

## **California Department of General Services Director to Retire**

*Announcement comes after nearly four decades in public service*

California Department of General Services (DGS) Director Fred Klass announced today that he will retire effective November 30, 2014, following nearly four years with the department and nearly four decades of state service.

In a message sent to staff today announcing his retirement, Klass said that he came to DGS because of the critical role the department plays in the overall operation of state government.

“My greatest joy in working with you all was seeing such widespread commitment to fulfilling the responsibilities of the department. Your dedication to the DGS mission is strong. You work diligently to serve our customer departments and the citizens of California,” wrote Klass.

In his more than 37 years of service to California, Klass has achieved statewide and national recognition as an expert on budgeting and administrative operations. Under Klass’ leadership, DGS has pursued strategies to better serve its client agencies as well as the broader public.

"Fred has been a longtime champion for better and more efficient state operations," said Marybel Batjer, Secretary of the Government Operations Agency. "His leadership has been invaluable, and Fred leaves a legacy that positions DGS for success going forward. On behalf of the Governor and administration, I want to express my deep gratitude to Fred for his commitment to excellence in the business of government."

Throughout his years of state service, Klass served in a variety of important roles across multiple departments. Prior to his time at DGS, Klass worked at the Department of Finance for more than 20 years, serving as its chief operating officer from 2007 to 2011. Klass also worked for the Senate Budget Committee, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and the Little Hoover Commission. Over his nearly four decades in California government, Klass played significant policy development roles in subject matter areas including natural resources, environmental protection, energy, sustainability, capital outlay, courts, higher education, local government and information technology.

Klass holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley and a Master of Public Administration from California State University, Sacramento.

DGS Chief Deputy Director Esteban Almanza will serve as acting director until a permanent replacement is named by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.

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*The Department of General Services acts as the business manager for the State of California. DGS helps state government better serve the public by providing services to state agencies including procurement and acquisition solutions, real estate management, leasing and design services, environmentally friendly transportation, and architectural oversight and funding for the construction of safe schools.*