SMALL BUSINESS PRESS

Leveling the Playing Field to Provide Equal Opportunities for ALL

2025, Issue 1

Civil Rights Deputy Director Welcome



Welcome to the Small Business Press. The Office of Civil Rights publishes this newsletter to share the latest information, pertinent articles, and updates to small, disadvantaged businesses. Small Businesses are vital Caltrans partners, and we cannot rebuild California's transportation system without you. We hope you find this information useful and informative as you head into the heavy summer construction season.

David DeLuz
Deputy Director of Caltrans Office of Civil Rights

Small Business: Key Partners to the Caltrans Mission

By David DeLuz, Deputy Director, Caltrans Office of Civil Rights

Small businesses are the backbone of California's economy, playing a pivotal role in driving innovation, creating jobs, and fostering community development. At Caltrans, we recognize the immense value that small businesses bring to our operations, particularly in heavy highway construction, professional services—including architecture and engineering—and the procurement of essential commodities such as fuel, materials and

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DBE Summit Connects Disadvantaged Businesses

On February 20, 2025, Caltrans hosted its fourth DBE Summit at the Roebbelen Center in Roseville to share knowledge and tools with the 300 socially and

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DBE Summit Connects Disadvantaged Businesses

economically disadvantaged, small businesses that attended.

The DBE Summit was an opportunity to network with a variety of participants, including state and local agencies, prime contractors, and resource providers.

Business owners heard inspiring and valuable insights from California State Transportation Agency Secretary Toks Omishakin, Caltrans Director Tony Tavares, Caltrans District 3 Director Sergio Aceves, Caltrans Office of Civil Rights



California State Transportation Agency Secretary Toks Omishakin shared success stories from the Small Business Press to the crowd of 300 small, disadvantaged businesses at the fourth annual DBE Summit Feb. 20.



Caltrans Director Tony Tavares talked about all the opportunities for small businesses to work on Caltrans contracts.

Deputy Director David DeLuz, and more.

Caltrans presented on "Contracting type and opportunities," "Finding Caltrans Contract Opportunities," "DBE Certification," and "Small Business Development." The California Pollution Control Financing Authority (CPCFA) presented "California Capital Access Programs." CalOSBA shared key resources available through the Success, Capital Access, Leadership for Entrepreneurs (SCALE) network. JP Morgan Chase hosted sessions on, "Power of Capital" and "Marketing in the Digital World." The Department of General Services presented on "How to work with the state" and conducted the Cal eProcure clinic, which showed attendees how to enhance their profiles and elevate their visibility to state agencies.

Attendee, Diane Griffin, President of nosi.biz Inc. said she really appreciated the in-person summit. Likewise, small business owner Kul Bhushan, of Vibnox, said, "I appreciate the effort Caltrans is making to support and engage with DBEs."

More than 50 exhibitors connected with the nearly 300 small business owners at the Roebbelen Center at the DBE Summit in Roseville on February 20.



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Small Business: Key Partners to the Caltrans Mission

construction and office supplies. Our collaboration with these enterprises is not just beneficial; it is essential for the successful completion of our projects.

The Integral Role of Small Businesses in Caltrans Projects

Small businesses infuse agility, specialized expertise, and local insights into our projects. Their ability to adapt and innovate allows for tailored solutions that address specific challenges in highway construction and related services. By partnering with local enterprises, Caltrans ensures that our projects are executed with a deep understanding of the communities we serve, leading to infrastructure that truly meets the needs of all Californians.

Caltrans' Commitment to Small Business Participation

Caltrans has consistently demonstrated its dedication to integrating small businesses into our contracting processes. In the 2023-24 state fiscal year, certified small businesses, certified DVBEs, and certified DBEs were awarded over $1.8 billion dollars in state and Federal Highway Administration funded Caltrans contracts and procurements. This achievement not only surpassed our mandated goal of 25% but also underscored our commitment to fostering small business growth.

Opportunities Across Various Sectors

The scope for small business involvement with Caltrans is vast:

Construction and Maintenance: Small construction firms play a crucial role in building and maintaining California's extensive highway network, ensuring safety and efficiency for all road users.

Professional Services: Enterprises specializing in architecture, engineering, real estate, materials testing and other related services contribute to the planning, design, and execution of infrastructure projects, bringing innovative solutions and specialized knowledge.

