

## **Superintendent stepping down**

The Bakersfield Californian, Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Larry E. Reider told the Kern County Board of Education Tuesday that he will step down as Superintendent of Schools effective June 30.

Reider, who became superintendent of schools in 1999, forged partnerships with private, public and not-for-profit groups to launch initiatives that did everything from helping second- graders read to converting Kern's bus fleet to natural gas. He placed special emphasis on having children reading and ready to learn when they started school.

"There are no words to fully describe the rich and rewarding career I have had in Kern County education," Reider said. "Particularly rewarding has been seeing former students -- many who overcame obstacles to learning when they came into my classroom -- become productive and contributing adults." Many of his students went on to careers in education and are working as teachers, principals and other posts in Kern's schools.

In all, Reider spent 44 years in public education as a teacher, principal, assistant superintendent of business, school district superintendent, associate county superintendent of schools and Kern County Superintendent. He joined the office of the Kern County Superintendent of Schools in 1984.

"To him, a good day is one that makes life and learning better for our children," said Associate County Superintendent of Schools Christine L. Frazier. That's one of many reasons why he truly will be missed."

The Board of Education is expected to name Reider's replacement at its June 9 meeting. That appointment will be effective through December 2010.

### **REIDER'S LEGACY**

Among the projects Reider launched during his tenure as Superintendent of Schools:

**Community Reading Project:** Volunteers work with second grade students struggling to master reading. Now in its 10th year, more than 325 Community Reading Project volunteers are working with students at nearly 30 school sites.

**Do The Math:** A twice weekly TV program launched in 2003 where teachers help students do math problems on and off-the-air.

**Ready to Start:** A six-week course focuses on instructional basics and social skills building designed to make students ready to learn when they enter kindergarten.

**Learning Center:** Helps teachers bring technology to the classroom and develop skills in students to help them thrive in the workplace.

**Compressed Natural Gas buses:** Began switching school buses from diesel to clean burning CNG. To date about half the fleet is CNG powered, and each year more high-mileage diesel buses are replaced with CNG.

**Academic competitions:** Started contests that draw participation from some 30,000 students a year.

*Source: Kern County Schools*

## **White House memo challenges EPA finding on warming**

By Dina Cappiello, Associated Press Writer

In the S.F. Chronicle, N.Y. Times and Tuesday, May 12, 2009

WASHINGTON (AP) -- An Environmental Protection Agency proposal that could lead to regulating the gases blamed for global warming will prove costly for factories, small businesses and other institutions, according to a White House document.

The nine-page memo is a compilation of opinions made by a dozen federal agencies and departments during an internal review before the EPA issued a finding in April that greenhouse gases pose dangers to public health and welfare.

That finding could set in motion for the first time the regulation of six heat-trapping gases from cars and trucks, factories and other sources under the Clean Air Act.

The document, labeled "Deliberative-Attorney Client Privilege," says that if the EPA proceeds with the regulation of heat-trapping gases, including carbon dioxide, factories, small businesses and institutions would be subject to costly regulation.

"Making the decision to regulate carbon dioxide ... is likely to have serious economic consequences for regulated entities throughout the U.S. economy, including small businesses and small communities," the document says.

An official with the Office of Management and Budget, which compiled agency opinions on the EPA's proposed finding, said the cost critique came from the Office of Advocacy at the Small Business Administration.

The official, who asked to remain anonymous to avoid harming the integrity of interagency reviews, said the SBA office was under the direction of a Bush administration appointee who had not yet been replaced.

The appointee in question, Shawne McGibbon, was promoted to acting chief counsel at the advocacy office in November 2008 by President George W. Bush. But she was initially hired on at the office in 1994 during the Clinton administration.

On his blog Tuesday, OMB Director Peter Orszag reiterated that his office did not object to the EPA finding.

"The bottom line is that OMB would have not concluded review ... if we had concerns about whether EPA's finding was consistent with either the law or the underlying science," Orszag wrote.

