

TO THE CAREER STAFF IN EPA REGION 9:

It is with great regret that I deliver my final “All Hands” to this way. However the leadership in HQ left me no other option. I received the call Wednesday at 8 am advising me that I either needed to tender my resignation or I would be terminated by the close of business. Within minutes my EPA phone and laptop were disabled.

So let me start by saying what I’ve told you before...the career staff in Region 9 are the most professional, dedicated and passionate employees I have ever worked with. Every day you give 100% to serve the EPA’s mission to protect the public health and environment. From the first day I was sworn in I’ve tried to bring that same commitment to the job as well. Indeed working with you for almost 2 years has and always will be the greatest honor in my professional life.

So why did the Wednesday morning call occur? There are a lot of specific situations that someday I will reveal but that day will not occur while the President is still in office. I was appointed by the President and I remain loyal to the President.

Generally speaking I will say I believe too many clashes between myself and leadership in HQ over policy and non-policy items (when I was given advance notice which often was not the case) ultimately played a significant role in the call. And you’ve all heard me say in past All Hands that I believed I had the best job in America and the only times it was very frustrating it always had something to do with HQ over matters I had no control or input.

And then just 3 weeks ago I was told by someone in HQ whose identity will remain anonymous that it wasn’t going unnoticed how many Democrat members in Congress were commending me for the job I was doing. (Speaker Pelosi for Hunter’s Point, Congressman O’Halloran for Navajo Nation Uranium Mines, Congressman Scott Peters for my work responding to transboundary sewage in the San Diego-Tijuana sector of the border and Congresswoman Gabbard for Red Hill and my work representing EPA on the Coral Reef Task Force in protecting, preserving and enhancing our coral reefs And even Democrat Governors for my work in the American territories in the Pacific.) Bottom line I am proud of the work I’ve done and I am especially proud that both Democrat and Republican lawmakers have applauded my efforts. After all, last time I checked, the EPA’s mission to protect the public health and environment is not a partisan issue...at least it never has been for me.

So your guess as to why the call came is as good as mine. Other than what I’ve already stated I haven’t a clue. In fact, when I asked for the reason for the termination there was a long pause and was only told it wasn’t personal. Frankly I have a gut feeling it is and was 100% personal.

In closing I just to thank each and everyone of you. You all are truly the best of the best. You know I always said to feel free to call or email anytime as your RA. That offer remains open. You can always reach me at (805) 708-9100 or mikestoker@aol.com.

And so I say my final good-bye. They can take away the job but they can’t take away the accomplishments we made together. And they can’t take away the fact for almost 2 years I had the opportunity to work with and for the most outstanding employees anywhere. In my last All Hand in November I closed by saying when my last day came what mattered to me the most is what you, not others, thought of the job I did. I meant it then and I mean it now. Good-bye and

best wishes to all of you and your families.