

Building for the Future, Protecting the Environment

CalPERS Headquarters Expansion
LEED for New Construction Gold Certification



THE CaIPERS BUILDING COMPLEX is a part of our investment portfolio, in addition to being a “home” for employees. Our investment decisions and global leadership to address climate change reflect a commitment to the environment — a commitment that led to a building design goal of obtaining a LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. In 2006, the complex received the prestigious LEED for New Construction Gold Certification.



Green Construction — Better Health by Design

In the United States, the buildings we occupy account for 39 percent of total annual energy use, 40 percent of raw material use, and 14 percent of fresh drinking water use. Buildings also produce 38 percent of the nation’s annual greenhouse gas emissions. Green building technology makes it possible to increase building performance while conserving energy and protecting both the environment and human health. Although green buildings initially cost more to design and construct, in the long-term, they have lower operating costs. As a result of their healthier design, green buildings result in improved employee health, reduced absenteeism, and higher productivity. CalPERS contribution to the larger community is seen in reduced pollution and use of energy resources.





Lincoln Plaza East and West design features lessen the impact on local land and ecology

- The complex is located within ½ mile of light rail and ¼ mile of bus stops to allow employees to take advantage of public transportation.
- Bicycle storage enable staff and visitors to choose an alternative mode of transportation. (A)
- Underground parking reduces the “urban heat island” effect (elevated temperatures radiated from dark, non-reflective surfaces).
- The air conditioner’s waste heat recovery system generates hot water for use throughout the building.
- The window coverings lower automatically in the summer to further reduce heat gain and glare. (B)
- 91 percent of areas used for critical visual tasks have direct access to daylight, which provides the optimal lighting and contributes to the health and well-being of everyone who uses it.
- The design of detached stairwells incorporate energy conservation measures – neither heated during the winter, nor cooled during the summer, they maintain a comfortable temperature year-round. (C)
- A high-efficiency irrigation system and native, drought-tolerant plants help reduce the burden on municipal water supplies. (D)
- More than 2,000 photovoltaic solar panels on the roof generate over three percent of the building’s energy use, sufficient to light the newer buildings’ two underground parking garages. (E)
- Sun shade over the pavilion’s entryway helps to reduce the heat island effect and the heating load. (F)
- Using Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified woods ensures that forests are managed through environmentally responsible practices. (G)
- The adhesives, sealants, paints, carpeting and wood based products used in the complex are rated as low-VOC (volatile organic compound) emitting.



California Public Employees' Retirement System
400 Q Street, Sacramento, CA 95811
888 CalPERS (or **888-225-7377**)
www.calpers.ca.gov

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