

# CONNECTIONS

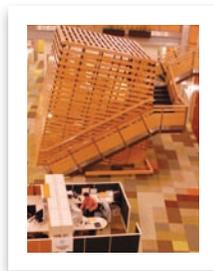
News and Information for All DGS Employees



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## Cost savings, green building highlight Marysville RESD project

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# Cost savings, green building highlight Marysville RESD project

By Laurel Goddard, information officer

Leo Trombatore’s face beamed with pride as he ripped the banner from the front window that revealed his name etched for all to see. On Jan. 22, the former Caltrans director and long-time Transportation Department employee joined hundreds of others to celebrate the opening of one of the newest and tallest – and possibly coolest – buildings in Marysville.

The Leo J. Trombatore State Office Building, which houses the California Department of Transportation’s District 3 offices and replaces the circa-1930s structure it occupied for decades, is a shining example of energy-efficient construction. With its loft-like feel, use of recycled materials and unique “internal canyon” that bounces daylight throughout the interior, the end result looks more like a work of art than a state office.

Project Director *Richard Myren* from the Real Estate Services Division explained to the crowd of more than 400 community members, dignitaries and employees the long list of sustainable and site-friendly features, achieved through a design that:

- Is 27 percent more energy efficient than code requires.



Project Director **Richard Myren** discusses the many energy-efficient features of the new building while giving a tour to Caltrans and DGS executives.

PHOTOS BY KEN HUNT



The unique “internal canyon” in the center of the new Caltrans building reflects daylight to interior floors.

- Maximizes natural daylight.
- Has bike storage, showers and changing rooms.
- Provides preferred parking for fuel-efficient vehicles and carpools.
- Boasts state-of-the-art heating and air conditioning.
- Features white roofing material to reflect heat.
- Is expected to achieve a minimum of “Silver” status from the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program.

In addition to being energy stingy, the project also consolidated Caltrans operations — including building leases and people — from other locations.

The Caltrans District 3 headquarters is just one example of how DGS is helping state agencies to build green. “California has become the leader in this effort by studying how other states have done it,” said Richard. “By integrating green concepts into the design early on, agencies can save money in the long run.”

This new headquarters for Caltrans’ District 3 represents how state dollars can be saved through the way DGS designs and builds the state facilities of the 21st century:

- Savings of 30 percent on the power costs for this building compared to the combined leased and owned office space it replaces
- Savings on both construction time and costs by using concrete instead of structural steel
- Savings of 20 to 30 percent in water costs through use of water-saving plumbing fixtures and water-efficient landscaping

Completed ahead of schedule and within budget, the building stands not only as a testament to DGS’ commitment to green building, but also to the power of teamwork. 🌱

- ▶ See more photos of the Caltrans headquarters.
- ▶ Video by Phillip Killion and Ken Hunt: DGS celebrates opening of Caltrans green building.

“Richard Myren is the project director of project directors. With his ‘Tool Time,’ ‘Al Borland’ personality and construction savvy, he successfully managed the construction of the District 3 headquarters office building to an on-time and within-budget conclusion. Thank you for a job well-done.”

Glenn A. Yee, Chief  
Division of Business, Facilities and Security  
Caltrans

### The DGS project team:

Kevin Kaestner, PMB  
Lewis Dean, PMB  
Wes Hubbard, BPM  
Rich Langley, BPM  
Annette Salazar, BPM  
Steve Sheffield, CSS  
Jane Herschberger, ESS  
Jerry Leong, AMB  
Allen Pro시오, AMB  
John Brackeen, CSS  
Jeff Dierks, ORIM  
Dan Rios, OLS  
Stella Gloria, PMB  
Phillip Fong, TD  
Brinda Saini, PMB PD



PHOTO BY KEN HUNT

In one of its many nods to nature, the new Caltrans building in Marysville features this security desk made from a salvaged section of a tree struck by lightning.



