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Portland Water Bureau's Interstate Facilities Awarded Prestigious LEED Green Building Certification

The Portland Water Bureau's two new buildings at its Interstate Maintenance Facility have been awarded the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Gold certification by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC).

These buildings, built with efficiency, conservation, and earthquake resilience features, achieved LEED certification for implementing strategies and solutions aimed at achieving high performance in sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality. LEED is the foremost program for the design, construction, and operation of green buildings.

"LEED certification identifies the Water Bureau's Interstate Facility as a showcase example of sustainability and demonstrates their leadership in transforming the building industry," said Mahesh Ramanujam, president and CEO, USGBC. "Buildings that achieve LEED certification are lowering carbon emissions, creating a healthier environment, and reducing operating costs while prioritizing sustainable practices."

The project was designed and constructed to meet the City's Green Building Policy, with the goal of attaining LEED Gold certification. The project includes a solar array, eco (green) roof, water and energy conservation design, construction, and equipment.

Among the green features is a unique system of stormwater infiltration galleries that retains all stormwater on site and slowly releases it into the ground. No stormwater on the site enters the city sewer system. As a result of careful design, the two buildings' overall energy expenses are projected to be reduced by 30 percent.

Contractors for the design and construction of the project were MWA Architects, Hoffman Construction Company, ABHT Structural Engineers, Lango Hanson Landscape Architects, Interface Engineering, KPF Consulting Engineers, and MEC Electrical Engineering.

One new building is the Shops, Stores, and Warehouse building which supports the maintenance, construction, and operations for the complex infrastructure that delivers drinking water to the Portland metro area. It is rated a Category 4 Essential Facility by the International Building Code. This means that when a major earthquake or other catastrophic event hits our region, the building will remain functional so that Water Bureau staff will be able to focus on restoring Portland's water service.