

BUILDING STANDARDS COMMISSION

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Jim McGowan

The California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) appointed Jim McGowan Executive Director of the agency in August 2011. Prior to his appointment as Executive Director he served the commission from October 2010 as Deputy Executive Director.

McGowan's appointment is supported by an already distinguished career in state service. With an interest in construction and design he studied architecture in college and at an early age began work in the manufactured housing and factory-built housing industry. In 1975 he joined the State of California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) as an apprentice inspector.

During his near 34 year career with HCD, McGowan advanced into management to serve as the Program Operations Manager, Division of Codes and Standards, overseeing the administration of six statewide housing code enforcement programs. Those programs included manufactured housing, factory-built housing, state housing law, employee housing, and mobile home parks. Primary responsibilities included the development of building standards and regulations to implement the aforementioned programs. During his tenure with HCD, McGowan was appointed Chair of the District Representative Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee, HCD's program to develop and train its inspection staff.

After a short-lived "retirement" that lasted all of one (1) month, McGowan joined the CBSC as a retired annuitant. He was tasked with developing aspects of CALGreen, the 2010 California Green Building Standards Code, and was the CBSC liaison for the newly formed California Commission on Disability Access. When asked why he would return to a full time position, McGowan quickly states that his personal interests lie in mentoring, training and equipping staff for upward mobility and self improvement, and sharing his knowledge.

When Jim isn't working you can find him 'in, on or under water'. He enjoys his sailboat, and he is an avid fly fisherman and certified rescue diver.