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## **Green Means Gold for State Health Buildings**

### ***U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) Awards LEED Gold for Operations & Maintenance***

SACRAMENTO — The California Department of General Services today announced that four state-owned health services buildings located at the Capitol Area East End Complex have earned a Gold rating from the USGBC for "green" building operations and maintenance practices.

Marking yet another milestone in Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's Green Building Initiative, the four structures — occupied by the California Department of Health Care Services and the California Department of Public Health — have been certified LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold for Existing Buildings (LEED-EB).

The USGBC is the nation's foremost coalition of building industry leaders working to promote buildings that are energy-efficient, environmentally responsible, healthy places within which to work and conduct business.

"Greening our existing buildings maximizes energy efficiency and environmental quality and helps us reach the ambitious goals Governor Schwarzenegger laid out for us when he signed the Global Warming Solutions Act and established his Green Building Initiative," said Rosario Marin, secretary of the State and Consumer Services Agency.

The governor's Green Building Initiative (Executive Order S-20-04) directs state agencies to decrease energy use at state-owned buildings 20 percent by 2015, while also reducing the impact state buildings have on climate change. His executive order also directs that state buildings — both new construction and existing facilities — meet a minimum of LEED Silver standards in order to save energy, conserve water, divert waste from landfills and cut greenhouse gas emissions.

"Designed and built as models of sustainability, these buildings are a showcase for green building operations, as well as healthy, more productive places to work and conduct the public's business," said Will Bush, director of the Department of General Services.

The four-building health services campus is bounded by 15th, 17th, L and N streets in Sacramento's Capitol Area East End Complex. Some of the building's green features include the following:

Energy-efficient central plant, HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) systems, mechanical systems, and lighting systems.

- ENERGY STAR-compliant "cool" roof that cuts heat gain and reduces energy consumption.
- Energy management system that monitors and adjusts building temperatures where needed.
- Overall energy efficiency measures designed to be 30 percent higher than the California Building Code (Title 24) requires.
- Low-flow plumbing fixtures which decrease water usage by 18 percent.
- Use of green cleaning products and practices to improve each building's indoor environmental quality.
- Recycling practices which reduce the amount of waste materials going to landfill by approximately 140 tons per year.
- 265 tons of salvaged marble from the State Library & Courts Building seismic retrofit project reused in building lobbies, and 12,272 tons of construction/demolition waste recycled and diverted from landfill.

In addition to its LEED-EB certifications, the health services campus also received the USGBC's LEED-New Construction Certified rating for design and construction in 2004.

The 1.5 million square-foot East End Complex also includes the California Department of Education building bounded by 14th, 15th, N and O streets. In 2006, the Education Building became the first state-owned office building in the nation to earn LEED Platinum certification for operations and maintenance, and received LEED Gold New Construction certification in 2003.

To date, 13 state buildings are LEED certified. In addition, more than 200 new state buildings are being designed and built to achieve LEED certification, while approximately 200 existing state facilities are pursuing LEED certification for operations and maintenance practices. (See the current list here.) The Governor's Green Building Initiative also directs that the state pursue LEED certification for maintenance and operations (LEED-Existing Building) on all buildings that have previously received LEED certification for new construction.

For more information on the governor's Green Building Initiative, go to <http://www.green.ca.gov/>.