



Office of Civil Rights

From Hong Kong to California

In conjunction with Asian Pacific Heritage Month, Caltrans is spotlighting Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Y & C Transportation Consultants, Inc.

Kwokhung (Dan) Yau was born in Hong Kong in 1959. Sixty years later he is the majority owner of a 15-employee Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) that has earned more than 50 awards from the American Council of Engineering Companies, the American Public Works Association, and the American Society of Civil Engineers, for designing traffic control mechanisms like lighting and traffic signals that keep traveling Californians safe.

“It is very satisfying when a safety project I worked on reduces collision rates,” said Yau. “I feel like I am making a contribution to improve society.”

Yau said he decided to move to California from Hong Kong in 1980 to earn his bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering at California State University, Fresno. He then earned his graduate degree in Transportation Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley.



“I initially came to California for college, but then I found a job after graduate school,” Yau said. “My employer at TJKM Transportation Consultants, Inc. liked my work so much, he sponsored me to be a permanent resident.”

Since then, he and another Hong Kong native, Kin Chan, founded Y & C Transportation Consultants, Inc. In the beginning, he said the biggest challenge was finding ways to team up with prime consultants, but once he certified his business with Caltrans as an Asian Pacific DBE, there were more opportunities. He also networked with large firms through the American Public Works Association and the American Council of Engineering Companies.

“If Firm A used us and talked about the job we did with Firm B, Firm B would then bring us on board,” Yau said. “Without the Caltrans DBE program, the prime firms may not have had the incentive to team with us.”

Yau’s disadvantaged business has improved traffic control mechanisms on projects like the U.S. Highway 50/Watt Avenue Interchange in Sacramento County and the I-680 Express Lanes Project in Alameda and Santa Clara counties.

To get certified as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise visit [Caltrans' Website](#).