



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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Malcolm Dougherty
Caltrans Director

Janice Salais
Assistant Director
OBEO

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OUTREACH EVENTS

Visit the OBEO's "CT Event Calendar" to learn about upcoming small business events throughout the state. Events include:

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

www.dot.ca.gov/hq/bep/calendar2.htm

OBEO Network is published quarterly by the Training and Outreach Branch.

Advocating for Small and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Firms

Advocating for the use of certified Small Business (SB) and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) firms in Caltrans' contracting and procurement activities occurs in many ways. Promoting awareness within a particular Caltrans division or across functional areas, collaborating with other public entities, partnering with industry organizations, engaging business owners—these are all activities in which the OBEO is actively involved as Caltrans' designated SB/DVBE Advocate.

Identifying a departmental advocate for SBs and DVBEs is required by California law. According to California's Government Code and Military and Veterans Code, SB/DVBE Advocates are responsible for promoting and implementing program requirements within their departments that allow for purchasing and contracting opportunities for certified SBs and DVBEs, as well as making available to the SB/DVBE community a broad range of training, technical assistance, and outreach services. Ultimately, the role of an SB/DVBE Advocate is to foster a positive working

relationship between a state department and the SB/DVBE community.

SB/DVBE advocacy is a critical part of the OBEO's mission to promote equal opportunity in Caltrans' programs, services, and activities. The OBEO's two Statewide Small Business Outreach Specialists serve as primary points of contact for SB/DVBE issues, many of which are received via the OBEO's "Small Business Advocate" mailbox, and provide information and resources about how to sell goods or services to Caltrans, how to identify Caltrans contracting and procurement opportunities, how to resolve payment discrepancies, and requirements for the performance of work. The OBEO's Statewide Small Business Outreach Specialists also seek out opportunities to promote awareness of SB/DVBE issues among Caltrans staff who work directly, or indirectly, with SBs and DVBEs, such as Resident Engineers, contract managers, and buyers.

The OBEO supplements its efforts to champion SB/DVBE issues by partnering with other Caltrans divisions and district

offices, as well as external stakeholders, to coordinate the delivery of trainings and outreach events for the SB/DVBE community. At these events, OBEO staff serve as presenters, panel members, and facilitators. The OBEO maintains a calendar of SB/DVBE events on its web site.

The OBEO also participates in SB/DVBE forums and meetings sponsored by the Department of General Services (DGS), California's certifying agency for the SB and DVBE programs. For example, the OBEO attends DGS' quarterly "SB/DVBE Advocates' Workshops," at which advocates from various state departments convene to discuss SB/DVBE program updates, monitor performance metrics, and discuss business process improvements.

The OBEO is committed to exploring avenues for increasing SB and DVBE participation in Caltrans' contracting and procurement activities. For more information about the OBEO's SB/DVBE advocacy services, please contact Mario Solis, Branch Chief, Training and Outreach, OBEO, at (916) 324-1812, or mario.solis@dot.ca.gov.

OBEO Successfully Launches First "Meet the Primes" Event

On Friday, December 2, 2016, the OBEO held its first "Meet the Primes" event, at Caltrans' Lanatt Street Training Center, in Sacramento. This free event attracted more than 20 subcontractors from all over Northern California, who learned firsthand from established prime contractors. The OBEO wishes to thank Granite Construction Company, Vintage Paving, Inc., and Myers and Sons Construction, LP for their participation in this event. For information about future "Meet the Primes" events, please contact Kelly Schluter, Statewide Small Business Outreach Specialist, Training and Outreach Branch, OBEO, at (916) 445-3512, or kelly.schluter@dot.ca.gov.

Caltrans' ADA Program Returns to the OBEO

By Olga Berumen

Caltrans' Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Program returned to the OBEO in mid-2016 following a program restructuring. The ADA Program is responsible for ensuring that Caltrans achieves and maintains departmentwide external ADA compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the ADA, a civil rights law enacted in 1990. An objective of the program is to foster a positive, barrier-free environment for visitors and recipients of Caltrans programs and services in full compliance with state and federal regulations, particularly on Caltrans' public right of way.

Caltrans' ADA Program currently operates under the direction of

Elizabeth A. Dooher, Acting Program Manager and Interim Statewide ADA Coordinator, and consists of two ADA program engineers and two program analysts. Additionally, ADA engineers and program liaisons in each district office work collaboratively to ensure external ADA compliance throughout the state.

Some of the key responsibilities and activities of the ADA Program include:

- ◆ Managing Caltrans' Transition Plan, which documents changes necessary for achieving ADA compliance.
- ◆ Conducting ADA compliance reviews of local public agencies who are recipients of pass-through federal funds.
- ◆ Developing and implementing a

statewide ADA grievance procedure, including a public web site with information about Caltrans' ADA Program and the grievance process, and a database to track progress toward timely resolution of all ADA grievances.

- ◆ Providing training and technical assistance to Caltrans staff to promote consistency when implementing ADA policies and practices. Additionally, providing technical assistance to local public agencies, partners, and stakeholders.

For more information about Caltrans' ADA Program, visit <http://www.dot.ca.gov/ada/index.html>.

OBEO Finds Success With Prime Contractor Training Workshops

By Damon Dorn

In state fiscal year 2015-16, the OBEO's Training and Outreach Branch launched its first training module specifically for prime contractors who bid Caltrans construction contracts. Between November 2015 and June 2016, the Training and Outreach Branch delivered this training to 124 unique prime contractors in Caltrans' 12 district offices.

The Training and Outreach Branch developed this training with input from several Caltrans divisions and prime contractor representatives in order to account for some of the most frequently asked questions, and errors, that arise

during the contracting process. The training material provides prime contractors with an overview of various components of the bidding process, as well as post-award requirements and expectations, including how to identify SB, DVBE, and DBE firms, substitution procedures, and reporting requirements. Each session includes hands-on applications of contract forms and reports to reinforce the information being shared.

During the first year's rollout, the Training and Outreach Branch conducted an unprecedented amount of outreach—over 650 prime contractors were

contacted—to reach the largest possible audience of prime contractors. To increase the number of contacts, the Training and Outreach Branch reached out to local public agencies to obtain bidders' lists to supplement Caltrans bidding records.

The Training and Outreach Branch is currently scheduling prime contractor training sessions for 2017. Confirmed sessions will be added to the "CT Event Calendar" on the OBEO's web site.

For more information about prime contractor training, please contact smallbusinessadvocate@dot.ca.gov.

RECENTLY CERTIFIED DBE FIRMS

CONSTRUCTION: Ava K. Early, Frank Frew General Engineering Contractor, Nevada Barricade & Sign Company, Inc., Oliver Engineering Construction, Skillie Construction Supply and Services, So Cal Pavers, and T. Woody Construction.

ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING: Fortress Structural Engineering, Proteus Consulting, Servitech Inc., Solved Engineering LLC, Southstar Engineering & Consulting, Inc., Studio2g LLP, VTC Thompson Company, and Winston Engineering.

Find more certified DBEs here: http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/bep/find_certified.htm.

To obtain services or copies in an alternate format or language, please contact OBEO at smallbusinessadvocate@dot.ca.gov, or call (916) 324-0449, TTY: 711., or visit the website www.dot.ca.gov.

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