

## **Top Cal Environmental Advisor Resigns**

Terry Tamminen, a Democratic environmental advisor to California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, resigned in August in order to campaign for the governor, saying he would not return after the election, reported the *Los Angeles Times*. Tamminen held a variety of positions in the Schwarzenegger administration, including environmental secretary, cabinet secretary, and advisor on energy and the environment. From this experience, he wrote the recently published book, *Lives Per Gallon: The True Cost of Our Oil Addiction*, published by Island Press.

According to the *Times*, Tamminen was close to the governor, well-positioned to advocate for solar energy, alternative fuels, and environmental protection. Environmentalists interviewed by the paper viewed his resignation as a loss, citing Tamminen's ability to stand up to industries' opposition to environmental regulation.

Tamminen told the *Times* that a major reason for his resignation was to better publicize the governor's environmental record. In addition to volunteering with the campaign, he took a part-time position with AbTech Pacific, a distributor of stormwater filtration technologies, reported the paper.

Visit [www.latimes.com](http://www.latimes.com).

## **Stuart Pyle Mourned**

Stuart Pyle, manager of the Kern County Water Agency for 17 years, died in August at age 81. From 1973 to 1990 he managed the agency, the second largest water contractor in the state, reported the *Bakersfield Californian*. During his tenure, he helped develop the state water project, oversaw construction of the Cross Valley Canal linking the California Aqueduct to Bakersfield, and led construction of the Henry C. Garnett Water Purification Plant in Bakersfield.

He was remembered as a well-regarded, fair, and highly respected manager by his agency's board of directors, the paper said.

Visit [www.bakersfield.com](http://www.bakersfield.com) and [www.kcwa.com](http://www.kcwa.com).

## **Michael Brophy Mourned**

Michael J. Brophy, an attorney with Ryley, Carlock & Applewhite in Phoenix since 1977, died in September from complications from cancer treatments. He was a prominent water attorney specializing in environmental and natural resources law, including interstate water banking arrangements. In 2005 and 2006 he was recognized as a leading lawyer in the environment and water rights areas of law by Chambers USA *America's Leading Lawyers for Business*. He was a former chair of the Western States Water Council, during which time he conducted a Senate briefing on Indian water rights settlements. Brophy also made significant contributions to the advancement of water law and policy in Arizona.

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## **Myers New USGS Leader**

In September, Mark Myers of Alaska was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the new director of the U.S. Geological Survey. His nomination in May by President Bush was noteworthy because Myers was neither already within the USGS nor in academia, as have been previous directors for the past half century.

A sedimentary and petroleum geologist specializing in the North Slope area, Myers spent much of his career as an exploration geologist working for various oil and gas companies, but early in his career and for the past decade, he worked for the Alaska Division of Oil and Gas. In October 2005, Myers resigned his position as director of the Division of Oil and Gas and state geologist in protest of the state's concessions to oil and gas interests during negotiations to build a natural gas pipeline from the North Slope.

Myers' nomination was met with mixed reviews. *Nature.com* reported that his background "has made many academic geologists nervous," according to Charles Groat, the previous director of the USGS, now at the University of Texas. "The biggest question is, since he is so identified with oil and gas, what is his agenda?" Groat told *Nature*. Craig Schiffries, director of science policy for the National Center for Science and the Environment, expressed confidence that Myers would "stick to the science," reported *ES&T Online*, citing Myers' recent resignation as evidence of his unwillingness to bow to special interests.

Visit [pubs.acs.org/journals/esthag/index\\_news.html](http://pubs.acs.org/journals/esthag/index_news.html) and [www.nature.com](http://www.nature.com).

## **McConnell Named Researcher of the Year in Nevada**

Last summer, Joseph McConnell, a research professor at the Desert Research Institute, was awarded the Nevada System of Higher Education Regents' Researcher of the Year Award in recognition of his landmark work in ice core chemistry, snow hydrology, paleoclimatology, and glaciology. McConnell's research has resulted in numerous publications and considerable research funding, including a recent Fulbright fellowship for research in Argentina.

McConnell joined DRI in 1998 and has since developed a new method of ice core chemical analysis, resulting in a million-dollar, one-of-a-kind ice core laboratory. In this method, a continuous ice core melter is coupled to two inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometers and a traditional continuous flow analysis system to measure a large number of elements and chemical species simultaneously on ice cores at high depth resolution. This work has significantly broadened the utility of ice cores as archives of paleoclimate and industrial pollution.

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