



# OBEO NETWORK

Office of Business and Economic Opportunity (OBEO)

*OBEO Mission: Promote equal opportunity in Caltrans programs, services, and activities*

*OBEO Vision: A reliable partner that consistently provides excellent customer service and quality products through an innovative workforce*

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## OUTREACH EVENTS

Visit the OBEO's outreach calendar to learn about upcoming small business events throughout the state. Events include:

- Small Business Council Meetings
- Prime Contractor Training Sessions
- Mandatory Pre-Bids and Pre-Bid Conferences
- Free Workshops and Networking Opportunities

[www.dot.ca.gov/hq/bep/calendar2.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/bep/calendar2.htm)

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## Statewide Small Business Council: A Valued Connection

By Carole Ching

Since 1994, Caltrans' Statewide Small Business Council (SBC) has worked collaboratively with division and district staff to advocate for the utilization of small businesses in state and federal contracting and procurement activities.

The SBC is comprised of representatives from business trade associations throughout the state (see below). Six times a year, the SBC meets with representatives from Caltrans divisions—OBEO, Construction, Engineering Services, Local Assistance, and Procurement and Contracts—to discuss business practices and evaluate opportunities to increase Small Business (SB), Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE), and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) participation. Members of the public are also welcome to attend. This forum provides a unique opportunity for participants to

provide feedback about Caltrans policies and practices, formulate strategies to mitigate barriers to SB, DVBE, and DBE participation, and recommend improvements. SBC members also play a vital role in communicating Caltrans policy and programmatic information to their member organizations and constituents.

The current structure of the statewide SBC includes three standing committees—Construction, Local Assistance and Professional Services, and Commodities—as well as an ad hoc committee that focuses on African-American DBE participation. These committees allow for more detailed exploration and analysis of SB, DVBE, and DBE issues within and across Caltrans functional areas.

Caltrans' partnership with the SBC has contributed to increased transparency, improved communication practices, and

promoted accountability within the SB, DVBE, and DBE programs. In addition, the SBC has directly influenced the formation of district and/or regionally-focused SBCs whose scope, purpose, and objectives are complimentary in nature.

The SBC's operating guidelines provide a detailed framework for business operations, including minimum qualifications for members and instructions for how to apply. All SBC members serve four-year terms, and recruitment is conducted throughout the year and managed by the OBEO.

Visit the OBEO's dedicated SBC web page at [www.dot.ca.gov/hq/bep/small\\_business\\_council/index.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/bep/small_business_council/index.htm) to review the operating guidelines, meeting schedule, and meeting record archive.

For more information about the SBC's operations, contact Carole Ching, Council Coordinator, at [carole.ching@dot.ca.gov](mailto:carole.ching@dot.ca.gov).

## STATEWIDE SBC MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

San Francisco Bay Area Small Business Council	San Francisco African American Chamber of Commerce
Mexican American Business & Professional Association	Asian American Architects and Engineers-SoCal
American Council of Engineering Companies-CA	Asian Business Association
Hispanic Suppliers Association	Asian American Architects and Engineers
Chinese American Construction Professionals	Women Construction Owners and Executives, CA
Women Construction Owners and Executives, USA	California Community Connection Corporation
Elite SDVOB Network	Latin Business Association
Women Construction Coalition	Black Business Association
Hispanic Engineers Business Corporation	Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Sacramento Black Chamber of Commerce	Construction Management Association of America-SoCal
San Joaquin County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	Disabled Veteran Business Alliance
Asian Business Community Development	California Black Chamber of Commerce
Fresno Chamber of Commerce	

## OBEO Consolidates Title VI Oversight

By Loi Tran

In January 2016, the OBEO designated its Compliance Branch as the primary contact for Title VI Program functions related to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funding. Title VI Program functions were previously assigned to various branches within the OBEO.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and its related statutes, also known as Title VI, prohibits recipients of federal funding from discriminating against a person on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in all programs, services, and activities, regardless of funding source.

The Compliance/Title VI Branch partners with Caltrans divisions and

districts to ensure effective implementation of Title VI requirements through quarterly meetings with District Title VI Liaisons and Program Area Advisors, and through annual compliance reviews. The compliance review process consists of a desk review and on-site visit that includes interviews with emphasis program subject matter experts. Findings are summarized in a report and presented to division or district management. In addition, the Compliance/Title VI Branch handles Title VI complaints, ensuring no person in the State of California is excluded from participation in, denied the benefit of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination in Caltrans programs,

policies, activities, and services on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

Compliance with Title VI requirements extends to Caltrans subrecipients, such as contractors, grantees, and local public agencies. To that end, the Compliance/Title VI Branch continues to partner with Division of Local Assistance staff on conducting Title VI compliance reviews of local public agencies.

For more information, contact the Compliance/Title VI Branch Manager at (916) 324-8379.

## New OBEO Managerial Appointments

By Mario Solis

The OBEO is pleased to announce the promotion of two veteran employees, Sanjay Singh and Alicia Sequeira-Smith, to managerial positions within the division.

Singh, who previously managed the OBEO's Certification Branch, has been appointed to Office Chief over the OBEO's Compliance/Title VI and Program Operations branches. He brings to his new position an extensive knowledge of the DBE, DVBE, and SB

programs, including 22-years' experience in the private sector serving the small business community in various capacities. Singh has spent the past eight years with Caltrans, after beginning his civil service career with the California Student Aid Commission as a Financial Aid and Legislative Analyst.

Sequeira-Smith has been promoted to Branch Chief over the OBEO's Policy and Reports Branch. Sequeira-Smith, who

previously served as one of two Statewide Small Business Specialists in the OBEO's Training and Outreach Branch, has a diverse background that includes stints in Caltrans' District 4 and District 10 offices, and experience in public affairs, marketing, legislative analysis, training, and advocacy. Sequeira-Smith, who began her career with Caltrans in 2007, has served as a DBE/DVBE/SB Advocate within the OBEO since 2009.

## RECENTLY CERTIFIED DBE FIRMS

**CONSTRUCTION:** Val-E-West Construction Inc., Surface Prep and Maintenance, PG Cutting Services, Mims Construction, Harbor Environmental Group Inc., A&A Trucking, J. Cardenas Inc., Hoppy's Sweeping Services; Advanced Traffic Services LLC, Bridgewater Auto Transport LLC, Geolyteca LLC; Indian Head Enterprises, ISos Inc., SJD&B Inc., and the Watering Can.

**ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING:** Concord Engineering Inc., Bridge Environmental, Green Light 88 LLC, Jahn Engineering, and Polytechnique Environmental.

Find more certified DBEs here: [http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/bep/find\\_certified.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/bep/find_certified.htm).

**ASSISTIVE SERVICES:** The OBEO will provide assistive services such as assistive listening devices, sign-language interpreting, real-time captioning, note-takers, reading or writing assistance, or training/meeting materials in Braille, large print, audiocassette, or computer disk for individuals with disabilities. To obtain such services or copies in one of these alternate formats, please contact the OBEO's Training and Outreach Branch at (916) 324-1812. Arrangements should be made at least two weeks prior to the meeting.