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California's "Greenest" Government Building Features Energy-Efficient Windows and Curtainwall by Wausau

Wausau, Wis. – Employees of the State of California working in Sacramento's Capitol Area East End Complex have two things to boast about: not only is the complex the largest office project ever undertaken by the State of California Department of General Services, it's also the "greenest" building ever developed by the State, and received a Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award for sustainable facilities.



The 1.1 million-square-foot Capitol Area East End complex, which features energy-efficient windows and curtainwall from Wausau Window and Wall Systems, was developed as a design/build project by Los Angeles-based architects Johnson Fain Partners and the specially formed team of Clark/Gruen – consisting of The Clark Construction Group, Inc. of Oakland, Calif. and Gruen Associates of Los Angeles. Minneapolis-based Enclos Corp. served as the glazing contractor for the project.

Because the State of California planned to use this project to showcase a variety of sustainable features, the design criteria for the project was very clear: all aspects of the building would need to comply with – or exceed – the standards set by California Building Code Title 24 for energy efficiency and green buildings. In fact, the State hoped to exceed the standards by 30%, saving California taxpayers \$400,000 annually in energy savings alone.

To achieve the State's goals, the design/build team developed a broad set of strategies, which included integrating energy-efficient glass into the building's façade to maximize the use of daylight. As high-performance, energy-efficient windows and curtainwall were an integral part of the building's design, Enclos called on Wausau early in the design process to meet the building's demanding requirements.

"Wausau's involvement was an important part of the project's success," says David Sauld, Enclos Corp. project manager for Capitol Area East End Complex. "They provided a quality product, and their insight helped us navigate through some challenging engineering issues."

The \$300 million complex consists of four buildings that flank Capitol Avenue Park. Set on four connecting blocks, each of the building's entrances face one another. Public amenities include retail space, a community police station, a 300-seat auditorium and a childcare center with an outdoor play area.

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Throughout the campus' exterior, a non-reflective high-performance glass curtainwall maximizes the positive benefits of sunlight, conserve energy and provide visual transparency to existing nearby buildings. Under the direction of Enclos Corp., Wausau provided a combination of four custom unitized, fixed and punched window/curtainwall systems for each of the four interconnected structures and their entrances.



Contributing to the office complex's overall energy-efficient design, the windows, made from high-performance glass helping reduce solar heat gain thereby reducing the building's cooling load. This spectrally selective, low-E glass allows most of the visible light to penetrate the building while blocking nearly all of the unwanted warmth generated by infrared frequencies. To maximize light penetration into the buildings, open workstations (cubicles) have been placed along the perimeter of the floor plan and interior offices include windows that take advantage of the available natural light.

Numerous other energy-efficient and conservation measures were designed and built into the project. Different features were used in each building to ensure that a full range of options could be evaluated under working conditions for future State office buildings. Other sustainable building highlights of the project are:

- A 1930's eight-unit apartment building, which previously occupied the site, was moved to a new location within Sacramento rather than demolished;
- Photovoltaic panels used to collect solar power and provide shaded parking;
- Eighty-five percent of construction waste – more than 12,500 tons – diverted from landfills by reuse and recycling;
- The strongest indoor air quality strategies ever used by the State of California;
- Thirty thousand-square feet of gray marble from the historic Library and Courts Buildings recycled and used in the ground floor lobbies;
- Water efficiencies such as low-flow plumbing fixtures and plant-segregated irrigation systems;
- Finishes, furnishings, and other materials chosen to enhance indoor air quality.

More than 6,000 employees from the State departments of education, general services and health services occupy this enormous, energy-efficient showcase.

Nationally recognized for its innovative expertise, Wausau Window and Wall Systems is an industry leader in engineering window and curtainwall systems for commercial and institutional construction applications. For 50 years, Wausau has worked closely with architects, building owners and contractors to realize their vision for aesthetic beauty and lasting value, while striving to maintain the highest level of customer service, communication and overall satisfaction.

Wausau is a part of Apogee Enterprises, Inc., a publicly held, U.S. corporation. For more information on Wausau Window and Wall Systems, please call 877-678-2983, or visit www.WausauWindow.com.

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