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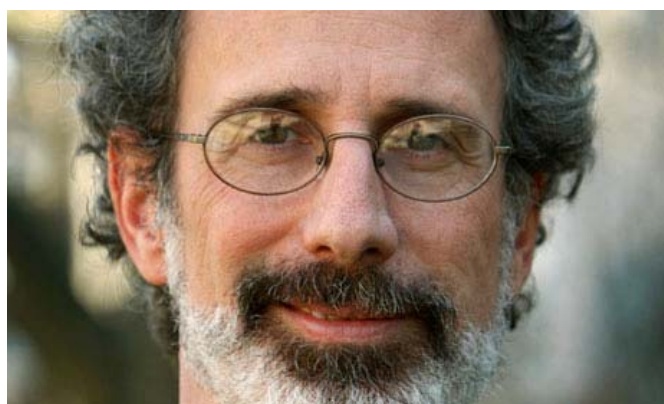
# Peter Gleick cleared of forging documents in Heartland exposé

Scientist who admitted deception to obtain internal Heartland documents was found in investigation not to have faked material

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**Suzanne Goldenberg**, US environment correspondent  
guardian.co.uk, Sunday 20 May 2012 17.10 BST

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Peter Gleick said: 'My judgment was blinded by my frustration with the ongoing efforts to attack climate science'.  
Photograph: Paul Chinn/The Chronicle

A review has cleared the scientist Peter Gleick of forging any documents in his exposé of the rightwing Heartland Institute's strategy and finances, the Guardian has learned.

Gleick's sting on Heartland brought unwelcome scrutiny to the organisation's efforts to block action on [climate change](#), and prompted a walkout of corporate donors that has created uncertainty about its financial future.

Gleick, founder of the Pacific Institute and a well-regarded water expert, admitted and apologised for using deception to obtain internal Heartland documents last February.

He has been on leave from the Institute pending an external investigation into the unauthorised release of the documents. That investigation is now complete, and the conclusions will be made public, the Guardian has learned.

It is not immediately clear if the findings would lead the way for Gleick to return to his job at the Pacific Institute. However, despite the official leave, Gleick has remained professionally active, appearing at public events and accepting speaking engagements. He delivered an Oxford Amnesty lecture on water last April.

The leaked Heartland documents included a list of donors and plans to instil doubts in schoolchildren on the existence of climate change.

They brought new scrutiny to the efforts by Heartland to block action on global warming, and to the existence of a shadowy network of rightwing organisations working to discredit climate science.

In the aftermath, Heartland lost a number of corporate donors, beginning with the General Motors Foundation. The disclosure GM had funded Heartland work unrelated to climate was embarrassing for a foundation publicly committed to action on climate change.

The thinktank also tried to capitalise on Gleick's actions, devoting a section of its website to Fakegate, as it termed the sting, and appealing for donations to combat what it called leftwing bullying.

Following the expose, Heartland acknowledged most of the documents were genuine. But the thinktank claimed the most explosive document, a two-page strategy memo summarising plans spelled out in detail elsewhere, was a fake.

Heartland also accused Gleick of forging the document. Earlier this month, [Heartland published findings](#) of computer forensics experts that the memo did not appear to be a genuine strategy document.

Gleick, for his part, has [consistently denied forging the document](#).

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