When the Bush administration unveiled its proposal to use the Clean Air Act to regulate greenhouse gases, it released full comments from each individual agency — many of which were critical. The Bush White House ultimately decided against using the Clean Air Act, saying it was an imperfect tool that would burden the economy.

Unlike Bush, Obama has offered an alternative — a new law that would limit and put a price on greenhouse gas pollution.

"The president has, on many occasions, discussed the strong desire to instead seek a legislative solution for dangerous greenhouse gases," said White House press secretary Robert Gibbs.

New legislation, currently being considered by the House, would mostly pre-empt the agency from regulating greenhouse gases under existing law. The bill may also help mitigate some of the costs to businesses by distributing some of the permits for free.

Still, Republicans and business groups immediately used the document to bolster their arguments that controlling greenhouse gases would hurt the economy.

They also highlighted parts of the document that fault how the EPA reached its conclusion that greenhouse gases endanger human health and welfare, since the gases by themselves do not pose any harm.

The memo says the EPA could have been "more balanced" in its analysis by also highlighting regions of the country that would benefit from global warming, such as Alaska, which would have warmer winters. It also says the EPA seemed to stretch the precautionary principle to support regulation despite the "unprecedented uncertainty" in linking emissions of greenhouse gases and the warming that will result to health effects.

"It really appears to me that the decision was based more on political calculations than on scientific ones," said Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., who called the document "a smoking gun" during a hearing Tuesday on the Obama administration's proposed EPA budget.

"The counsel in this administration repeatedly questions the lack of scientific support that you have for this proposed finding," he said.

EPA administrator Lisa Jackson responded by saying the EPA's finding in April was required by law, stemming from a 2007 Supreme Court decision that said the agency should classify greenhouse gases as pollutants. Jackson also said the agency's determination was preliminary and would not necessarily result in regulation.

"I have said over and over, as has the president, that we do understand that there are costs to the economy of addressing global warming emissions, and that the best way to address them is through a gradual move to a market-based program like cap and trade," Jackson said.

## **EPA's greenhouse gas ruling criticized within the government**

**The agency's declaration that emissions pose a health danger could have 'serious economic consequences,' Bush-era holdovers in the Small Business Administration assert.**

By Jim Tankersley, staff writer  
L.A. Times, Wed., May 13, 2009

Reporting from Washington -- In ruling last month that greenhouse gases posed health and safety risks, the Environmental Protection Agency brushed aside warnings from Bush administration holdovers who said the move was "likely to have serious economic consequences" for small businesses and the economy overall, according to documents obtained Tuesday.

Obama administration officials said the warnings, contained in memos from the Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy, didn't reflect current White House policy. The office is still stocked with Bush appointees, the administration officials said.

Nevertheless, Republicans hailed the memos as a sign of internal dissent over the EPA finding, which was considered an important step toward the Obama administration's goal of taking major action against carbon dioxide and other emissions that scientists say contribute to global warming.

Questioning EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson in a committee hearing Tuesday, Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) called the memos "a smoking gun, saying that your findings were political and not scientific." Environmentalists and the White House dismissed the dissent as reflecting the Bush administration's long-standing position on climate change.

The critique was the work of "someone who didn't get the memo that the old administration has

come to an end," said David Doniger, policy director of the Natural Resources Defense Council's climate center.

White House budget director Peter R. Orszag was not available for comment, but he wrote on his blog Tuesday that his office would not have allowed the EPA to move forward with its proposed ruling "if we had concerns about whether EPA's finding was consistent with either the law or the underlying science."

One of the critical memos said the proposed endangerment finding could open the door to lawsuits that might force the government to impose restrictions on such unrelated matters as electromagnetic fields and noise pollution.

A companion document, from the same Small Business Administration source, questioned the basis for the EPA's statement that greenhouse gases "overwhelmingly" endanger public health and welfare.

Predictions of devastating climate change are "accompanied by uncertainties so large that they potentially overwhelm the magnitude of the harm," the document said.