Commodities Procurement: Supplying essential materials such as fuel, safety equipment, and construction materials, small businesses ensure that projects proceed without interruption, maintaining the momentum of our infrastructure development.

Enhanced Access and Support

To facilitate greater small business participation, Caltrans offers resources and programs designed to assist these enterprises in navigating the contracting process:

Certification Benefits: Certified small businesses qualify for a 5% bid preference on applicable state contracts and are eligible for benefits under the Prompt Payment Act, including higher interest penalties for late, undisputed invoice payments.

Outreach, Training and Supportive Services: Caltrans collaborates with organizations statewide to host workshops, training sessions, and procurement fairs, educating small businesses on how to effectively engage with state contracting opportunities. A small business development center also provides one-on-one technical assistance.

The Mutual Benefits of Collaboration

Our partnerships with small businesses result in a symbiotic relationship:

For Caltrans: We gain access to a broad pool of contractors and suppliers, fostering competition, innovation, and cost-effectiveness in our projects.

For Small Businesses: Engaging in state contracts provides revenue growth, stability, and the opportunity to build a robust portfolio, enhancing their market competitiveness.

Conclusion

The collaboration between Caltrans and small businesses is a cornerstone of California's infrastructure development. By continuing to support and engage with these enterprises, we not only uphold our commitment to economic prosperity but also ensure the successful delivery of transportation projects that serve all Californians. We encourage small businesses to explore the myriad opportunities available with Caltrans and join us in building a better, more connected California.



Nineteen disadvantaged individuals graduated from Caltrans Heavy Equipment Operator Academy February 28, 2025. This is the first of nine academies planned through December 2027 to fill workforce needs.

First 2025 Heavy Equipment Operator Graduation

On February 28, 2025, Caltrans' Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) program graduated 19 disadvantaged individuals in its first academy of the year at the Steelworkers' Auditorium in Fontana in San Bernardino County.

The academy provides comprehensive, hands-on training through a seven-week curriculum that includes Heavy Equipment Simulators, the union-endorsed foundational Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3), and hands on Land Lab Training operating dozers, loaders, excavators, rollers, skid steers, and backhoes. Graduates received up to 17 industry-recognized certifications, including Blueprint Reading and Construction Math.

A total of 205 individuals applied for the free program designed to meet the growing need for skilled workers in heavy highway construction. Thirty-seven individuals were selected for interviews, and 20 were chosen for the training. Thirteen of these students were from San Bernardino County, in alignment with the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) request to focus on this region. Additionally, two participants were housed through Supportive Services to ensure their success. One student had to leave due to family reasons, but 19 of 20 individuals graduated, which is a 95% graduation rate.

Looking ahead, Caltrans plans to expand the program even further. Over the next three years, Caltrans will host three academies annually across California's northern, central, and southern regions, totaling nine academies by December 2027.

Director's Video to small, disadvantaged businesses.



Pull out Facts

The Caltrans Office of Civil Rights (OCR) sets small, disadvantaged, and disabled veteran business project goals, certifies Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs), oversees the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Infrastructure Program, analyzes data, develops the workforce, provides outreach and supportive services to level the playing field and provide equal opportunities for ALL.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program

Caltrans has an office that certifies businesses that are eligible for the DBE program. This certification helps small, disadvantaged businesses compete fairly on federally funded projects.

For federal fiscal year 2024-25, Caltrans OCR's DBE Certification Office is on pace to process nearly 600 DBE applications and continues to confirm DBE eligibility for over 6,100 firms. Demand for DBE certification increased 13% over FFY 2023-24 totals, and 73% over FFY 2022-23.

In 2024, Caltrans launched its triennial Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA)-sponsored Disparity Studies to measure the availability of minority contractors available to participate on Caltrans' federally assisted contracts and procurements. In December 2024, Caltrans announced its new FHWA DBE overall participation goal of 21.35% for Federal Fiscal Years 2025-2027. The FHWA study analyzed contracts awarded between January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2023. The FTA study is in progress, and is analyzing contracts awarded between October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2024. Disparity Studies are in-depth, year-long examinations that determine the overall federal FHWA and FTA DBE goals on construction, procurement, and services for the next three years. For more information, visit https://dot.ca.gov/programs/civil-rights/disparity-study.

Data

In federal fiscal year 2023-24, Caltrans awarded 344 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) assisted contracts, valued at over $3.9 billion. Of that, Caltrans committed more than $849 million (or 22.76%) of its contracts to DBEs.