PHOTO BY LIZ GRANSEE

## California On Guard: Emergency response tested

By Dustin Lyda, communications assistant

On Nov. 14, approximately 100 DGS employees mobilized in Sacramento to respond to a catastrophic 7.8 magnitude earthquake . . . but it was only a test. The simulated disaster was called Golden Guardian 2008, the nation's largest annual state sponsored emergency exercise, spearheaded by the governor and his Office of Homeland Security.

In the epicenter of DGS' participation was Business Continuity and Emergency Preparedness Manager *Kristine French* from the Office of Risk and Insurance Management, who planned and coordinated the roles of the department's participants.

The planning and preparations for the exercise took about one year to put together. As part of the effort, French's responsibilities included training the 100 DGS representatives and all DGS executives. Part of the training included education on the department's emergency plan and follow-



PHOTO BY KEN HUNT

Business Continuity and Emergency Preparedness Manager **Kristine French**

through on the day of the event to coordinate the activities of contributors at various locations throughout DGS.

For Kristine, the preparedness planning doesn't begin and end with the Golden Guardian, but includes quarterly tabletop exercises where plans and procedures are examined and tested.

## Fun Fact

The Capitol Christmas tree displays 1,500 handmade ornaments – all lovingly crafted by children and adults with developmental disabilities throughout California.

“Albert Einstein said, ‘You have to learn the rules of the game . . . and then you have to play better than anyone else,’ and that’s exactly what DGS’s Emergency Response Team (DGSERT) did during the Golden Guardian 2008 exercise,” said Kristine. “The DGSERT consists of folks with various business and program experience from all divisions of DGS. They trained and worked as a team – implementing Incident Command System principles and responding to the high pressure, two-day simulated event. Executives, managers, other employees and their families, as well as those DGS serves can be proud to have this team represent them. Folks can feel safer having DGSERT by their side when an emergency occurs.”

Previous Golden Guardian exercises have included simulations of terrorist attacks against mass transportation systems, large stadiums and gathering places; bombings; train derailments with toxic spills as well as hijackings. 🌿



The DGS Command Center was a flurry of activity during the 2008 Golden Guardian exercise as volunteers throughout the department worked to keep emergency communications flowing.

PHOTO BY ERIC LAMOUREUX

## Fanciful Fountain

A once-empty interior water feature in the Ronald Reagan State Building in Los Angeles – drained dry to comply with the governor’s executive order -- was repurposed over the holidays (below). DGS staff in the building filled the empty fountain with the makings of a “winter wonderland.” To raise money for the effort, they joined with other building tenants to conduct two bake sales, raising enough money to buy the trees, lights, decorations and faux snow. DGS carpenters made the wood figures and gingerbread house, the painters painted them, and the rest of the crew helped to decorate the area. The staff who made it possible are: *Lizeth Amador, John Becker, Myra Cervantes, Jeff Haygood, Floyd Henderson, Gary Hernandez, Tony Mason, Johnny Melendez, Ed Parker, Bill Pearson, Marco Rabottini, George Salazar, Eduardo Soltero, and Bonita Trotter.*



## Mapping Disasters

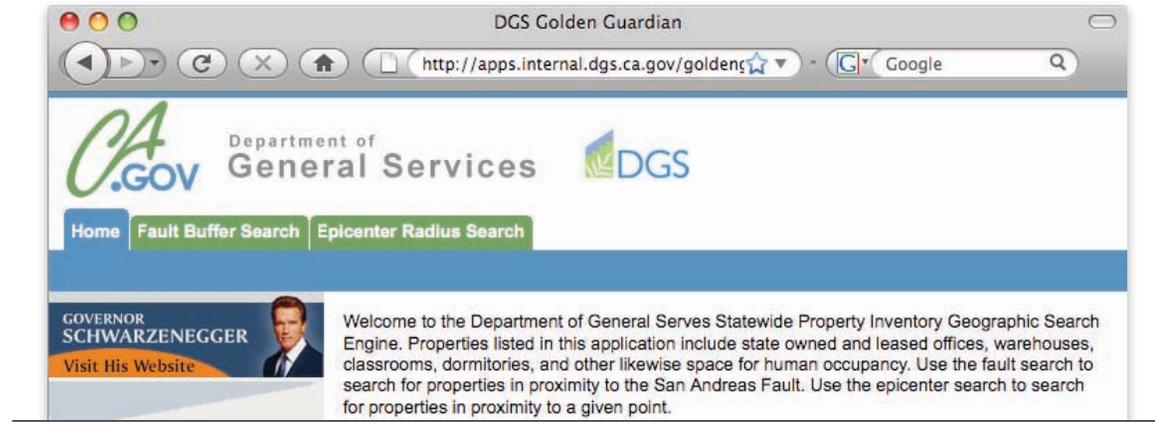
California's recent Golden Guardian disaster drill tested the capabilities of emergency response systems and tools statewide. One of those was a unique DGS-developed Web site with geographic information system capabilities used to locate state owned and leased properties around a static buffer (the San Andreas earthquake fault) and also around a dynamic point (the earthquake epicenter).

