

August 9, 2016

Subject: Location Efficiency and State Facility Siting

Reporting Period: April 12, 2016—August 9, 2016

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Recommended Action:

For information only – no action required.

Background:

“Location efficiency” – previously not a part of the State’s efforts to “green” State facilities - refers to the effect of a facility’s location on travel behavior and related environmental impacts such as GHG emissions from transportation. An efficient location generates fewer vehicle miles of travel, reduces a user’s commute burden, promotes a healthy and attractive workplace environment, and can help attract and retain current and future generations of younger State employees who statistically prefer less auto-reliant environments.

The U.S. General Services Administration’s (GSA) Smart Location Calculator (SLC; <https://www.slc.gsa.gov>) - created in response to a presidential executive order directing federal agencies to consider location efficiency in siting new facilities - provides a measure of location efficiency that reflects the impact of a location on employee commuting relative to the surrounding region. The resulting 0 – 100 score is a composite number which takes into account factors including a site’s accessibility via transit, biking and walking; regional mode share; demographics; the mix of uses in the surrounding neighborhood; and others. The SLC is open-source and requires no previous background to use.

For about a year, Suzanne has been leading efforts, in coordination with the Government Operations Agency (GovOps) and the Department of General Services (DGS), to institutionalize location efficiency as a core component of the State facility siting processes and State agency mandatory reporting on sustainability.

Update:

Because of SGC’s leadership and a successful sustained partnership with GovOps and DGS, location efficiency was recently adopted as a standard criterion in all DGS leases. Specifically, DGS has committed to using the Smart Location Calculator as a regular part of the leasing process to:

- Broaden the specified property search area for available leases to include the highest location-efficient areas of a given region;
- Include location efficiency maps and scores for all potential lease options when presented to agencies; and
- Report on how location efficiency criteria were included in the search process at final selection of a leased property.

Additionally, GovOps recently updated the State Green Buildings website - the statewide platform for monitoring progress toward the governor's executive order on green buildings (EO B-18-12) – to include location efficiency scores for all State-owned facilities, even though location efficiency was not part of the original executive order. (See: <http://www.greenbuildings.ca.gov/about/les/>)

On June 9, 2016, the governor's Sustainability Task Force - composed of agency leadership - convened at the Governor's Office and were given instructions on incorporating location efficiency criteria as an additional reportable metric for state-owned buildings from now on.