



HOLIDAY '08

50 Feet of Holiday Cheer

DGS staff recently carried on a 25-year tradition of trimming the state Christmas tree on the west lawn of the Capitol. On Dec. 9, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger flipped the switch that illuminated the 50-foot silver tip pine, which was donated by the U.S. Forest Service Institute of Forest Genetics.

{Read more}

| Photo by: Liz Gransee

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
governor

ROSARIO MARIN
*secretary
state and consumer services
agency*

WILL BUSH
*director
department of general services*



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DGS Capitol grounds staff cut the tree in Camino on Nov. 20 and installed the tree the following morning. Since then they have put more than 6,000 lights on the tree and placed 1,500 hand crafted ornaments—made by children with developmental disabilities—on the boughs.

Ultra-low-wattage LED lights illuminate the tree, saving the state 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 has been provided by Folsom-based Alteryg Systems, a member of the California Stationary Fuel Cell Collaborative. Air Products, a Pennsylvania-based company with three California locations, will provide the hydrogen for the fuel cell at no cost.

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Photo: DGS' Robert Boardway prepares the state Christmas tree to be lifted into place at the state Capitol. By: Eric Lamoureux



GREEN BUILDING

Sun's Rays Pay



The California State University (CSU) system will soon be tapping into affordable solar power to help meet its energy needs. And during these tough economic times, they will do so without paying the up-front costs traditionally associated with large solar projects.

From the redwoods of Humboldt County to the beaches of Southern California, DGS is continuing to help California “go green.” It recently crafted Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) to help the CSU system set up solar projects at 15 of its campuses and at the chancellor’s office.

*Photo: Solar panels atop a CSU Chico building.
By: CSU chancellor's office*

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Announced by Gov. Schwarzenegger in October, these agreements will provide eight megawatts of electricity for the CSU system. The 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.

In addition to these latest agreements, DGS also negotiated another four megawatts of solar for two state prisons, a state mental hospital, a Caltrans regional headquarters and four other CSU campuses.

If your department wants more information on plugging in to solar at your facilities, please contact DGS Solar Program manager Patrick McCoy at (916) 375-5988 or by e-mail at patrick.mccoy@dgs.ca.gov.



Video: DGS Director Will Bush talks about the solar power partnership program.

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PROCUREMENT

Purchasing Made Easy

You read that right. The contracting tools exist to help California government agencies acquire the products and services they need to keep government moving. DGS' Leveraged Purchasing Agreements (LPAs) offer California state, county, city, special district, education and other governmental organizations faster, easier, and cheaper options to purchase directly from suppliers via existing contracts.

Why shop here? DGS procurement staff have established competitive pricing, contract terms and conditions have been incorporated in the base agreement to safeguard users, and the state agency's "per order" purchase limit is governed by the contract's "maximum transaction amount," which is usually greater than the agency's current delegated purchasing authority limits. The time needed to complete a transaction is typically shorter as well.

"By using leveraged purchasing agreements, agencies can save time because they don't have to do their own bidding, and time equates to money," said Multiple Award Program Manager Skip Ellsworth.

One example of an LPA program is the Western States Contracting Alliance (WSCA). WSCA offers competitively bid master agreements that are available to all state and local government agencies in the 15-state consortium. For California state agencies, WSCA non-information technology (IT) purchases are currently capped at \$500,000 per order, but IT spending is unlimited.

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Other LPA contracting options include:

California Multiple Awards Schedule (CMAS)—“California Multiple Awards Schedule” (CMAS) offers contracts for a variety of products and services at fair, reasonable and competitive prices. The contracts include automotive and mechanical equipment; IT products and services; consulting services; janitorial and laboratory supplies and office furniture. Agencies can pursue price quotes on non-IT products up to a maximum of \$100,000; \$250,000 on non-IT services and up to \$500,000 on IT goods and services.

Master Services Agreements (MSA)—“Master Agreements” have been competitively bid by DGS. A listing of pre-qualified vendors has been established, simplifying the purchasing process for products and services such as e-waste recycling, transcription, office equipment rentals, business and management consulting and IT maintenance and service. Agencies can pursue contracts of up to \$500,000 for non-IT products and services and up to \$1.5 million for IT goods and services.

Software Licensing Program (SLP)—The “Software Licensing Program” (SLP) offers extensive discounts that are negotiated with major software publishers such as Microsoft, McAfee, Oracle and Novell, that are then passed on to the state through SLP contracts established with authorized participating resellers. The typical order limit is \$2 million.

To learn more, visit the “*Contract Options*” link on the DGS Procurement Division’s Web site at www.pd.dgs.ca.gov.

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Hot Wired:

DGS radio installers have the hookup



In an unassuming warehouse north of downtown Sacramento, seven DGS employees spend each day tearing apart sport utility vehicles, trucks, cars and off-road vehicles, only to put them back together again with the lights, sirens and radios that state public safety officers rely on to keep them safe.

Scott Wallace oversees the crew of the DGS Telecommunication Division's Mobile Install unit. Since 1995, DGS has helped state public safety agencies save time and valuable dollars by serving as a one-stop-shop, doing complete Code 3 installations, including lights, sirens, radios, and decals for all state

Photos: (Left) Technician Roger Willis works on a radio package to be installed in a car trunk. (Right) Technician Alan Lane works on control heads for a Parks and Recreation Department Jeep. By: Eric Lamoureux

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public safety and law enforcement vehicles. The California Highway Patrol fleets are the only state vehicles not equipped by the DGS technicians.