The site was developed by Data Processing Manager *Bob Yoachum* with programmers *Bal DeCastro* and *Dan Alden* from the Office

PHOTO BY LAUREL GODDARD

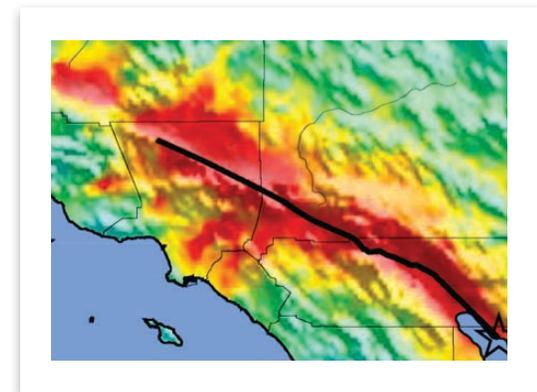


Programmers **Bal DeCastro** (left) and **Dan Alden** (right) worked with Data Processing Manager **Bob Yoachum** (center) to develop a geographic information system for use during state emergencies.



of Technology Resources Web Application Technology Section. After an emergency, DGS can use the system to locate buildings in which to relocate workers displaced by the event. Properties listed in this application include state owned and leased offices, warehouses, classrooms, dormitories and other spaces designed for human occupancy. During a statewide emergency, DGS can also assist building inspectors in pinpointing state structures with potential damage and to plan their travel routes between facilities; locate possible command centers and field operations for first responders; identify likely facilities that could be used for triage or emergency equipment storage; and help ferret out alternative work sites for employees displaced by a disaster. 🌿

▶ [Visit the DGS disaster mapping site.](#)



## Paper chase: OSP bill room always on the run

The phrase “never a dull moment” has never rung more true than in the Office of State Publishing’s legislative bill room. Here, almost hidden in a corner of the basement, is a center of activity, where a day without constant scrambling is a rarity.

But that’s exactly how *Lily Hitomi* likes it. Lily, a 35-year state veteran, coordinates all the legislative printing and is the cog that turns the wheel of the bill room. She began her state career at the Office of State Publishing as a secretary for the planner of legislative printing, and was there for the change from hot metal to cold type, when she got involved in typesetting. From there she moved to buying paper, then finally to the Capitol. She’s now been the legislative liaison in the bill room, which is part of OSP, for 20 years.

Lawmakers expect their bill copies on their desks as early as 8 a.m., she said. “And legislators work whenever they want, including late hours, so we have to be available and ready to respond.” With help from its staff of five, including *Doug Boline*, *Tiuteomalao Lealao*, *Anita Singh* and *Janice Smith*, lawmakers demands are met.



Lily Hitomi (left), legislative liaison in the Capitol bill room, may coordinate the printing and distribution of as many as 1,200 bills a day.

Want your own copy of the budget bill? See **Doug Boline** (right) at the Capitol bill room’s public counter.



PHOTOS BY KEN HUNT

Bills are usually printed all year round, and special sessions keep the presses moving 24 hours a day, making it hard to even shut them down for maintenance.

“There might be 10 bills printed today, and 200 tomorrow,” she said, but it’s exactly that kind of pace that challenges her. “It’s all about immediate response – I’m often expected to solve a problem before the end of a conversation.

