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Construction begins on state's new Central Plant

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Construction is under way on a new, \$181 million facility to provide heating, cooling and other services for 22 state-owned office buildings in downtown Sacramento, plus the state Capitol. The project, on Q Street between 6th and 7th, is expected to take 30 months to complete. Ground was broken on Wednesday.

The Department of General Services said the project, known as the Central Plant, will be one of the largest such facilities west of the Mississippi River and will be built to meet the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Gold rating.

DGS said the new Central Plant will incorporate cooling towers for extracted heat; establish reliability and redundancy in Central Plant operations for the future of the Capitol Area; utilize only 1/10th of the water consumption that is currently required in the existing Plant; and create a reserve of chilled water in a 140 ft. tall, storage tank during off-peak hours.

The project is in keeping with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's 2004 Executive Order that directed the "greening" of State buildings.

"Four years ago the Governor challenged us to demonstrate leadership in energy efficiency and environmental responsibility in state buildings," said State and Consumer Services Secretary Rosario Marin. "This new Central Plant will do just that and help reduce the impact state facilities have on climate change."

Originally built in 1968 at 625 Q Street, the existing Central Plant produces the steam, chilled water, and control air for more than 5.5 million square feet of State-owned office space serving approximately 20,000 employees.

The new Central Plant will incorporate cooling towers for extracted heat; provide reliability and redundancy for future operations, including new State-owned

facilities; reduce its water usage to only a tenth of the water consumption that is currently required by the existing Plant; and create a reserve of chilled water in a 140 ft.-tall, 6-million-gallon, thermal-energy storage tank.

“Each day State workers across downtown Sacramento expect one simple thing – to stay cool when it is hot and warm when it is cold, and the new Central Plant will allow DGS to continue to make this happen each day,” said DGS Director Will Bush. “What is even more important is that the new Plant will allow us to do this while saving energy, conserving water, and protecting the environment.”

The new Central Plant is being designed and constructed by the Design/Builder, Skanska USA Building, Inc., with a local Sacramento firm, Nacht and Lewis Architects, San Francisco’s Flack and Kurtz, plus Lawson Mechanical and Redwood City Electric. A number of other designers and subcontractors are working with the State and its major consultants, Capitol Engineering Consultants, Inc. and Lionakis Beaumont Design Group, and Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc.

The construction project will include the recycling of much of the demolition material from the old Central Plant.

