



### CPUC COMMISSIONERS CONFIRMED BY STATE SENATE

On January 23, The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) announced that the State Senate unanimously confirmed the appointments of Mike Florio and Catherine J.K. Sandoval as Commissioners of the CPUC. Said Commissioner Florio, "It is both a great honor and a sobering responsibility to be appointed and confirmed as a CPUC commissioner. My pledge to the people of California is that I will work like a horse on their behalf

and always strive to promote the public interest in my decisions." Said Commissioner Sandoval, "I am honored and humbled by the confidence of the California State Senate, Governor Brown, and the people of the State of California in my ability and qualifications to serve as a Commissioner of the California Public Utilities Commission. I pledge to be diligent in discharging our fundamental responsibility to ensure that utilities under our

jurisdiction provide safe, reliable service at just and reasonable rates. I hope that our work will help the people of our golden state prosper."

More information on Commissioner Florio is available at [www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/aboutus/Commissioners/Florio/](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/aboutus/Commissioners/Florio/).

More information on Commissioner Sandoval is available at [www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/aboutus/Commissioners/Sandoval/](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/aboutus/Commissioners/Sandoval/).

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### *Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. Announces Appointments*

Janet Barentson, 49, of Rocklin, has been appointed chief deputy director at the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Mark Farouk, 36, of Sacramento, has been appointed deputy commissioner of the Office of External Affairs at the California Department of Corporations.

Mark Leary, 56, of Carmichael, has been appointed chief deputy director at the California Department of Resources, Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle).

James Spurling, 57, of Sacramento, has been appointed chief counsel at the Office of the Inspector General.

David Zocchetti, 54, of Sacramento, has been appointed deputy director and chief counsel at the California Department of General Services.

### EVALUATING THE POLICY TRADE-OFFS IN ARB'S CAP-AND-TRADE PROGRAM

This report analyzes the design of the cap-and-trade program as adopted by the California Air Resources Board (ARB). This new, complex program is part of the state's plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions statewide to 1990 levels by 2020—a goal set by the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (commonly referred to as AB 32). The report examines in detail the specific policy choices made by the ARB in the design of the program, some specific policy trade-offs inherent in those decisions, and options for program design changes that the Legislature may wish to make depending on its policy priorities.

<http://www.lao.ca.gov/reports/2012/rsrc/cap-and-trade/cap-and-trade-020912.pdf>

## BILLS INTRODUCED – FEBRUARY 17, 2012



**AB 1771, Valadao:** Existing law establishes the California renewables portfolio standard program, which requires the Public Utilities Commission to implement annual procurement targets for the procurement of eligible renewable energy resources, as defined, for all retail sellers, as defined, to achieve the targets and goals of the program. The existing definition of an eligible renewable energy resource includes small hydroelectric generation facilities of 30 megawatts or less that meet specified criteria. This bill would revise the definition of an eligible renewable energy resource for the purposes of the California renewables portfolio standard program to include a hydroelectric generation facility of any size, as specified. The bill would also make conforming changes.

**AB 1755, Perea:** Under existing law, the Public Utilities Commission has regulatory authority over public utilities, including electrical corporations, as defined. Existing law authorizes the commission to fix the rates and charges for every public utility, and requires that those rates and charges be just and reasonable. Existing law requires the commission to designate a baseline quantity of electricity and gas necessary to supply a significant portion of the reasonable energy needs of the average residential customer and requires that electrical and gas corporations file rates and charges, to be approved by the commission, providing baseline rates. Existing law requires the commission, in establishing the baseline rates, to avoid excessive rate increases for residential customers. Existing law requires the commission to establish a program of assistance to specified low-income electric and gas customers, referred to as the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) program. This bill would authorize the commission to approve a fixed per-customer charge not based upon usage that applies to all customers of an electrical corporation, including CARE program participants, to recover fixed costs of providing service, if the commission finds that such a charge is just and reasonable and is necessary to provide rate relief to upper tier residential customers of the electrical corporation.

### GOVERNOR BROWN RELEASES PACKAGE OF CEQA REFORMS

As part of his ongoing efforts to spur job creation, streamline regulations and boost renewable energy, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr., on January 25<sup>th</sup>, released a package of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) reforms that will simplify and expedite the approval process for key job-creating projects in California.

“These reforms will fast-track key projects that put Californians to work,” said Governor Brown. “Like California, CEQA must be more nimble.”

The package of CEQA reforms was released today by the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research and provide the regulatory changes necessary to implement SB 226 (Simitian), which the Governor signed last October.

Once these draft reforms are finalized, they will simplify the approval process for infill projects by eliminating repetitive studies of environmental effects already addressed in other planning documents, such as general plans and zoning codes. This will help reduce the time and cost often associated with infill projects, while also allowing cities to focus on new or unique projects that help create jobs, revitalize cities and promote transit.

SB 226 also removes hurdles to harnessing solar energy and growing green-collar jobs by exempting solar projects located on existing rooftops and parking lots.

Earlier this month, Governor Brown issued proposed implementation guidelines for AB 900 (Buchanan), signed last September. AB 900 sends CEQA litigation for certain large projects directly to the Court of Appeal and requires a decision on the merits in a short timeframe. The law also offers immediate help to projects that provide California with the most economic and environmental benefit.

Together, CEQA reforms in SB 226 and AB 900 will reduce repetitive documentation and expedite litigation timelines while preserving informed decision-making and mitigation of environmental harm.

The SB 226 guidelines, released today, can be found [here](#). The AB 900 guidelines, released last month, can be found [here](#).