By contrast, the EPA's final conclusion was that the evidence in support of its finding was "compelling and, indeed, overwhelming . . . the product of decades of research by thousands of scientists from the U.S. and around the world." It added that scientific evidence "points ineluctably to the conclusion" that greenhouse gas emissions contribute to global warming.

A 2007 Supreme Court decision ordered the EPA to review the scientific case for regulating greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act. The Bush administration essentially ignored the decision; before taking office, President Obama had promised to address it quickly.

Obama has pushed Congress to pass legislation that would not only limit greenhouse gas emissions, but also force power plants, factories and other major sources of those gases to obtain permits to cover their emissions.

The EPA's "endangerment finding" is currently the subject of a 60-day public comment period. A final conclusion could lead to broad new regulations that could affect cars, power plants, factories and other emitters of the heat-trapping gases scientists blame for global warming.

The Small Business Administration warnings over the proposal stemmed from a standard review process. When federal agencies propose rules, other agencies typically have the opportunity to comment on them. The White House Office of Management and Budget compiles those comments into memos and line-by-line critiques of the draft rules.

The documents question the economic costs of regulating carbon dioxide emissions and raise concerns that the data supporting the EPA findings are based almost entirely on health research not conducted by the agency.

The EPA appears to have modified several parts of its draft rule in response to the critiques, most notably by adding sections that predict warming temperatures could bring some benefits to parts of the U.S.

"Like we would in any process," EPA press secretary Adora Andy said Tuesday, "we take these comments under advisement."

## **Fairbanks considers ban on outdoor furnaces**

The Associated Press

In the Contra Costa Times, Tri-Valley Herald and other papers, Wednesday, May 13, 2009

FAIRBANKS, Alaska—City officials in Fairbanks plan to draft an ordinance that would require removal of all outdoor wood and coal furnaces within about five years.

Some sort of financial incentive could be offered to owners.

A single outdoor furnace produces as much smoke as 10 indoor wood stoves, according to air experts, and city officials took complaints about particulate emissions last year.

"We'd like to do this sooner rather than later, before more people invest in these stoves," Fairbanks Mayor Terry Strle said Monday night.

The state of Washington has outlawed the furnaces and Oregon has severely restricted their use in urban areas. Juneau issues fines to people who use them during an air quality alert.

"A couple hundred of the outdoor (furnaces) is like a couple thousand wood (furnaces) in the area, and that's beginning to make an impact," said Jim Conner, an air quality specialist for the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

City officials estimate 20 furnaces would be affected by the ordinance.

"This past winter was a real eye-opener in respect to the amount of complaints our department received," said Steve Shuttleworth, city building official. "The common denominator was outdoor wood (furnaces)."

At least six are in the Hamilton Acres neighborhood.

"There is an extremely high concentration of particulate matter and everyone in the area is affected by it," borough transportation director Glen Miller.

"They were never designed to be installed in residential areas. They were meant to be used as secondary heat sources in rural areas, but unfortunately, when the price of oil jumped, everyone was looking for alternative heat sources and they became popular."

Miller estimates there are more than 300 outdoor wood and coal furnaces in the borough.

"In some cases, residents are being smoked out of their houses and schools are telling asthmatic children not to come to school," he said.

The Environmental Protection Agency has designated the Fairbanks region as an air quality non-attainment area. High level of particulate in the atmosphere creates poor air quality, especially in cold weather.

"If wood is burned properly, it isn't that bad, but the problem is that people aren't burning it properly and that creates a lot of smoldering," Conner said. "People aren't using the right fuel, their wood isn't seasoned, it's wet, and if it's smoldering then it is producing a lot more particulates."

Outdoor furnaces are a greater health hazard than indoor wood-burning stoves for a number of reasons, Miller said. One problem is their short smokestacks, which keep emissions low to the ground.

According to the state of Washington's Department of Ecology, all wood smoke is harmful because particulate can seep deep into lungs.

Another problem is the volume of wood the furnaces use, Miller said. They can burn as much as 20 cords of wood per winter, Miller said.

