

Hi, this is Chris Micheli with the Sacramento government relations firm of Aprea & Micheli and an adjunct professor at McGeorge School of Law. Thanks for joining today's podcast on the Department of General Services.

The Department of General Services, known by its acronym of DGS, is found in California's Government Code in Title 2, Division 3, Part 5.5. Now, Part 5.5 includes quite a number of sections from 14600 to 14985.11, a lot of code sections. Section 14601 establishes DGS in the executive branch of state government and it's placed under the Government Operations Agency. And then as you would expect, it's under an executive officer who is known formally as the Director of the Department of General Services. And of course, the director serves at the pleasure of the governor, but he or she is also confirmed by the state senate.

Government Code Section 14600 sets forth a number of legislative declarations, which gives insight into the role and responsibilities of DGS. A centralization of business management functions and services of state government is necessary to take advantage of specialized techniques and skills, provide uniform management practices, and ensure a continuing high level of efficiency and economy.

In addition, Section 14600 also provides this additional insight from the legislature. A Department of General Services is created to provide centralized services including, but not limited to, planning, acquisition, construction, and maintenance of state buildings and property; purchasing; printing; agricultural services; administrative hearings; government claims; and accounting services. The Department of General Services shall develop and enforce policy and procedures and shall institute or cause the institution of those investigations and proceedings as it deems proper to assure effective operation of all functions performed by the department and to conserve the rights and interests of the state. Quite a number of legislative declarations, but it obviously gives you some insights into DGS and its role.

Pursuant to Section 14612 of the Government Code, DGS is committed to achieving improved levels of performance and they are specifically required to provide services that the legislature or governor requires state agencies to purchase from the department and to provide services that state agencies are not required to purchase from the department, but that the department can provide on a cost-competitive basis. Basically, the way DGS explains it, they view themselves as the business manager for the State of California because of all the services that they provide dealing with procurement; acquisitions; real estate management design in building of state buildings; transportation; printing and design, even web services for state departments; legal services; building standards. They do a lot related to fire and life safety, designing and constructing K through 12 public schools and the community colleges, etc.

DGS also has an annual strategic planning process in which all of their different divisions, which I'll go through in a minute, and individual offices, they identify certain selected strategic goals. And then of course, as part of that planning, figure out how to achieve those within the upcoming year. They publish these goals in their annual strategic plan and post it on their website.

DGS has the following divisions and offices, including Procurement Division, Real Estate Services, Facilities Management Division. The State Architect is housed there. The Office of Administrative Hearings is actually housed within DGS. They have the Interagency Support Division, including Fleet and Asset Management, the Office of State Publishing, the Building Standards Commission, the Commission on Disability Access. Then in their Administration Division, they have their Enterprise Technology Solutions, the Office of Fiscal Affairs, Human Resources, Business Acquisition Services, and Risk and Insurance Management. Then, of course, there's the DGS Director's Office that includes Sustainability, Audit Services, Legal Services, Planning and Research, Legislative Affairs, and Public Affairs.

They have numerous statutory duties under Part 5.5 of the Government Code as well as extensive powers and duties and responsibilities that are specified under the Government Code. Again, just to give you a flavor for what's under the government code, DGS is responsible for government claims duties, state property, buildings and grounds, state projects, state burial grounds, state land settlement, state building energy retrofits, Rector dam, integrated pest management, administration of state records, state forms management, the California State Contracts Register, small business procurement and contracting, the Office of the State Printer, the Golden State Financial Marketplace Program, the Office of the State Architect, purchasing of prescription drugs for government agencies, and the Commission on Disability Access. It's a pretty wide variety of roles and responsibilities that have been placed on the Department of General Services by way of California's Government Code.

This podcast just gives you a broad overview of some of those responsibilities and roles that DGS plays in California state government. Thanks for joining today's podcast. Hope you enjoyed it.