

SUBJECT:

Open Data

REFERENCES:

Government Code Sections § 6250-6270, § 11545 and § 11546

State Administrative Manual (SAM) Sections 4819.2, 5160, 5160.1 and 5160.2

BACKGROUND

The Public Records Act, Government Code Sections 6250- 6270, provides public access to information that is collected and maintained by state and local entities, mindful of the right of individuals to privacy. Information is a valuable resource and a strategic asset to state government, its partners, and the public. The State of California is committed to unlocking the value of government data to propel innovation, improve the delivery of public services, and empower the people of California while protecting privacy. In order to ensure that state government is taking full advantage of its information resources, Agencies/state entities must manage information as an asset throughout its life cycle to promote openness and interoperability, and to properly safeguard systems and information. Managing government information as an asset will increase operational efficiencies, enhance performance planning, improve services, support mission needs, inform policy decisions, safeguard personal information, and increase public access to valuable government information.

This Open Data policy promotes more accessible, discoverable, and usable data that impacts economic development and improves government services. In addition, open data encourages informed policy decisions, performance planning, research and scientific discoveries, and increased public participation in democratic dialogue. Open data is public data collected by the state through its routine business activities and published in a format that is easy to search, easy to download and easy to combine with other data sets from other sources; it does not include private or confidential data about individuals.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Technology Letter (TL) is to announce:

- Establishment of data.ca.gov, a statewide open data portal created to improve collaboration, expand transparency and lead to innovation and increased effectiveness. While several Agencies/state entities host their own open data portals, data.ca.gov was designed specifically to host open data from more than one agency. Data.ca.gov will link to existing state portals so that all of the state's open data sets can be searched from a central location.
- New SAM Section 5160, provides an overview of the Open Data Policy.
- New SAM Section 5160.1, outlines Open Data Policy requirements for Agencies/state entities to leverage standard metadata when collecting or creating data, adopt effective data asset portfolio management approaches and ensure data privacy and confidentiality are fully protected and secured.
- New SAM Section 5160.2, includes exceptions to the Open Data Policy.
- Updated SAM Section 4819.2 to include new definitions of "Metadata" and "Open Data".

