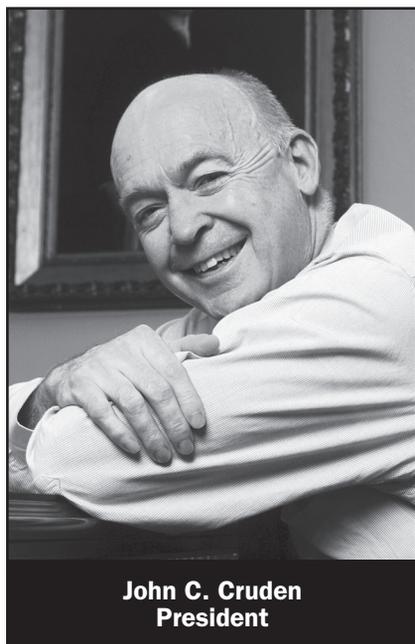


Closing Statement California Dreamin'



John C. Cruden
President

The signature event of ELI's year is its Award Dinner. With over 700 participants, this program has become one of the largest of its kind in the nation. This year's event will be held on October 21 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C.

Many have asked how we decide on the award winners. Board members, ELI staff, and others propose environmental leaders across the world, which are then duly considered by our board's Executive Committee. Once a decision is made, we seek an accomplished leader to introduce the awardee.

This year we have, for the first time, selected a state as a co-winner with an extraordinary individual. While there are many states that have noteworthy accomplishments in environmental improvement, one clearly stands out. California's leadership extends before Earth Day and continues to this moment. And Mary Nichols, chairman of the state's Air Resources Board, is one of the reasons for California's historical success.

The state is being honored for its pathbreaking role in initiating and implementing innovative and effective environmental protection programs for

many decades. California is our most populous state, with more than 12 percent of the U.S. total. Within the state's 164,000 square miles lie the nation's second and fifth largest cities, Los Angeles and San Francisco. Its economy is the 12th largest in the world.

California has been the nation's leader in environmental legislation, natural resource stewardship, community involvement, and environmental innovation. In 1959, California became the first state to create an air quality program, setting the nation's first automobile standards for nitrous oxide, a key ingredient in smog. Three years before the federal Clean Water Act came into existence; California created its own requirement for permits for pollutants discharged into state waters. When NEPA was passed, California came up with its own version — the California Environmental Quality Act — which requires mitigation of project impacts. And in 1972, the state developed regulations covering the processing, handling, transporting, and disposal of hazardous wastes.

More recently California has produced the Clean Cars Law (requiring automakers to achieve a 30 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2016), renewable energy generation standards (requiring 33 percent of the state's electricity to be produced by renewable sources), the Green Chemistry Initiative (establishing standards to identify and restrict toxic chemicals in consumer products sold in the state), and the Global Warming Solutions Act (the first economywide greenhouse gas cap-and-trade program in the world).

Mary D. Nichols is being honored as one of the foremost environmental leaders in the nation. After graduating from Cornell University and Yale Law School, Mary practiced environmental law in Los Angeles, bringing cases on behalf of environmental and public health organizations to enforce state and federal clean air legislation.

In 1974, Governor Jerry Brown appointed her California's first secretary of environmental affairs and the chairman of CARB. In 1993, President Clinton appointed her EPA assistant administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation. In 1999, Governor Gray Davis appointed her secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency. Mary then became professor of law at UCLA and director of its Institute of the Environment. Mary is once again chairman of CARB, appointed in 2007 by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and then, in 2011, reappointed by Governor Brown. She has true bipartisan credentials.

Throughout her 40 years of national and state environmental and natural resource leadership, Mary Nichols has led with passion and conviction, achieving respect and admiration from the environmental and business communities alike. She has been responsible for implementing effectively — and on time — some of the most complex and innovative air quality programs in the nation, including the landmark greenhouse gas emissions reduction program and CARB's Low Carbon Fuel Standard. In 2013, Mary was named one of the "100 Most Influential People in the World" by TIME magazine.

A few years ago I was speaking at Yale Law School at a conference entitled "New Directions in Environmental Law." The keynote speaker was Mary Nichols. Shortly thereafter, Dan Rather ran an interview of her entitled the "Queen of Green." My favorite description of her, however, comes from former EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, who called her the "Thomas Edison of environmentalism" and "a fierce champion of cutting-edge technology that is changing her state, a nation, and the world."

("California Dreamin'" is from *A Gathering of Flowers: The Anthology of the Mamas & the Papas*, written by Gilliam, Michelle/Phillips, John Edmund Andrew. This column is based on the press release announcing the award.)