

RE-36

Office of the Secretary
December 5, 2002

TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON GROUNDS AND BUILDINGS

ITEM FOR ACTION

For Meeting of December 13, 2002

REQUEST FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY AND POLICY RECOMMENDATION FOR A SYSTEM-WIDE GREEN BUILDINGS POLICY AND CLEAN ENERGY STANDARD

Regent Ligot-Gordon recommends that the Committee on Grounds and Buildings recommend to The Regents that the Office of the President shall:

- 1) Develop a feasibility study, for presentation at the May 2003 Regents meeting, for the adoption of a Green Building policy and Clean Energy standard for all new and renovated buildings. The feasibility study should consider:
 - A policy that all renovated and newly constructed buildings be designed and constructed using the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) building rating system developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), and be certified at the LEED Silver level or higher.
 - A policy that all renovated and newly constructed buildings shall be powered by 50% clean energy, 25% of which will be generated on site.
- 2) Recommend a Green Building policy and Clean Energy standard for approval by The Regents at its May 2003 meeting. This recommendation shall include input from and coordination with students, faculty, staff, government agencies, other higher education systems, as well as non-governmental organizations.

BACKGROUND

The University of California is the largest university system in the country, maintaining over 90 million square feet of building space to support nearly 400,000 students, faculty, and administrative staff. The new UC Merced campus will bring thousands of new

students and many new buildings into the UC system. With the passage of the school bond and the UC System's projected growth, it is anticipated that the UC system will soon become the single largest source of demand for new construction in the state of California.

The continued increase in the UC student population and the on-going campus expansions will also magnify the ecological footprint of the UC system. By implementing a clean energy standard and green building policy, the UC System has the opportunity to lead the state and country toward a more responsible future of cleaner air; healthier buildings; increased energy, water, and resource efficiency; and improved levels of climate protection.

Green Building and Clean Energy

The need to establish a clean energy standard and green building policy for the UC system is rooted in the significant environmental impacts that buildings, and the infrastructure that supports them, represent. Traditional buildings consume over 33% of the energy and 66% of the electricity generated in the United States. They also produce over 25% of greenhouse gas emissions, generate about 30% of the state's solid waste materials, and affect the health, comfort, and productivity of building occupants, particularly when indoor contaminants compromise indoor environmental quality.

Use of "clean" or renewable energy sources, such as geothermal, wind, and small hydroelectric power as well as on-site distributed generation sources such as solar or fuel cells to power buildings will decrease greenhouse gas emissions and reduce global climate change impacts. Sustainable buildings also make much more efficient use of energy, water and other valuable natural resources. They incorporate design and material selection strategies that promote the use of natural light and cleaner air, resulting in healthier and more productive offices, classrooms and laboratories.

The U.S. Green Building Council (<http://www.usgbc.org/>) developed the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) building rating system as a tool to promote the economic, resource, and social benefits of sustainable buildings. The LEED building rating system focuses on site selection, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, indoor environmental quality, materials and resources, and innovative design strategies. Buildings that receive LEED™ certification maximize environmental, human resource, and fiscal benefits.

Green Building in California

California State government owns and operates over 189 million square feet of space, and an additional 21 million square feet of leased space, including laboratories, warehouses, office buildings, and maintenance stations. Governor Davis issued two Executive Orders to address the siting and building of state facilities: Executive Order D-16-00 and Executive Order D-46-01.

- Executive Order D-16-00 establishes the Governor’s sustainable building goal: “to site, design, deconstruct, construct, renovate, operate, and maintain state buildings that are models of energy, water and materials efficiency; while providing healthy, productive and comfortable indoor environment and long-term benefits to Californians.” Executive Order D-16 also directs the State and Consumer Services Agency to recommend strategies for incorporating sustainable building practices into the development of state facilities, including leased property.
- Executive Order D-46-01 establishes the criteria the state must use to locate and lease space, including such considerations as proximity to public transit and affordable housing, preservation of historic and architecturally significant structures, economic renewal opportunities, and integration of the community into the process.
- To comply with the Executive Orders, the State and Consumer Services Agency convened an inter-agency Sustainable Building Task Force of representatives from over 40 state agencies. In December 2001, the Task Force released *Building Better Buildings: A Blueprint for Sustainable State Facilities*, a 10-point-plan for successfully incorporating sustainable building practices into the state government capital outlay process.

ATTACHMENT