources and general electric utility matters.
- **Contract Drafting and Negotiation:** Negotiate and draft miscellaneous contracts including purchase agreements, confidentiality agreements, real estate agreements, and software and SaaS agreements.
- **Tax Consulting:** Develop tax strategies to limit federal and state impacts and represent clients in federal and state tax audits.

Director of Energy Solutions, El Paso Electric Company

October 2021 – April 2023 (El Paso, Texas)

- **Renewable Strategy:** Spearheaded strategies to increase renewable energy and incorporate distributed energy resources and electric onto the Company's grid. Participated in rulemakings related to distributed energy resources and analyzed and revised proposed legislation related to the same.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** Established strategic partnerships to develop tailored energy solutions for commercial, municipal, and military customers. Developed relationships with distributed energy resource and renewable development companies.
- **Contract Negotiation:** Negotiated engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) agreements, purchased power agreements (PPA), operations and maintenance (O&M) agreements real estate agreements, and construction development agreements.
- **RFP Management:** Drafted and reviewed requests for proposals (RFP) for EPC contractors.

Senior Attorney, El Paso Electric Company

September 2017 – October 2021 (El Paso, Texas)

- **Regulatory Affairs:** Oversaw filings before the Public Utility Commission of Texas and assisted with filings before the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission. Successfully obtained regulatory approval for generation and transmission projects, acquisition of the company, rate cases, and various special rates, tariffs, and riders. Reviewed SEC and FERC Form 1 filings related to state regulatory matters.

- **Legislative Affairs:** Provided legislative support to the government affairs department, including drafting and reviewing proposed legislation, participating in rulemakings, and drafting and reviewing letters to government officials.
- **Contracting:** Drafted and negotiated special rate contracts, EPC agreements, O&M agreements, PPAs for renewable projects, energy purchase agreements, NAESB agreements, confidentiality agreements, easements, rights of way, franchise agreements, joint venture agreements, and professional services agreements.

Assistant General Counsel, El Paso Water Utilities

July 2015 – September 2017 (El Paso, Texas)

- **Contracting:** Negotiated and drafted construction and front-end agreements for the construction and repair of wastewater and water treatment facilities. Negotiated and drafted development agreements and water and wastewater service agreements with neighboring municipalities.
- **RFP and Purchasing:** Drafted and reviewed requests for proposals for purchasing and construction projects. Provided guidance on various bidding methodologies and exceptions.
- **Legal Compliance:** Oversaw compliance with the Texas Public Information Act. Provided guidance to executive team on compliance with Texas Open Meetings Act and ensured appropriate adherence to notice rules.

Senior Project Manager, El Paso Electric Company

November 2014 – July 2015 (El Paso, Texas)

- **Contract Negotiation:** Negotiated contracts for utility-scale solar facilities including engineering, purchase, and construction contracts; real estate agreements, and operations and maintenance contracts.
- **Regulatory Filings:** Developed testimony for regulatory filings and monitored renewable energy trends.
- **RFP Management:** Drafted and reviewed requests for proposals and reviewed bids.

Assistant City Attorney, City of El Paso, Texas

November 2012 – November 2014 (El Paso, Texas)

- **Economic Development:** Oversaw legal matters for Economic Development Department and negotiated and drafted tax abatement agreements, real estate contracts, procurement contracts, development agreements, and public private partnership agreements.
- **Elections and Budget:** Provided legal guidance for matters related to elections and budget. Drafted and reviewed the legally required resolutions and notices.
- **Utility Regulation:** Oversaw and advised on filings related to gas and electric utilities.

Tax Director, Hunt Companies

December 2009 – November 2012 (El Paso, Texas)

- **Tax Preparation and Research:** Oversaw the preparation of state tax returns for over 50 entities in 35 states. Conducted legal research on federal and state tax matters.
- **Audit:** Prepared state tax footnote for the company's financial statement.
- **Contract Review:** Reviewed operating and partnership agreements for low-income housing tax credit projects and other development projects.

Senior Tax Consultant, Deloitte Tax, LLP

September 2001 – July 2006 (Houston, Texas)

- **Tax Returns:** Prepared federal and state tax returns primarily for oil and gas and utility clients.
 - **Audit:** Prepared and reviewed tax footnotes for publicly traded and privately held companies as well as Sarbanes-Oxley audits of tax preparation controls.
 - **Consulting:** Conducted research and provided analysis for miscellaneous tax issues presented by clients and assisted with IRS audits.
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EDUCATION

- **Juris Doctor**, Temple University Beasley School of Law, May 2009
 - **Master's in Professional Accounting** and **Bachelor of Business Administration**, University of Texas at Austin, January 2002 (Professional Path in Accounting Program)
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BOARD MEMBERSHIPS

- **evolve Federal Credit Union**, May 2015 – Present
- **Creative Kids**, February 2022 – Present
- **KCOS-TV**, April 2015 – June 2021