

NEWS RELEASE

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Stroeh Honored for Visionary Career in Water Management

College of Marin Alumnus inspired novel, The Man Who Made it Rain

Novato, CA—November 13, 2006—College of Marin alumnus J. Dietrich “Diet” Stroeh, a man credited with rescuing Marin County from a disastrous drought in the 70s and inspiring unprecedented community-wide conservation, has been selected to receive a prestigious California Community College Distinguished Alumni Award for 2006.

“Diet deserves special recognition for all that he has contributed to the Marin community,” said Frances L. White, College of Marin Superintendent/President. “I am very proud that one of our distinguished alumni will be honored this year.”

Stroeh will be honored at the Community College League of California Annual Convention to be held at the Costa Mesa Hilton Nov. 16-18.

“I was bowled over when I opened the letter and there it was,” Stroeh said from his office in Novato where he continues to work on water planning issues with CSW/Stuber-Stroeh Engineering Group Inc. “I’ve done lots of stuff in my life but so have lots of other people. I totally love it. I wouldn’t change a thing.”

Stroeh, 70, grew up in Novato and earned his AA degree in engineering from College of Marin before transferring to the University of Nevada where he received a bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering. Fresh out of college he began a 20-year tenure at the Marin Municipal Water District. Stroeh eventually oversaw the development of a new water supply to the county and implemented a comprehensive water management plan, including conservation education, which ushered in an era of record county-wide water conservation during the 1976-1977 drought, the worst drought in recorded history. His passion and perseverance garnered approval from six governmental agencies to take water from the state water system via an emergency pipeline placed across the Richmond-San Rafael bridge to Marin County.

One of the founding partners of Novato-based CSW/Stuber-Stroeh Engineering Group Inc. Stroeh focuses on planning, design and management of water and sanitary sewer distribution systems. He continues to advocate for conservation and call attention to the dire challenges communities now face as a result of population growth and global warming. His phenomenal career experiences during the 70s are the basis of The Man Who Made it Rain, a novel by freelance journalist Michael McCarthy.

Stroeh, who says he recently traded books with environmental advocate Al Gore, continues to lecture on water supply issues throughout the region. “In 20 years or so, the population will exceed the available water supply in California,” he notes. “It’s totally critical that we think about what to do.”

Active in many community and professional organizations, Stroeh currently serves as a director of the Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District, Vice Chair of the

College of Marin's President's Circle, on the Bank of Marin Board of Directors, and as a member of the Novato Flood Control Advisory Board.

Four other College of Marin graduates previously received this award, including former Superintendent of Contra Costa Community College Karl O. Drexel, 1972; Comedian and Actor Robin Williams, 1979; Marin Airporter President Grace Hughes, 1997; and Retired U.S. Marshall Glen Robinson, 2000.

The Community College League of California is a nonprofit agency with members from the 72 community college districts in California. Also honored this year are Steven Frank Ambriz, City of Orange Councilman and Planning Manger, Orange County Health Care Agency, Office of Quality management (Santiago Canyon College); Beverly Cleary, Author (Chaffey College); Lynn-Holly Johnston, Actor (Saddleback College); and Jerry Sanders, City of San Diego Mayor (San Diego Miramar College).

About College of Marin

College of Marin is fully accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. COM has been providing educational opportunities for thousands of students of all ages since 1926. The college has a campus in Kentfield and operates the Indian Valley campus in Novato, CA.

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