

Riverside County Transportation Commission Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program

I. Objectives

The Riverside County Transportation Commission (Commission) established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 49 CFR Part 26. As a recipient of DOT financial assistance, and as a condition of receiving such assistance, the Commission shall maintain compliance with the provisions of 49 CFR Part 26. Implementation of the DBE program is accorded the same priority as compliance with all other legal obligations incurred by the Commission under DOT-funded agreements. The Commission will not use quotas or set asides in any way in the administration of its DBE program for DOT-assisted contracts. The DBE program is intended to:

- Ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts;
- Create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for DOT-assisted contracts;
- Ensure that the DBE program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
- Ensure that only firms that fully meet 49 CFR Part 26 eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs;
- Help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in DOT-assisted contracts; and
- Assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the marketplace outside the DBE program.

II. Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Commission to ensure that DBEs, as defined under 49 CFR Part 26, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in DOT-assisted contracts and procurements will be administered without discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, or national origin.

The Commission strongly encourages the utilization and participation of certified DBE and Underutilized Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (UDBE) firms in its contracting and procurement activities. The term “Disadvantaged Business Enterprise” or “DBE” means a for-profit small business concern owned and controlled by a socially and economically disadvantaged person(s) as defined in Title 49 Part 26.5. The term “Underutilized Disadvantaged Business Enterprise” or “UDBE” refers to four distinct subgroups within the DBE classification, including: 1) African Americans; 2) Native Americans; 3) Asian-Pacific Americans; and 4) Women, that Caltrans’ 2007 Availability and Disparity Study has determined to have a statistically significant disparity in their utilization in previously awarded transportation contracts.

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III. Commission DBE Liaison Officer

The Commission's Procurement and Assets Manager, Gregory Moore, has been designated the agency's DBE Liaison Officer (DBELO). In that capacity, the DBELO is responsible for implementing all aspects of the DBE program, and can be reached at (951) 787-7141 or via email at gmoore@rctc.org for further information regarding the Commission's DBE program. Interested parties may also contact the DBELO to inquire about the race neutral and race conscious goals and underlying goal methodologies used to establish the Commission's current overall agency goal for DOT-assisted contracts. Project-specific U/DBE goals are determined on a case-by-case basis and will be published in the solicitation package associated with each applicable project.

IV. DBE Certification

The California Unified Certification Program (CUCP) established regional DBE certification clusters designated by geographic boundaries in order to efficiently facilitate statewide DBE certification activities. The CUCP eliminates the need for DBE firms to obtain certification from multiple agencies within the State of California.

To be eligible to participate in Commission solicitations as a DBE firm, interested consultants, suppliers and contractors meeting the general criteria for certification as a DBE must be certified with the CUCP. **Note: The Commission is not a certifying agency.** For more information regarding DBE certification process, please visit the Caltrans Civil Rights website: www.dot.ca.gov/hq/bep. A list of certifying agencies within each regional certification cluster in California may be found at http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/bep/documents/Roster_of_Certifying_Agencies.pdf, and DBE application forms are posted at http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/bep/business_forms.htm.