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Joint Committee on Rules

Opening Statement

Hearing of July 6, 2017

“The Capitol Annex Project”

Welcome to today’s kick-off meeting of the Joint Committee on Rules of the 2017-2018 Regular Legislative Session.

As you know, last year’s budget provided authorization and set some ground rules for replacing the existing State Capitol Building Annex. For today’s purposes, it is enough to note that the specifics of that Annex replacement project remain open and the statute itself can be satisfied by construction of an entirely new facility or rebuilding of the current one in which we are seated today.

With today’s meeting, the Joint Committee on Rules is initiating our properly diligent and professional examination of how best to address the deficiencies of the 1952 State Capitol Building Annex.

Completed in 1952, the State Capitol Building Annex is showing its age in many ways. The Department of General Services summarizes its condition simply as "many of its key systems are in the 65th year of their expected 50 year useful life."

Senate Bill 836 of 2016 is last year's bill that put repair or replacement of the Annex where we are now seated into the state's building project queue.

That bill requires, as a precondition, that we in the Legislature must choose on what we can call an "Annex 2.0 plan" from an array of possible alternatives.

This need to decide from among alternative choices is evident in the language of SB 836 which provides:

"the Joint Rules Committee may pursue the construction of a state capitol building annex or the restoration, rehabilitation, renovation, or reconstruction of the State Capitol Building Annex described in Section 9105."

Today's hearing, the first of three by the full Joint Committee on Rules before the start of the Fall Interim Recess, has as its goal, the setting of our deliberative process into motion.

Today's meeting, with its counterpart on July 17th, aims to provide our Committee with a project benchmark of common understanding on:

- The existing Annex building and its issues, whether physical or functional, as they help or hinder our work.
- The special body of law affecting our State Capital buildings and also the special tools in our legal toolkit that can support this project.
- How updated building entry and egress and safety standards may influence our preferred options, and
- The path of large-scale Capitol building efforts, from beginning to end, laid out by someone who knows from personal experience, so that we on the Joint Committee on Rules gain a common framework of relevant knowledge.

As we set today's kick-off hearing in motion, I wish to acknowledge the important collaboration and partnership we have enjoyed for several years through the engagement and personal support of key leaders of the Brown Administration.

These include California State Finance Director Michael Cohen who, very much regrettably, cannot be with us today, as well as Government Operations Secretary Marybel Batjer who is with us today and the Director of the General Services Agency, Mr. Daniel Kim, who joins Secretary Batjer with us for this hearing.

Thank you for your support and participation on behalf of the Governor and of course on behalf of the people of the State of California.

Turning now to the topic of the day, our Capitol Annex has served as the seat of California Legislative and Executive power for 65 years.

For purposes of today's hearing, I can personally attest that the executive offices Governor Brown occupies today differs only marginally – new wall hangings and new furniture in the reception area – from when he occupied it 35 years ago.

As we start this hearing however, my interest is not what's inside the Governor's suite, despite their very obvious need for an update, but rather what is in the glass case right outside.

The "*California*" display case just to the right of the Governor's office today highlights Article II Section I of the California Constitution.

That is where our Constitution establishes the democratic principle that:

"All political power is inherent in the people."

This first rule of democratic government, and the fact our Annex is home to both the Executive and Legislative branches of state government, reminds us our Capitol Building merits special attention as California's foremost "People's House."

To function as a People's House means the State Capitol Building Annex should invite, and also safely support, active and productive civic engagement. This means not only its layout, but also its varied facilities, should foster accessibility,

transparency and respect for law, while strongly enabling democracy's ideal of collegial interaction and deliberation among lawmakers and the public.

A building which functions this way, supporting and enhancing Legislative and Executive deliberations, is a building that achieves in its form the notion of architecture once so famously expressed by Winston Churchill, to the effect that:

"We shape our buildings and afterwards our buildings shape us."

I share this quote by Churchill because I consider it central to the reason for today's meeting.

As you will hear summarized today and again in more depth on July 17th, our existing Annex presents many problems and challenges that complicate its support of California governance in the 21st century.

Something needs to be done.