“At OSP they speak printing and the legislature speaks politics, and sometimes it’s not the same language,” said Lily. “But that’s why my background is instrumental to the job,

because I can help translate.”

Why print bills when they’re all online? “Immediate access,” said Lily. “Imagine being on the Senate floor reviewing, for example, the budget bill – which is currently 1,000 pages long – and trying to quickly scroll to a particular page?”

▶ [View more photos of the bill room staff in action.](#)

## DGS recognized as family-friendly workplace

By Dustin Lyda, communications assistant

Creating a Mother-Baby-Friendly Workplace recently earned DGS accolades from the Breastfeeding Coalition of Greater Sacramento on the south steps of the Capitol.

The award recognized DGS for its installation of a lactation room at a downtown Caltrans building for BPM Custodian *Josefina Tovar* after the birth of her daughter, Mireya Tovar, in the effort to aid Tovar's return from maternity leave.

"When I was told she was pregnant, I contacted her to find out if she would need a lactation room," said Office Building Manager Ron Sanchez. "I then worked with the facilities staff at Caltrans and secured a room, table and chair for her."

DGS was one of five recipients from over 20 nominations this year. The award recognizes small, medium and large organizations (based on number of employees) that have contributed to the health of the community by supporting their employees' choice to



(Left to right) **Josefina** and Mireya Tovar (being held) joined Building Manager **Ron Sanchez** to accept the Mother-Baby-Friendly Workplace award from the Breastfeeding Coalition of Greater Sacramento.

provide their babies with breast milk.

This was the third year the award has been bestowed by the California Breastfeeding Coalition, which consists of 34 regional breastfeeding coalitions throughout the state of California. 🌱

## Contracting made easy

Small and disabled veteran-owned enterprises make up 98 percent of all the businesses in California. Recently these types of firms from all over California were provided an exciting opportunity to learn how to tap into the \$9.4 billion available in state contracts at DGS' "Connecting Point 2008."

The DGS Small and Disabled Veteran Business team arranged and hosted the event at DGS' West Sacramento headquarters, where 36 local companies and more than 500 representatives from state and local agencies came together hoping to make a business connection. This year's forum included a "Procurement Pavilion" where 21 state agencies purchased more than \$250,000 in goods and services on the spot.

"Making it easier for small companies to navigate the public sector contracting and purchasing network is what the event is all about," said Procurement Division Manager Eric Mandell. "Buyers were able to meet suppliers face to face and build relationships."



VIDEO BY BRYAN YONG

**Video:** Watch the Office of Public Affairs' "Connecting Point" video and learn more about this exciting event.

On hand helping to make the event a success were *Maureen Moss, Michael Aguilio, Danetta Jackson, Wayne Gross, Judy Burnett, Mary Purvis, Tonia Burgess, Diana Basile* and *Catrina Blair*. Setup was provided by the Business Services Office's *Gilbert Labitoria* and *Susan Durkee*. 🌿



## Fun Fact

DGS' solar "power purchase" agreements offset the pollution from 48,937 cars.

## Bright Idea

*Patrick McCoy* (center), DGS solar program manager, speaks with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (left) and *Rosario Marin* (right), State and Consumer Services Agency secretary, after the governor announces several solar agreements, which Patrick will oversee, such as the one DGS recently crafted with the California State University system, allowing more than 15 of its facilities to tap into solar power without paying the

typical up-front costs. Solar service provider SunEdison will finance, build and operate the systems, while the campuses will pay only for the electricity, at prices equal to or less than current retail rates. DGS also negotiated similar arrangements for two state prisons, a state mental hospital and a Caltrans regional headquarters. 🌿

▶ [Learn more about these unique, energy-saving agreements.](#)



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

## Empowering energy comes from first lady's conference

By Dustin Lyda, communications assistant

This past fall, a dozen women from DGS traveled to the Long Beach Convention Center to attend the 22nd annual "California Governor and First Lady's Conference on Women and Families." Established to encourage women to discover their purpose, passion and power, the nonprofit, nonpartisan event originally began as a government initiative for female small business owners and working professionals and has grown into the largest forum of its kind in the country.