On one recent afternoon, Wallace’s team of electronic technicians was installing satellite dishes on new mobile command units for the Office of Emergency Services; outfitting a Jeep with gun cabinets and sirens for the State Parks Department; putting a canine cage in a Dept. of Fish and Game warden’s truck and installing hidden Code 3 emergency lights in two unmarked Dodge Chargers for the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Scott said his team members take pride in their work and appreciate the importance of doing their job right. “You ask any officer what the most important thing is in the car – it is not a gun – it is the radio because he or she can call for help,” said Wallace. “These are officers trying to uphold the law. It is very important that when they roll to a call that their equipment works.”

If you would like to find out how the DGS Telecommunications Radio Installation unit can help meet your public safety radio needs, e-mail [Scott Wallace](mailto:Scott.Wallace@dgs.ca.gov).



Video: Scott Wallace demonstrates the canine "hot and pop" unit.



Video: Jeff Howell of the Office of Emergency Services talks about working with the DGS technicians.

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STATE PRINTING AND PUBLISHING

Newsletters 2.0



Most departments want them, but too often the money is not in the budget to produce them. Today though, the newsletter has been reinvented at the DGS Office of State Publishing. Whether it is an internal publication to share information with employees or an external new source to bring constituents up to speed, OSP's new

electronic newsletters can keep customers informed at a reduced cost while helping the environment.

This newsletter, "Notes from the Zig," is a perfect example. This completely electronic newsletter eliminates the time and cost of printing and mailing and opens the door for incorporating online links, video elements and e-mail links. The electronic format also allows a newsletter to be any size, not tying content to printing requirements.

Distribution is simple, with no more costly mailings. Each reader receives a link to the online publication and navigates a user friendly Adobe PDF file, jumping easily from story to story. Sharing with colleagues via e-mail is also convenient.

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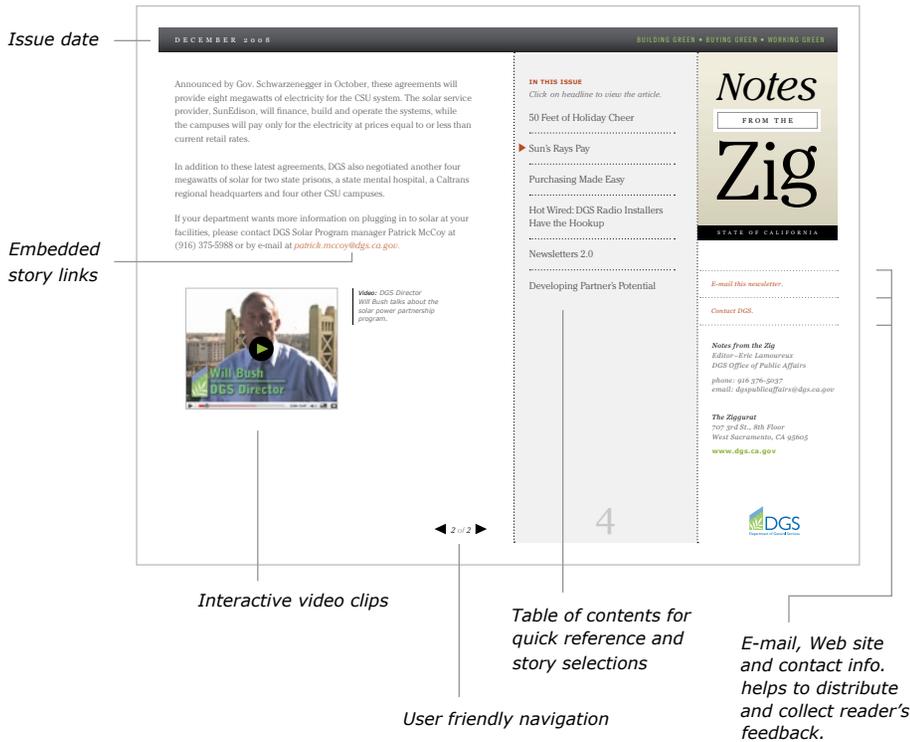
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Photo: Electronic newsletter cover pages for the first issues of "Connections," DGS' employee publication, and "Notes from the Zig."

The OSP design team can develop a template for a department's graphic designer to use or they can do the complete layout and design for each issue. Contact OSP's *Ghedeon Bere* for more information and fees.

Browse the OSP-designed DGS "Notes from the Zig" and "Connections" on the *DGS Newsletter Web site*.



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REAL ESTATE SERVICES

Developing Partner Potential



Since 1959, the *Fairview Developmental Center* in Costa Mesa has provided support and services to individuals with developmental disabilities. Soon, it will be the site of new housing opportunities to meet the needs of developmentally disabled clients and the

broader community. The site is on an unused portion of property and the project is a creative collaboration between the developmental center, the community and developers.

The project, a collaboration between the *Department of Developmental Services* and the DGS, is seeking developer proposals to build up to 320 affordable housing units on 10 acres of the center's property through a long-term lease. The departments' goals are to develop underutilized property and to promote independence for DDS consumers in the community. The efforts also aim to meet statewide and local community affordable housing goals.

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The project's goal is construction of 320 units, 20 percent of which will be for individuals with developmental disabilities. The project also will include a minimum of 40 units each for low and very low income and 80 units for people with moderate incomes.

The DGS Real Estate Services Division (RESD) is continually working to help state agencies ensure that all properties are utilized to maximum benefit. In addition to partnering with DDS, DGS is considering additional projects at California Department of Veterans Affairs facilities and is working on similar property enhancement projects for the Department of Motor Vehicles.

For more information, visit the [RESD Asset Management Branch](#) Web site.

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