"They use probably ten times what a standard wood stove uses," he said. "The problem is most people don't plan ahead to burn 10 to 20 cords so they end up burning green wood or stuffing anything they can in there whether it's treated lumber or other materials that emit toxins."

"We don't want to have any more in the city," Strle said. "It's a tough decision—people did it to save money, and it's expensive."

Outdoor wood furnaces cost anywhere from \$8,000 to \$20,000, plus the cost of installation.

Strle suggested using financial incentives, possibly from a \$90,000 fund of EPA money, to help rid the city of furnaces.

[Fresno Bee column, Monday, May 11, 2009:](#)

## **Oblivious lawmakers still a losing proposition**

By Bill McEwen

The people pushing the propositions in next week's special state election have cranked up their political machines. They're using firefighters and teachers -- and scare tactics -- in an attempt to convince voters that California will fall over a financial cliff if the budget package is rejected.

I'm not buying it.

We fell off the cliff long ago -- and the plunge hasn't changed how public officials do business. They're still behaving as if the treasury is a bottomless pit of taxpayer generosity.

You'd think that with the election nearing, our leaders would clean up their act, throw taxpayers a bone and feign an interest in cost-cutting -- if not engage in the real thing.

But they are so distanced from reality they're incapable of even pretending they know how to balance a budget without raising taxes.

They simply don't get it.

Allow me to cite a few they-don't-get-it moments before you fill out your ballot.

Last week, just hours after University of California regents raised student fees by more than 9%, the regents gave huge raises to new chancellors at UC Davis and UC San Francisco.

Linda Katehi, the new boss at UC Davis, is getting \$400,000 a year, a bump of \$85,000 over her predecessor. Susan Desmond-Hellmann, who will run UC San Francisco, starts at \$450,000 -- 12% more than the previous chancellor.

Meanwhile, at UC Merced, the school has turned a feel-good story -- First Lady Michelle Obama's commencement speech -- into a example of frivolous spending in tough times. University officials are budgeting \$700,000 for Obama's visit, including \$300,000 for JumboTrons.

I'm betting that many of the 320 students in caps and gowns would prefer to have the \$700,000 -- \$2,187.50 per graduate -- go toward their student loans.

And the waste goes on.

The San Francisco Chronicle reports that the Bay Area's air pollution control district paid New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman \$75,000 to speak at a climate summit. The affair cost \$200,000 -- or \$400 per attendee.

I might look favorably on the propositions -- particularly the \$16 billion in tax extensions -- if I thought someone in Sacramento got it.

But last month, when presented with an opportunity to eliminate the superfluous Integrated Waste Management Board, Democratic lawmakers saved the six positions. Three of the board members are -- you guessed it -- former Democratic lawmakers. Each receives \$132,000 annually.

Nice work, if you can get it.

About as nice as having a California Public Employees Retirement System pension.

Last month, a watchdog group, California Foundation for Fiscal Responsibility, said that nearly 5,000 state and municipal retirees are collecting \$100,000 or more a year from CalPERS.

Leading the pack: Bruce Malkenhorst, who ran the Southern California industrial fiefdom of Vernon for three decades. Malkenhorst receives \$41,639.57 a month.

The \$100,000-a-year-club is reason enough to reject the propositions and force special-interest-loving lawmakers to climb back up the cliff into the real world.

[Merced Sun-Star editorial, Wednesday, May 13, 2009:](#)

### **San Bernardino County Sun: Smog tests for motorcycles**

California has more than 830,000 registered motorcycles, and up to 85 percent of them have modified exhausts that are loud and polluting. Many of those modifications are illegal, too.

Which is why two bills making their way through the state Legislature would mandate smog tests, either every year or every other year, for cycles built after 2000.

Motorcyclists who re- move catalytic converters from their bikes contribute more than 5.2 tons of smog a day into California air.

Manufacturers claim that's a minuscule portion of the 5,691 tons of pollutants -- from all sources in California. Yet, motorcycles, which account for less than 1 percent of registered vehicle-miles traveled, contribute 10 percent of passenger-vehicle-produced smog, according to a report in the L.A. Times. When the catalytic converter is removed from a cycle, it produces twice the amount of smog. And an infinite increase in noise.