The group was selected from a total of 21 woman nominated by supervisors and managers. The participants were *Deborah Baker* from the Administration Division, *Teresa Boron-Irwin* from the Office of Legal Services, *Letha Burton* from the Office of Legislation, *Donna Carey* of the Information Services Division, *Julie Fisher* from the Real Estate Services Division, *Carolyn Foote* from the Office of Human Resources, *Anne*

*Garbeff* from RESD, *Cheryl Hill* from the Office of Administrative Hearings, *Teresa Kim* from the Information Technology Services Division, *Sofia Long* from the Telecommunications Division, *Joan Rabang* from the Procurement Division and *Kellie Westley* from the Division of the State Architect.

Seminars and panel discussion topics included starting a small business, financial well-being, dealing with Alzheimer's, cancer and aging parents, and how to be a confident leader. Headlining the conference were Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, investor and philanthropist Warren Buffet, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, leading women's advocate and journalist Gloria Steinem, Academy and Emmy Award-winning actress Sally Field, blues singer Bonnie Raitt and Cherie Blair, wife of former British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

"It was incredibly awesome," said Donna. "It was a very memorable experience."



Conference attendees share their experiences at the dinner table. (Left to right) **Deborah Baker, Julie Fisher, Teresa Kim, Kellie Westley, Donna Carey, Teresa Boron-Irwin, Anne Garbeff, Letha Burton, Joan Rabang and Carolyn Foote.**

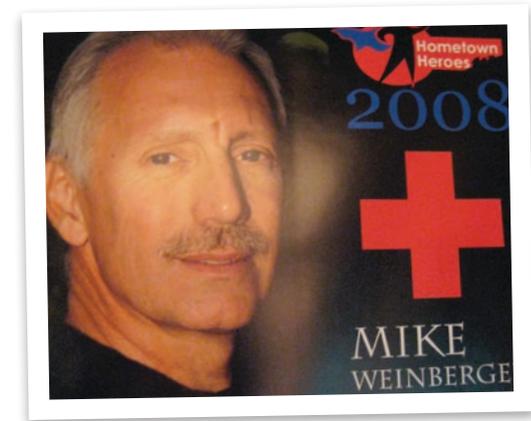
Kellie added, “I have not attended any kind of conference before, let alone anything this great.”

“Each time I re-tell Maria’s speech, I need a make-up refresh!” said Joan, who added that the first lady’s emotionally moving presentation inspired her to set a new personal goal: “Find my voice and use it to effect change.”

The DGS team joined an estimated crowd of 14,000 – the largest audience ever in the event’s history. 🌱

“I feel lucky to work for a department that values this type of experience. These inspiring days will stay with me for a long time.”

— Anne Garbeff



## Hometown Hero

*Mike Weinberger*, a stationary engineer from the Real Estate Services Division’s Building and Property Management unit, recently received a “Hometown Hero” award from the Sacramento-area Red Cross for his work with feral cats. He cares for a colony which has taken up residence in a storage yard near his workplace in Rancho Cordova. He humanely traps the felines, has them spayed or neutered and arranges for any other veterinary care they need at his own expense before returning them to the colony. Mike also volunteers for the local Happy Tails organization. 🌱



PHOTOS BY LIZ GRANSEE



**Dustin Peard** braves the heights to put the finishing touches on the Capitol Christmas tree.

▶ [Take a look at more photos of the Capitol Christmas tree](#)

## Christmas in the Capital

For more than 25 years, the state of California has launched the holiday season with the arrival of the official California state Christmas tree at the Capitol. This year was no exception. In late November DGS employees placed a stately, 50-foot silver tip pine donated by the U.S. Forest Service Institute of Forest Genetics on the west lawn of the Capitol.

The tree was cut down a day earlier by DGS' *Bonifacio Sanchez* at the U.S. Forest Service property in Camino, and transported by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to Sacramento, where DGS employees installed, trimmed and decorated it before the governor and first lady's annual tree lighting ceremony on Dec. 9.

