

State of California
Air Resources Board

RESOLUTION 05-51

WHEREAS, John Maga, born in Forbes, Colorado, on January 8, 1916, earned bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from the University of California at Berkeley and became a registered Civil Engineer;

WHEREAS, John served as the first Chief of the Bureau of Air Sanitation, establishing the first set of air quality and motor vehicle emission standards for California;

WHEREAS, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) was formed in 1967 when the California Legislature enacted the Mulford-Carrell Act, merging the Motor Vehicle Pollution Control Board and the Bureau of Air Sanitation of the California Health Department;

WHEREAS, he was chosen by Governor Ronald Reagan to be ARB's first Executive Officer in 1968;

WHEREAS, John directed the establishment of California's air pollution control program in partnership with the State's 58 counties, and in cooperation (more or less) with the automotive industry and U.S. EPA;

WHEREAS, John and ARB's first Chairman, Dr. A.J. Haagen-Smit, built ARB from a fledging, unknown state agency into the world leader in air pollution control, both vehicular and stationary;

WHEREAS, John was an inspiring administrator respected and admired by his employees;

WHEREAS, John was exemplary in his ability to bring together people of opposing views, from industry naysayers ("it can't be done") to local officials ("stay out of our backyard") to U.S. EPA ("you'll clean up Los Angeles by 1975 or we'll shut the basin down) to environmental zealots ("close down the economy, health comes first");

WHEREAS, John led the Board and staff to develop an air resources management plan which became the foundation for enhanced air quality control in the entire state, forcing new technology for the control of air pollution from both vehicular and stationary sources;

WHEREAS, John, an air pollution control authority recognized worldwide, authored many articles and books on air pollution control;

WHEREAS, John left ARB in 1974 to take a position in the Resources Agency during the Reagan