That shrieking noise, often the result of altering a cycle's exhaust system, is reason enough to clamp down on illegal cycles.

But mandating smog tests still won't solve the problem. Some aftermarket exhaust systems cost up to \$4,000, and you can be sure they would be reinstalled after a smog test.

Motorcycle groups support riders' rights to customize their bikes. But when pollution -- both air and noise -- is at issue, their protests shriek hollow.

More than 5,000 motor- cyclists were killed in 2006. In one month, more U.S. Marines were killed riding sport bikes than died while serving in Iraq.

Countless thousands are injured, sometimes permanently, in the most awful collisions. Hardly a day goes by that traffic reports don't report a "motorcyclist down."

Californians love their vehicles, and customize them in many creative ways.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, arguably the state's most famous motorcycle rider, hasn't taken a stand on the two bills -- SB 435 and AB 859 -- but if they are passed, he should get out his pen and sign on the dotted white line.

[Letter to the Lodi News Sentinel, Wednesday, May 13, 2009:](#)

## **Population overload contributes to problems**

Discussions about the H1N1 (swine flu) virus have dominated news reports during the past several weeks. It now appears that the outbreak is slowing even as questions remain.

Among those questions is whether the major effort to contain the outbreak by the Center for Disease Control and other governmental agencies, in this and other countries, has been effective in stemming a widespread pandemic. It appears those efforts have at least resolved some of our fears as well as leading all of us to be more cautious with our own hygiene. If the pandemic is stalled, that major effort by the CDC and other governmental agencies, will have saved hundreds of thousands of lives here and around the world.

At the same time, we also face issues relating to the availability of adequate water supplies for people and agriculture, the global warming phenomena, the constant threat of nuclear warfare and the pollution of our air and land.

One factor connects all of these pressing problems. It is one that we hesitate to address because it is at the heart of religious conviction for many people. That is the issue of an exploding human population.

Population in previous generations was held in check by disease, war and famine. Today those factors are more or less under human control. And, while we have the means to control human population, we often find ourselves struggling against basic religious convictions that see birth control by any means as unfaithfulness. Yet, it is only by accepting responsibility for the growth of our human population that we will be able to more effectively address the other problems that threaten our security.

When one person dies as a result of armed conflict that is one too many. I am pleased that the number today is significantly below where it was a hundred years ago. I want to live in a world that controls the outbreak of disease and addresses issues of the environment and water distribution and usage.

What is clear is that we cannot continue to eliminate those things that naturally controlled human population while refusing to use that technology to adopt sustainable levels of population growth.

The question confronting all of us, then, is how we will come together to do that. A huge first step is simply naming the problem.

Robert Mattheis, Lodi

[Note: The following clip in Spanish discusses San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District helping to finance hybrid police vehicles for the City of Arvin. For more information on this or other Spanish clips, contact Claudia Encinas at \(559\) 230-5851.](#)

## **Autoridades ambientales en el Valle de San Joaquín financian patrullas híbridas en Arvine**

By Manuel Ocaño

Noticiero Latino

Radio Bilingüe, Wednesday, May 13, 2009

La Administración regional de Calidad del Aire del Valle de San Joaquín entregó más de medio millón de dólares a la policía de la ciudad de Arvine para que sustituya sus patrullas con nuevos vehículos híbridos. La vocera de dicha administración, Claudia Encinas, dijo a Noticiero Latino cómo se eligió a esa ciudad: Según el jefe de policía en Arvine, Tommy Tunson, las patrullas ahorrarán a su departamento un consumo de por lo menos 200 galones de gasolina mensuales por cada vehículo. En términos de contaminación, la sustitución equivale a toneladas de contaminantes peligrosos que dejarán de circular en el aire del Valle Central.

