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ISSUE 5 | VOLUME 4 | NOVEMBER 2015

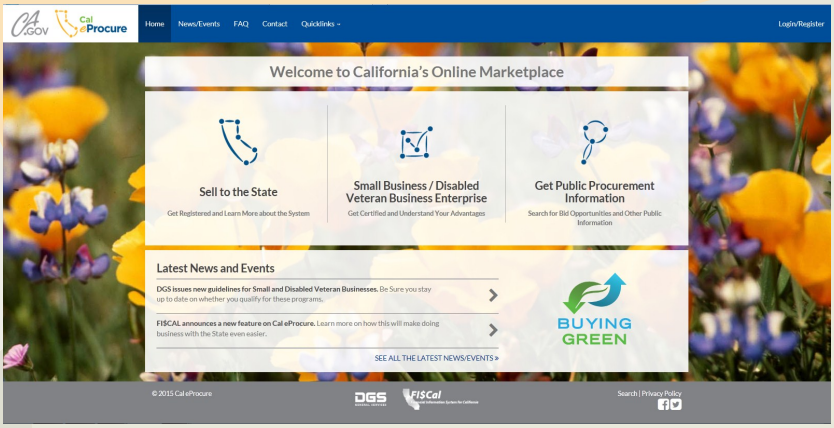
FI$Cal Focus

FI$CAL: TRANSPARENCY. ACCURACY. INTEGRITY.

CONTRACTED FISCAL SERVICES ANNOUNCES MONTH END CLOSE IN FI$CAL!

The Department of General Services (DGS) Contracted Fiscal Services (CFS) team is very excited to announce that they have successfully closed the month of July for the fiscal year 2015-16 in the Financial Information System for California (FI$Cal) for the first five CFS Wave 2 Departments. The first department was closed on October 13 and marks DGS/CFS as the first Wave 2 team to successfully close the month of July in the FI$Cal system. Since the first department, DGS/CFS has successfully closed four more departments. The DGS/CFS team is made up of 46 individuals who perform the accounting functions for 41 individual State entities; 32 of which went live August 12. The team began attending Month End Close labs at FI$Cal on October 1. The DGS/CFS team put in extensive hours including weekends and made extraordinary efforts to complete this task. This success could not have happened without support from many different Project staff as well as the agencies themselves. We would like to specifically acknowledge the efforts of Lydia Hui, Carmen Fernandes, and Darcey Allen from the FI$Cal Project team; as well as Rhonda Basarich, Fee Chang, Sandy Wong-Guan, Erna Balanay, Hoa Nguyen, Eugene Louie, and Amy Chung from the DGS/CFS team. The DGS/CFS team would like to say "Thank you!" to each and every one on the FI$Cal Project for helping achieve this milestone.

Cal eProcure Project Update—How Agile Are You?



How "Agile" are you? In the case of the Cal eProcure Project, the project team had to be extremely "Agile" in order to design and develop within 14 weeks a new vendor portal that will be user-friendly, contemporary, work with any mobile device, and connect seamlessly to PeopleSoft without degrading performance. Plus it has to operate within the new CalCloud environment. Agile development methodology is an alternative to traditional project management. According to Sara Davis, the project manager during the Cal eProcure design and development phase, the emphasis was placed more on empowering people to collaborate and make team decisions. Collaboration in this case has been tricky because the team members are located at numerous different locations and even in different countries. Team members came from the Department of General Services, FI$Cal, Accenture, CalCloud staff at the Department of Technology, and InFlight developers located in Canada. Thanks to everyone on the design teams and to our sponsors who contributed toward our common goal. The Cal eProcure portal is now in the capable hands of the State and Accenture testing teams and headed for implementation in December 2015!

FAREWELL BARBARA!