One of the richest and most widely celebrated state traditions is the Department of Developmental Services' donation of 1,500 ornaments, handcrafted by children and adults with developmental disabilities who receive services and support from state facilities and 21 nonprofit regional centers.

Continuing Gov. Schwarzenegger's mission of greening California, 6,500 ultra-low-wattage LED lights illuminated the tree, saving 95 percent of the energy normally consumed by incandescent

bulbs. Since 2006, the state Christmas tree's LED lights have been powered by a hydrogen fuel cell, which emits only pure water and allows the lights to operate without using electricity from the power grid. This year, the fuel cell was provided by Folsom-based Altery Systems, a member of the California Stationary Fuel Cell Collaborative. Air Products, a Pennsylvania-based company with three California locations, provided the hydrogen for the fuel cell at no cost. 🌱



**Video:** Watch as the Capitol Christmas tree is cut, installed and decorated for the holiday season.

VIDEO BY LIZ GRANSEE, KEN HUNT, AND PHILLIP KILLION

## The spirit of giving abounds at DGS

DGS employees opened up their hearts and wallets this year to those less fortunate. Throughout the holiday season staff gave generously by collecting gifts for the needy and food for the hungry.

Braving frigid temperatures in the early morning hours on Dec. 18, more than a dozen DGS employees established a make-shift drive-through donation area in front of their well-known Ziggurat building to accept canned goods and other nonperishables

for Foodlink, a nonprofit organization which distributes the food to more than 80 Sacramento programs. Those dropping off donations didn't even need to leave their cars — they simply handed off their contributions to the volunteers, including DGS Director **Will Bush**. The department trumped its goal of 15,000 by bringing in a grand total of 20,260 pounds of combined food and cash to the food drive. The food drive's silent auction also brought in over \$5,000, which will allow

for the purchase of 12,500 pounds of food.

Later that afternoon, **Cecil Rowe** from the Human Resources training section, **Dianne Medina** from the Real Estate Services Division and **Sylvia Calderon** from the Business Operations, Policy and Planning Branch lead a team of DGS volunteers who accompanied Santa (a.k.a. **Eric Lamoureux** from the Office of Public Affairs) in delivering gifts to approximately 100 children in need from Elkhorn Village, Riverbank and

PHOTO BY JEFFREY YOUNG



(Left to right) Geoff McClennan, Olive Findleton, Cathy McCollum and Gary Grootveld greet donors as Deborah Baker makes a donation. A KCRA news crew captures the action.



Bob Riola (left) and Terry Munoz (right) help Cathy McCollum (center) organize presents for the "Gifts From The Heart" program benefiting children and seniors.

PHOTO BY ERIC LAMOUREUX



PHOTOS BY KEN HUNT

Alyce Norman elementary schools in West Sacramento.

The week prior, DGS staff donated additional gifts to 263 children and 71 seniors as part of Sacramento County’s annual “Gifts From The Heart” campaign.

In addition, this past fall DGS employees contributed \$3,821 toward the California State Employees Charitable Campaign through a series of events.

“I couldn’t ask for better people to work with,” said Director Bush. “They inspire me to do more.” 🌱

Christmas came a little early at several elementary schools in West Sacramento, as **Eric Lamoureux** (in red) joined (left to right) **Murray Hubiak, Sylvia Calderon, Cecil Rowe, Shelia DuBose, Jeremy Morioka** and **Anthony Martinez** for special deliveries from the “Spirit of Giving” program.

▶ [View “Gifts From The Heart” photos](#)

▶ [View “Spirit of Giving” photos](#)

### Food drive volunteers:

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Ralph Barnett      | Susan Mitchel      |
| Rita Brandes       | Sally Morphis      |
| Will Bush          | Jonee Oden         |
| Chris Castro       | Rhonda Owen        |
| Ronni Comstock     | Dawn Popanz        |
| James Fitzgerald   | Martin Reynaga     |
| Liz Gransee        | Julie Sanchez      |
| Laura Gutierrez    | Cathy Sharp        |
| Meg Hoyle          | Amy Stonehill      |
| Caroline Jackman   | Michael Tang       |
| Mary Anne Kuwamoto | Danielle Tatarakis |
| Kam Langham        | Sandy Thuston      |
| Cathy McCollum     | Ken Uribe          |
| Geoff McLennan     | Paige Wittenbrook  |



[View photos](#) from the DGS silent auction where employees helped raise \$5,000 for the holiday food drive by bidding on [these items](#).