"In federal fiscal year 2024-25 (October 1, 2024, through January 31, 2025, Caltrans awarded 100 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) assisted contracts, valued at over $1.4 billion. Of that, Caltrans committed more than $322 million (or 22.58%) of its contracts to DBEs."

Between October 1, 2024, and January 31, 2025, Caltrans awarded 100 FHWA- assisted contracts, valued at more than $1.4 billion. Of that, Caltrans committed more than $322 million (or 22.58%) of its contracts to DBEs.

In state fiscal year 2023-24, Caltrans awarded more than $2.5 billion in state-funded contracts. Of that, Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises (DVBE)s were awarded $76.9 million or 3.03%, which meets the 3% participation goal set by Public Contract Code 10115. Certified Small Businesses (SB)s received more than $900 million or 35.5%, surpassing the 25% state participation goal outlined in SB1 and AB 2019.

Between July 1and December 31, 2024. Caltrans expenditures totaled $805 million in state-funded contracts. Of that, DVBEs participated in $21 million or 2.7% of state-funded contracts. Certified SBs received $325 million and participated in 40.5% of state-funded contracts.

Outreach:

Caltrans hosts free educational outreach events throughout the state, including:

- A free "How to Do Business with the State" WebEx workshop from 10 a.m. to noon on May 8, 2025.
- A free "Know Your Small Business Resources" virtual workshop from 12 to 1 p.m. June 25, 2025.
- A free "Make Your Certification Work for You" virtual workshop from 12 to 1 p.m. July 23, 2025.

Caltrans also partners on events including:

- Caltrans will partner with Mission Community Services Corporation Women's Business Center to put on a free "Understanding Caltrans Procurement and Service Contracts" Zoom workshop from 12 to 1 p.m. May 28, 2025.
- Caltrans Small Business Council will host its regular meeting virtually and at 111 Grand Avenue in Oakland from 8:30 a.m. to noon, Friday, May 23, 2025, and again virtually only from 8:30 a.m. to noon, Friday, July 18, 2025. For more information, contact small.business.council@dot.ca.gov

For the latest information, visit the Caltrans Office of Civil Rights Calendar of Events.

Building a Stronger Future: Caltrans Tackles Ironworker Shortage with Innovative Training Program

The Federal Highway Administration is awarding Caltrans nearly $260,000 for a statewide Highway Construction Training Program to address the shortage of ironworkers due to the research, tenacity, and thoroughness of Caltrans Office of Civil Rights Workforce Development Center Contract Manager Daron Tarver.

In the grant, Tarver wrote that there will be an average of 9,300 annual job openings for ironworkers over the next ten years on California Highway construction projects.

Industry growth and retirements are predicted to contribute to a shortage of welders by 2027 when the American Welding Society (AWS) estimates a need for 360,000 new ironworkers. In the grant, Tarver noted, that the Associated General Contractors of America reported that it's already hard to find enough ironworkers.

Caltrans expects to launch its Ironworker program this summer. The training allows students to earn an American Welding Society D1.1 certification, while mastering various welding techniques and gaining practical experience with hands-on workshop training and classroom instruction. Once complete, students qualify for entry level positions that pay up to $58,175 a year.

Caltrans Chief of Staff Velessata Clemmons applauded Tarver's efforts to start an ironworker program. She said, "This is an excellent example of what happens when staff take pride in their work."

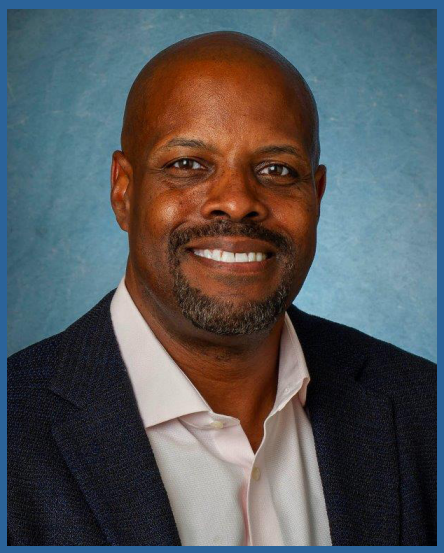
Tarver, who recently earned a master's degree in public administration from Azusa Pacific University, previously worked as a Federal Criminal Investigator in San Francisco. Since 2021, he has worked in OCR's Workforce Development Center, which serves marginalized and underserved communities.