[Note: The following clip in Spanish discusses telecommuting in Mexico.](#)

### **Teletrabajo en México**

La Cronica, Wednesday, May 13, 2009

MÉXICO, D.F.(SUN) Existen diversas aplicaciones y herramientas de muchas empresas con las que es posible trabajar sin estar presentes en la oficina. Algunas de ellas son provistas en México por las compañías Neoris, NTRGlobal y Siemens Enterprise Communications.

"Aún hay un largo tramo por avanzar para que exista realmente el teletrabajo en México", asegura Carlos Castilla, vicepresidente de Neoris México. "La tecnología existe y está disponible, sin embargo, la cultura de ser productivo sin estar en la oficina es algo que falta".

Castilla dice que la influenza y lo que generó hizo pensar seriamente en el teletrabajo como una opción para futuras contingencias.

Neoris está dedicado a al sector de almacenamiento de datos pero recientemente ha entrado también al de bienes de consumo, al proceso de venta y entrega de mercancía y productos en changarros y tiendas en México. Cuenta con un sistema para llevar el control de vendedores, camiones y mercancía.

Su solución está dirigida a corporativos como Grupo Modelo, Coca-Cola o Sabritas, compañías que todos los días reparten sus productos en miles de puntos en las ciudades del país. Estas empresas deben saber todos los detalles del proceso de venta de cada tienda todos los días.

"Neoris creó una solución a la par con la firma SAP, el cual ayuda a administrar a la fuerza de ventas y puede incluso a hacer campañas de marketing; apoya en todos los procesos de preventa para la gestión de ventas en changarros. También monitorea la logística y ubicación de clientes, cuándo llegaron, si se hizo la transacción, si descargaron el material, etcétera", explica Castilla.

Agrega que los clientes de bienes de consumo tradicionalmente hacían estos procesos pero los costos eran muy elevados para la compañía, y utilizaban aparatos grandes y costosos como las viejas PDA, donde capturaban información relevante para la venta, pero no toda la que necesitaban "y ahora la nueva solución de Neoris y SAP, que es independiente del hardware, puede ser usada en una BlackBerry u otro dispositivo móvil; es más amigable la comunicación remota", dice el directivo de Neoris.

La solución está creada bajo la tecnología NetWeaver de SAP, así que los clientes que ya contaban con la plataforma de SAP podrán integrar fácilmente el sistema de Neoris.

### **NTRGlobal**

El gerente general de NTRGlobal, Xavier Alegría, coincide con Carlos Castilla que México no está listo aún para que los empleados trabajen desde el hogar.

Alegría dice que por ahora existen tecnologías dirigidas a empresas para que gestionen algunos procesos a distancia. "Manejamos tres herramientas. Una es NTR Support, plataforma de soporte remoto donde los departamentos de soporte técnico de las empresas pueden vía remota

apoyar a usuarios internos o a clientes. Otra es NTR Admin, que es para la administración y monitoreo de los activos de la empresa vía remota, con activos me refiero a las computadoras de la organización y a laptops, servidores o ruteadores. Y la tercera es NTR Meetings, para realizar reuniones a distancia", explica Alegría.

NTRGlobal asegura que la combinación de estas herramientas la organización contará con una plataforma completa para manejar su negocio vía remota.

Todo se puede manejar a través de una computadora en la oficina central. Lo único que se requiere es una conexión a internet. Depende de las funciones que se usen pero Alegría dice que no será necesario tener web de banda ancha, pueden utilizarse módems incluso.

NTRGlobal cuenta en México con 600 clientes, desde pymes hasta corporativos en el sector público y privado. El directivo señala que en las dos últimas semanas han subido las ventas de sus productos por la necesidad cada vez mayor de realizar procesos a distancia.

La compañía maneja dos esquemas, uno como Saas (Software as a Service), en el que el cliente no invierte en equipo, sólo debe pagar una renta mensual. La instalación se haría en minutos. El otro esquema es la venta directa de las herramientas para que el cliente las hospede en sus equipos.

Pueden probar las herramientas gratuitamente durante 15 días, sólo deben descargarse de [www.ntrglobal.com](http://www.ntrglobal.com).