

# TRAILBLAZERS

## ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL

### PETE NYQUIST

GREENBERG GLUSKER LLP

**PIONEER SPIRIT** Pete Nyquist's interest in environmental law stems from enjoying outdoor activities while growing up in California. "Environmental law represented the opportunity to merge an area of interest with a career path."

**TRAILS BLAZED** Nyquist's court victories include *Carson Harbor Village, Ltd. v. Unocal Corp.*, where he obtained summary judgment on behalf of a potentially responsive party in a multiparty CERCLA action establishing the rule in the Ninth Circuit that compliance with the National Contingency Plan is a prima-facie element of a CERCLA claim. He also recently successfully resolved several Clean Water Act citizen suit claims on behalf of industrial discharger clients, using a "No Exposure Certification" strategy. "When most companies get a CWA violation notice, they dig in and fight. We ask citizen groups to hold off on filing a complaint until we can show that our clients have come into compliance—which is what the groups want in the first place." Nyquist, an original member of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control's Brownfield Revitalization Advisory Group, continues to advise clients such as Sempra Energy and Costco with transactions involving complex contaminated sites, brownfield cleanup and development projects.

**FUTURE EXPLORATIONS** California will continue to see significant population growth in the coming decades. "This will further stress our natural resources, the environment and infrastructure. But along with big challenges comes the opportunity to better manage this future growth, such as by trying to limit further sprawl into undeveloped areas and emphasizing infill development in existing cities."