"It's a big difference between sending individuals away for years, versus helping them out for years," he said. "I feel like I'm helping the economy, underserved individuals, AND organizations fulfill their needs."

Tarver is using the rehabilitation goals of the California Prison Industries Authority and technical expertise of the Iron Workers Local 118 to create a welding academy for 40 disadvantaged individuals, and address community needs simultaneously. This partnership also includes the California Employment Development Department and Department of Rehabilitation.

"This is more than just a government program-it's proof that when unions, state agencies, and social services join forces, everybody wins," Tarver said.

As the Highway Construction Training Program launches, the benefits will ripple throughout California. This program will provide more skilled ironworkers for the construction sector, and uplift individuals from poverty and challenging circumstances, offering them a pathway to stable, fulfilling careers.



Daron Tarver

> "This is more than just a government program-it's proof that when unions, state agencies, and social services join forces, everybody wins."



Accessible ramps benefit more than wheelchair users. In this photo, Sacramentan Michael Buniak waits for the signal before pushing his daughter's stroller across Capitol Mall. Photo Courtesy of Caltrans

Accessible Infrastructure

Caltrans' Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Infrastructure Program strives to give every person equal access to travel within California. The program is housed in the Caltrans Office of Civil Rights to protect the Department's most vulnerable users.

Most of California's 50,000-lane-mile transportation system was built more than half a century ago, and many rural highways are historic main streets. Wheelchairs must often navigate newsstands and utility poles on minimal strips of uneven sidewalks between storefronts and cars whizzing by at upwards of 55 miles an hour.

Caltrans owns 56,000 curb ramps and 4,000 miles of sidewalk along city highway right-of-way land. Ensuring that the transportation system complies with the ADA is an ongoing endeavor.

Each year, Caltrans dedicates an average of $35 million towards improving Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Infrastructure access. Since 2010, Caltrans has spent $561.4 million on ADA improvements, providing 6,909 curb ramps and more than 40 miles of ADA-accessible sidewalk. In 2023-24, Caltrans committed nearly $54 million for the ADA Program, exceeding the $35 million baseline. These projects installed pedestrian push buttons and upgraded curb ramps in Napa, Ventura, Poway, Pacific Grove, Bakersfield, Lodi, Palm Springs, Watsonville, and Santa Barbara. In 2024-25, Caltrans plans to spend $116 million to complete 13 ADA improvement projects throughout the state of California.

Caltrans ADA Infrastructure Program works internally with, among others, the divisions of Project Delivery, Construction, and Traffic Operations to ensure design standards, encroachment permit provisions, and construction compliance all contribute to ADA-accessible infrastructure. These divisions have developed policy, design guidance, and training to help educate Caltrans employees on the ADA standards and produce products that improve access to California's disabled community.

ADA accessibility is the responsibility of Caltrans as an organization. The ADA Infrastructure Program in the Office of Civil Rights orchestrates Caltrans statewide efforts to ensure persons with disabilities can use California sidewalks and facilities with ease. The public can notify Caltrans of ADA access barriers at: https://adapt.dot.ca.gov/grievance/newRequest .



Civil Rights Assistant Deputy Director Spotlight

Adversity Creates Resilience

Imagine overseeing the Business Banking Office of a large Australian-based financial institution one month, and the next, starting over in a new country at the bottom of the banking hierarchy as a teller.

This is the life experience of Caltrans Office of Civil Rights Assistant Deputy Director Sanjay Singh.

Singh grew up in a two-room house in rural Fiji. As a middle child of five, he learned how to diplomatically deal with a variety of people sensitively. He uses these skills every day at Caltrans' Office of Civil Rights (OCR).

A gifted student, he graduated from high school at age 15. Although he wanted to become a dentist, the only dental college on the island did not allow students under 18 and didn't have tools for left-handed students – which he was.

So, he worked on his father's sugar plantation while taking college classes by mail. At age 21 he began working for an Australian-based bank in Fiji. He excelled there and quickly became the head of Small Business Banking.

At age 36, he was married with two children. His employer provided his family's housing and transportation. He could have retired in 15 years. However, in 1987, a military coup overthrew Fiji's elected government, and several subsequent coups plunged the country's future into chaos. Fearing for the safety of his family, Singh, his wife, and two young children moved to Sacramento, California – with nothing more than their clothes.

