January 19, 2012

CITIES AND COUNTIES IN CALIFORNIA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AGENCIES

Dear Director:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is a recipient of federal highway funds. Therefore, Caltrans must comply with federal regulations and implement the Federal Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program. Local Agencies are the sub-recipients of some of these funds. Caltrans, as part of the DBE program, has set an overall goal of 13.5 percent DBE participation for the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2012. This overall goal includes the DBE participation on projects administered by sub-recipients also. For the FFY 2011 (October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011), local agencies achieved less than 6.0 percent DBE participation. This participation falls well short of the overall goal of 13.5 percent. Therefore, the Division of Local Assistance (DLA) is urging local agencies to take the following actions:

- Ensure all work performed by DBEs is being reported.
- Ensure contract goals consider all subcontracting opportunities available for Underutilized DBE.
- Ensure contracts are being awarded to contractors who make a good faith effort (GFE) to meet contract goals.
- Increase race neutral participation through race neutral measures.

Caltrans is committed to meeting the overall goal of 13.5 percent, but can only accomplish this goal if local agencies increase their DBE participation. In order to assist the local agencies with this, DLA has begun providing workshops to local agencies for evaluating GFE and determining contract goals for construction contracts. I encourage you to contact your District Local Assistance Engineer (DLAE) and be active participants in these workshops.

"Caltrans improves mobility across California"
If you have any questions, please contact your DLAE. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

DENIX D. ANBIAH
Chief
Division of Local Assistance
CITIES AND COUNTIES IN CALIFORNIA, et al.
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bc: Mohsen Sultan, Chief, Office of Policy Development and Quality Assurance, Division of Local Assistance
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    Ian Howat, District Local Assistance Engineer, District 2
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    Parminder Singh, District Local Assistance Engineer, District 10
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HW:jl

Typing:Archive:HenryW:DBE Letter to All Agencies

“Caltrans improves mobility across California”