



Office of Civil Rights

From Humble Beginnings to Highway Projects: Miguel Quiroz Builds a Business with Concrete Results

Caltrans Office of Civil Rights spotlights Hispanic Disadvantaged Business Quimu Contracting, Inc. owner Miguel Quiroz as part of a series showcasing Caltrans' subcontractors' diversity.

Miguel Quiroz always dreamed of becoming a contractor. Today, that dream has poured its foundation into something far more substantial.

Quiroz, 58, is the founder and owner of Quimu Contracting, Inc., a small, Hispanic-owned business that has grown from modest beginnings into a certified [small business](#) and [Disadvantaged Business Enterprise \(DBE\)](#) that upgrades infrastructure across Northern California. The company handles concrete work, excavations, demolitions, steel structures, and more.



"I never thought I would be where I am today," said Quiroz. "I just wanted to survive and live comfortably. The next thing I know, I got a little more than I need to live."

The federal [Disadvantaged Business Enterprise \(DBE\) program](#) outlined in the [49 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 26](#), aims to level the playing field for small businesses, whose owners have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice or cultural bias within American society because of their identities as members of groups and without regard to their individual qualities. A disadvantaged firm owner can be a woman, African American, Hispanic American, Native American, Asian-Pacific American, or Subcontinent Asian-Pacific American, and anyone who can prove individual discrimination. Caltrans 2025-2027 federal fiscal year goals are to spend at least 21.35 percent of all federal highway program dollars with DBEs.

According to Caltrans' October 2024 to January 2025 Commitment at Award report, Quimu Contracting was awarded \$695,308 as a DBE Prime contractor.

In May 2025, Quiroz removed concrete, added asphalt, and redesigned the Interstate 80 onramp at Madison Avenue in Sacramento. It's one of many recent projects marking his firm's growing footprint on

California's transportation network.

"Ninety percent of my work is with Caltrans," he said. "My brother and I went in on my first Caltrans **Minor B project** in 1995. We made \$2,800. At the time, we were bondable up to \$30,000. Now I'm bondable up to \$5 million."

Before founding Quimu Contracting in 2002, Quiroz worked for a Bay Area construction company that handled Caltrans jobs. That early exposure helped him learn the ropes and eventually launch his own firm.

Despite the company's growth, Quiroz remains grounded. He prefers to keep his crew small — no more than six employees — and credits his success to persistence, discipline, and taking advantage of federal DBE programs designed to help small businesses access public contracts.

"I found a good niche of what I do," he said. "I just go to the Caltrans [webpage](#) and see the jobs there."

Quiroz estimates he wins about one out of every ten bids he submits. Still, he's no stranger to the unpredictable nature of the industry.

"A month ago, I didn't get any bids, but then I got six out of seven jobs," he said. "That's how it is sometimes."

Originally from a large family with 15 siblings, many of whom still live in the Dixon and Sacramento area, Quiroz says he's grateful for how far he's come — and he's eager to help others along the way.

His advice to aspiring entrepreneurs? Be persistent, return all phone calls and emails, and don't give up.

"It takes years in the beginning," he said, "but eventually your efforts will pay off."

Visit Caltrans' Civil Rights program webpage to get certified as a [Disadvantaged Business Enterprise](#), or visit the Department of General Services [Cal eProcure](#) website for information on [Small Business Certification](#).