But what that something should be is our responsibility, working with our Governor and our many formal and informal partners and stakeholders.

It is an opportunity unlike any that we will have across the balance of our careers.

As Members of the Joint Committee on Rules, we, starting with this first meeting on July 6, 2017, have the opportunity to influence how we wish to re-constitute this globally influential People's House, so that once updated for its next century of work, it can shape and enhance the work of the very lawmakers who will occupy it in the years and decades ahead.

Service in the Legislature, whether in the State Senate or the State Assembly, is a responsibility where one undertakes to use the hours and minutes of their day to make a permanent difference affecting both the present and the unfolding future of the State of California, of the United States of America, and through leadership and innovation, all the peoples and nations of the world. And if this is the measure of our lives as lawmakers, then the job of a legislative building is to put near at hand all a lawmaker needs to enable this kind of "making a difference daily."

As we will hear today, we are not the first to ask ourselves if an updated Capitol building design can strengthen lawmaker effectiveness.

In recent decades, many State Capitols have undertaken to update and address deficiencies – whether due to age, failing systems, changing security requirements, new life safety needs, inadequate conference rooms, hallways and hearing rooms, or to achieve technology upgrades. As a result, examples abound of states – Minnesota, Texas, Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming – which have led the way in re-conceiving their own People's Houses.

These other states put lots of ideas on the table.

- In several, you see efforts to improve the proximity of Committee Chairs to their committee work areas.
- Practical re-sizing (and this means expanding) the size of corridors and hearing rooms and multiplying access to conference spaces and adding large auditorium space.
- Greater use of technology to support operations and civic engagement.
- And, very commonly, re-conceived safety, entry and egress plans. In several Capitols, that entry and egress conversation has led to the very purposeful re-orienting of workaday traffic and visitor circulation patterns to different entries to improve the flow of both.

Coupled with the modern trend toward more layered security, the results are People's Houses that provide safe, functional and welcoming sites for all whose work brings them there, and for all visitors, including school kids who come to see their government at work.

We can launch this conversation today, because our Senate and Assembly staff, supported by various Leaders and my predecessor Chairs Skinner and Gordon, have been steadily ramping up preparations for our Annex project conversation.

For today's hearing, after reading a statement by Vice Chair Senator Anthony Cannella, my role is simply to provide a brief introduction to the State Capitol Annex Project website and a few highlights of what reconnaissance tours to other recently rebuilt Capitols have taught us about how "bricks and mortar" changes can strengthen the capacity of 21st century democratic institutions.

That portion of the program will be followed by a brief overview by the professional facilities staff of the Senate and Assembly of the issues the building presents. This part of the program will be highlights only, and will also include some observations related to its diminished functionality for our legislative work. The focus on highlights today is purposeful. On the 17th of July, we will be hearing in more detail from the Department of General Services about the building and the maintenance and upkeep challenges it presents.

The main portion of today's hearing will be an overview of the typical planning process, and best management practices, which have proven their worth time and again when other State Capitols have undertaken complex rebuild and update projects.

Our presenter will be Mr. David Hart, a *Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (FAIA)* and Executive Vice President of the MOCA project management firm of Salt Lake City, UT and his associate Mr. Joe Stahlmann who served as Project Manager for MOCA on the Minnesota State Capitol Project.

Mr. Hart brings a great deal of experience with Capitol re-design and reconstruction projects, including expansions. I can attest that I had heard his name come up from others in many conversations long before he and I first met. As a further aside, when our Chief Administrative Officer reached out to the National Conference of State Legislatures to get background on this type of project, they provided lots of information now on our website, but their one clear bit of advice was *"the best person for us to talk to about Capitol restorations and construction of legislative buildings is David Hart with MOCA."*

As Mr. Hart joins us today, we have asked him to provide an overview of projects of this type, what are their planning building blocks, and how other state projects he's managed illustrate best practices we can learn from.

I am delighted to have you here today.

Joint Committee on Rules Vice Chair Senator Cannella cannot be with us today but he has provided a statement which I will now read into our record:

Let me conclude now by thanking you all in advance for the work we will get done together on this journey that lies ahead for us.