

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Be energy efficient!*

March 26, 2009

Cities and Counties
Metropolitan Planning Organizations
Regional Transportation Planning Agencies

Dear Transportation Partner:

This is to follow up on the letter from the California Department of Transportation's (Department) Division of Local Assistance (DLA), dated March 4, 2009, regarding the mandatory Race Conscious (RC) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program. The letter stated that effective immediately, local agencies receiving federal funds must begin transitioning to the new RC DBE Program. It further stated that all contracts awarded after June 2, 2009, shall include the RC DBE requirements.

On March 20, 2009, I met with 35 minority and women trade organizations as part of our regular Small Business Council (SBC) meeting. They were concerned that a huge portion of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds may get awarded without RC DBE requirements prior to June 2, 2009. To respond to the concerns raised by the SBC and the legislature, I am encouraging all local agencies to implement the RC DBE provisions, to the greatest extent possible, within 60 days of apportionment. I have also directed the Department's DLA to aid local agencies in meeting this goal, and we will continue to provide detailed guidance as necessary to ensure success.

DLA has begun providing RC DBE workshops throughout the State. During the month of April, additional RC DBE training will be provided through the University of California, Berkeley, Institute of Transportation Studies (ITS) Tech Transfer Program. ITS will announce the details of this training in the next few days. I encourage you to participate in these workshops and trainings.

If you have any questions, please contact your District Local Assistance Engineer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Kempton", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

WILL KEMPTON
Director