## Fun Fact

In the last three months of 2008, the Business Services Office's "Green Exchange" program at DGS headquarters recycled 186 pounds of alkaline batteries.

▶ Tell us about your building's recycling efforts.

## BPM brings it together

Ever wonder how big events at the Capitol come together? They wouldn't without DGS' Building and Property Management team, which frequently provides support for legislative and gubernatorial events. From setting up chairs, tables and stages to erecting fencing and helping with crowd control, they do it all. They have helped set up for inaugural events on the west steps, bill signings in the Capitol rotunda, state of the state addresses in the legislative

chambers and the annual tree lighting event each year on the Capitol grounds. Below, Gov. Schwarzenegger recognizes California's Olympic medalists past and present, along with numerous guests including local television sportscaster Del Rodgers.

See all of the DGS staff members that make it happen at the Capitol. 🌿

▶ [Click here](#) and [here](#) to see all of the DGS staff members that make it happen at the Capitol.



## Service Milestones

Congratulations to all the DGS employees who reached service milestones between Aug. 1 and Nov. 30, 2008. Below are those who have logged 25 years or more. Visit the DGS intranet for additional time achievements.

Questions or comments can be directed to Human Resources at (916) 376-5400

► [View additional service achievements.](#)

### 35 Years of Service

Carlos Cervantes, RESD  
 Glen Duval, RESD  
 Lily Hitomi, OSP  
 William Houck, RESD  
 Mary Ann Kuwamoto, PD  
 Ruben Morales, RESD  
 Hassan Pejuhesh, RESD  
 Travis Richardson, TD  
 Jerry Rosano, RESD  
 Chester Simmons, RESD  
 David Smith, RESD  
 John Whelan, RESD

### 30 Years of Service

Manford Blume, OSP  
 Christina Castro, RESD  
 Pamela Dyer, RESD  
 Wilson Lee, TD  
 Jeannette Moore, RESD  
 Terri Stevenson, OFS  
 Peter VanEekelen, RESD

### 25 Years of Service

Thomas Behrens, RESD  
 Amy Gantz, TD  
 Colleen Hui, TD  
 Bahram Golemohammadi, RESD  
 Edith Kurotori, TD  
 Anthony Monarrez, RESD  
 JoAnn McLaughlin, OAH  
 Christine Pommerenck, OSP  
 Daniel Viera, OFAM  
 Yolanda Villasenor, TD  
 Kevin Watkins, RESD  
 Patricia Wood, RESD



### Mystery Photo:

Have you seen this?  
 Probably not . . . but it's part of a  
 DGS green-building project . . .  
 Tune in next time to find out where.

## Information

*Connections* is a new approach to an old resource—the DGS employee newsletter. Designed as a PDF, it's all digital and environmentally friendly—no waste.

### How it works?

It's just like a Web page, view it on screen and click on links to view the content. You can also save it to your computer, e-mail it to a friend or print it if you must, but we hope you don't.



**Table of contents** Headlines link to their stories—click on a headline to jump to that story.

**Navigation** Move from page to page with the navigation arrows.

**Resource tabs** Each page has five helpful tabs:

**Help:** Which brings you here and points out the newsletter functions.

**Options:** This shows the Adobe Reader options.

**Table of contents:** Takes you back to the table of contents from anywhere in the newsletter.

**Comments:** This allows you to contact us with your story ideas and opinions.

**Close:** Closes the document.

*Connections* is the employee newsletter of the Department of General Services and is published by the Office of Public Affairs.

Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

Rosario Marin  
Secretary  
State and Consumer Services Agency

Will Bush  
Director  
Department of General Services

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