

CBPA Weekly Update: January 8, 2021

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GOVERNOR NEWSOM APPOINTS REX HIME TO HISTORIC POST

In what is believed to be a historic gubernatorial action in California, CBPA President and CEO Rex S. Hime has been re-appointed to the California Exposition and State Fair Board by Governor Newsom. Hime has now been appointed by six different California Governors from both political parties (Newsom, Brown, Schwarzenegger, Davis, Wilson, and Reagan to various positions.

“I thank Governor Newsom for his confidence in re-appointing me to the State Fair Board,” Hime said. “Giving back to the State of California through serving in various policy capacities has been a great honor. I am so thankful to have had the opportunity – and trust – for so many years.”

The announcement was made in a press release from the Governor’s Office, which stated the following about Hime:

“Rex Hime, 72, of Loomis, has been reappointed to the California Exposition and State Fair Board of Directors, where he has served since 1996. Hime has been President and Chief Executive Officer at the California Business Properties Association since 1984. He was Senior Assistant to the Minority Caucus Chairman at the California State Assembly from 1983 to 1984 and held multiple positions at the California Commission for Economic Development from 1979 to 1983, including Executive Director and Deputy Director. Hime earned a Juris Doctor degree from the

University of California, Davis School of Law. This position requires Senate confirmation and there is no compensation. Hime is a Republican.”

Congratulations Rex!

[Click here](#) to see the full press release from Governor Newsom’s office.

THEY’RE BACK (MAYBE)!

The California Legislature was supposed to return earlier this week to start the 2021 Legislative year. However, due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions on public gatherings and concerns due to recent positive tests amongst Capitol denizens, the return was delayed until this coming Monday.

If they do come back, we will see an immediate flurry of activity after going into deep hibernation over the holidays. Almost immediately upon returning for their opening Session on Monday, scores of new bills will be introduced, picking up right where they left off on issues such as the budget, water, and taxes.

GOVERNOR RELEASES 2021-22 BUDGET

Speaking of the State Budget.... The state Constitution requires Governors to submit a budget proposal for the next fiscal each year by January 10, and Governor Newsom released his 2021-22 Plan earlier today.

So, the annual budget battle begins again. However, this year the state is planning on a surplus – which may make the battles even more intense, as members of the majority party fight to lock-in a share of that new revenue for new and existing programs. And the state is also reeling with a potential COVID-19 induced slowdown in economic activity.

Over the next few months this budget will be dissected, disconnected, taken-apart, reconfigured, lambasted, and generally go through the standard process.

Among the budget highlights, the Governor is proposing funding to directly help residents, open schools, support business, and fund vaccinations.

[Click here](#) for a press release, summary, and full California State Budget 2021-22 details.

REGULATORY ACTIONS ON COMMERCIAL SOLAR AND EV CHARGING

Over the month of December, California regulators did not take much time off, and in fact seemed to increase the number of meeting they held to enable a myriad of regulations to march forward. Among them and of particular interest to the

Commercial Real Estate Industry are new regulations relating to Solar on new construction and installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations in parking lots.

Several members of our industry stepped up over the break to help analyze and comment on both the Solar and EV regs. We thank our dedicated members for helping during this time. Neither regulation has started the official process yet, meaning the agencies are still gathering information and data and asking for suggestions from industry and advocates alike. So far, we feel like the industry provided information has been well received.

Please stay tuned – both solar and EV will “flare” up early in the year and your help and assistance will be critical to assure the final mandate is something that our industry can comply with and that makes sense for our tenants.