After six years with FI$Cal, Project Executive Barbara Taylor will be leaving the Project. Barbara joined FI$Cal in January 2009 as the Partner Business Executive for the Department of Finance (DOF) and was appointed FI$Cal's Project Executive in January 2012. Prior to starting at FI$Cal, Barbara spent nine years with DOF working as a Budget Analyst, Principal Program Budget Analyst, and Assistant Program Budget Manager. While at DOF she saw firsthand the necessity for the State to have a more integrated financial management system environment and her DOF background has been invaluable in getting FI$Cal where it is today. Barbara's last day with FI$Cal will be November 20. We wish her well on this next phase of her state career.

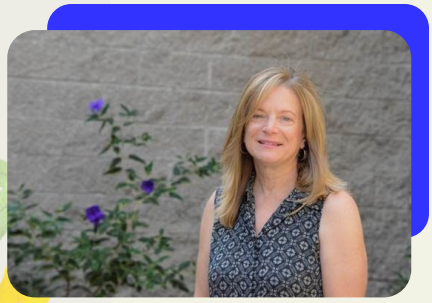
FI$Cal 2016 Release Kickoff

On Friday, October 30, FI$Cal hosted a kickoff event to provide departments a preview of their upcoming implementation. The kickoff provided departments with the following information:

- An overview of the FI$Cal solution, including key processes and functionality
- An update on the new FI$Cal implementation approach
- An overview of key implementation activities and timing
- Information on how to establish a Department Implementation Team

FI$Cal is eager to begin working with all departments!

Department of Finance and State Controller's Office Partner Business Executives Retiring



Terrie Tatosian, the Partner Business Executive (PBE) for the Department of Finance (DOF) for FI$Cal, will soon be retiring! Here is Terrie's perspective: I have been with the state 38.5 years and am officially retiring November 24. I will be returning as a retired annuitant in January 2016, to continue representing DOF on the FI$Cal Project. I couldn't make a permanent break from the Hyperion implementation with all the work yet to be accomplished. It just didn't feel like the right thing to do, and I want to be here to continue supporting the staff who have worked so diligently to make FI$Cal a success. This represents the first time in my state career that I am afforded the luxury of taking the holidays off, having worked for DOF and FI$Cal over many years, the holidays are an extremely busy time. I plan to travel extensively, spend more time with my beloved husband (Ed), daughter (Anahid) and canine (Bentley). Bentley and I will be hiking more of beautiful California and participating in agility, fly ball and therapy training. I plan to visit hospitals and schools with Bentley, when he earns his Therapy Dog Certification. I also plan to volunteer with children and animals, likely in animal rescue and therapeutic horseback riding for disabled children. Doing so, I can combine my love for children and animals. I also plan to spend much more time at the gym.

Dorothy Cottrill, the PBE on the FI$Cal Project for the State Controller's Office (SCO), will be retiring on November 19 after 42 years of state service, most of which was with SCO. She started her state career in 1972 with the Department of Justice working as a Clerk Typist I, making $440 a month. Dorothy's husband is also retiring and they have many plans in the upcoming months starting off with a trip to Hawaii on December 3 to do maintenance work on the battleship USS Missouri in Pearl Harbor. The USS Missouri was where the Japanese signed the surrender documents that ended World War II in 1945. They will be painting, chipping, sanding and doing other chores needed to keep the Missouri serviceable as a museum ship. Their work on the ship includes spending the night on the ship on December 6 and attending the Pearl Harbor Day memorial service at the USS Arizona on December 7. In March they are planning a trip to Tucson, Arizona that includes going to spring training for the San Francisco Giants. In June, Dorothy and her husband will be celebrating their 39th wedding anniversary by taking a trip that will take them through Dunsmuir, California and on to Oregon to stay at Crater Lake. The trip will culminate with camping in a Yurt in Brookings, Oregon. Dorothy has a retirement "to do" list that she has been keeping for a couple of years that includes over 350 places in the United States that she and her husband would like to visit. She also plans to spend time with her two year old grandson and her new grandchild that is due in November.