



Construction begins in heating, cooling plant for state buildings

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Construction starts on state's new Central Plant in Sacramento.

- Will handle the Capitol building plus 22 others
- Designed to be a 'green' building

Construction started today on a new Central Plant that will provide the heating and cooling needs of the State Capitol and 22 other state-owned buildings in downtown Sacramento's Capitol Area.

The new Central Plant is expected to achieve the "Leadership in Energy Efficiency and Environmental Design" gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, says Consumer Services Agency Secretary Rosario Marin.

"Four years ago the governor challenged us to demonstrate leadership in energy efficiency and environmental responsibility in state buildings," says Ms. Marin. "This new Central Plant will do just that and help reduce the impact state facilities have on climate change."

The existing Central Plant, built in 1968 at 625 Q Street, 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. In the nearly 40 years since it was built, the facility has nearly reached its operating capacity as construction of new state buildings in the Capitol area has increased nearly 24 percent, according to Ms. Marin's office.

The \$181 million project is expected to take 30 months and will include the recycling of much of the demolition material from the old Central Plant.

The new Central Plant will incorporate the latest technological advances to help California's state government reduce energy costs and reduce the amount of water needed within the plant. It will have cooling towers for extracting heat from the buildings, eliminating the need to use well water to extract the heat from the buildings and the need to discharge the same water into the Sacramento River.

The plant will also feature a 140 foot tall, 4.25 million gallon, thermal energy storage tank. With the tank in place, DGS will be able to produce reserves of chilled water during off-peak energy demand times.

Overall, the new Central Plant will use only 1/10th of the water needed by the existing plant, the state says.

Solar panels will also be installed on the new facility to power the energy needs of the office space within the plant.

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