During his first six months in America, he applied for hundreds of jobs.

No one called him.

Although he had 15-years' experience in retail and business banking, foreign currency trading, investment banking, and corporate financing, he was told that his qualifications and experience were "not suitable for this country."

He eventually got a job at the bottom of the banking hierarchy as a junior teller with Golden 1 Credit Union. By 1998, he was promoted to supervisor of the Credit Union's Broadway Branch, then as their Compliance/Audit Officer.

In 2006, he started working for the Student Aid Commission. In 2008, he took a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Certification Analyst position at Caltrans OCR. He has since risen to become the Assistant Deputy Director of OCR.

As the second largest department in the state of California, Caltrans needs private contractors to bid on and build repairs on the state's aging 52,000 lane miles. Although Caltrans awards projects to the lowest bidder, the OCR shares information, and supportive services with small and disadvantaged businesses to level the playing field.

Singh said he enjoys teaching people about opportunities available to them that they were not previously aware of.

"Everyone has a unique story," Singh observed. "Many of us within the system have faced similar challenges. My journey was far from easy, and I recognize that challenges are a universal experience. However, my challenges have fostered a deep sense of empathy in me towards others."

Singh helps small, disadvantaged, and disabled veteran business owners navigate the state contracting process. He also oversees workforce development, contractor compliance, and anti-discrimination requirements within the state and federal financed programs and services.

His leadership and dedication have earned him the admiration of his colleagues and boss, OCR Deputy Director David DeLuz, who describes him as a selfless encourager.

"He keeps the train on the track," DeLuz said. "I appreciate him more than I can put into words."

Caltrans currently has nearly 1,000 projects, worth nearly $15 billion, in construction, so there is always a need for more contractors to build bridges and roads.

"When we get out of the office and hit the road, we can see our work in motion," Singh said. "We have a real-time impact on people's lives through our work. It is rewarding to see small firms starting from kitchen tables and growing to employ people from within their communities helping them improve their lives – just as our Mission says, 'Improving lives and communities through transportation.'"

Singh tries to avoid being in the limelight. "It erodes my Zen," he says. He describes himself as akin to a river, flowing quietly through the landscape, its purpose not to be seen but to nourish the land around it. He remains content to work behind the scenes, finding a subtle, profound satisfaction as the fields flourish and turn green, echoing the joy of the farmers. For him, the work is an act of devotion; the reward lies not in recognition but in the silent progression of those around him.



Sanjay Singh

"He keeps the train on the track," DeLuz said. "I appreciate him more than I can put into words."

Business Spotlight Introduction

The Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017 **(Senate Bill (SB) 1, Beall, Chapter 5, Statutes of 2017)** required Caltrans to increase outreach to increase disabled-veteran, minority; and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) contractors to increase their participation on Caltrans projects.

The bill referenced the federal Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program, which is designed to level the playing field for African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian-Pacific and Subcontinent Asian Americans, and women, who are presumed to be socially and economically disadvantaged, but others can qualify on a case-by-case basis.

The Caltrans Office of Civil Rights – known as OCR – strives to increase the participation of those groups through workforce development, outreach, education, supportive services, and more. As part of this effort, please read the following spotlight article on Subcontinent Asian DBE TSI Engineering, Inc.

Building a Better World

Caltrans Office of Civil Rights spotlights Subcontinent Asian American owned DBE TSI Engineering, Inc. as part of a series showcasing Caltrans' subcontractors' diversity for South Asian Heritage Month during July 18 to August 17.



Maqsood Ali owns TSI Engineering, Inc., which funds water filtration for Ali's home Pakistan village.

Maqsood Ali's journey is a testament to grit, perseverance, and the relentless pursuit of education. Born in a small, illiterate village in Pakistan, Ali's early life was defined by hardship. He studied under street lamps or at his neighbor's house—any place with electricity. Paper was scarce, so he used torn sheets from election posters to write down lessons. Despite these struggles, he completed his bachelor's degree in physics and math in 1983, graduating as valedictorian from a class of 24,000.

Ali's hard work paid off when, in 1985, the University of Engineering & Technology in Lahore awarded him a scholarship for civil engineering. He graduated in 1989 as valedictorian of his class. With a degree in hand, he secured a job in a top engineering consulting firm in Pakistan. But in 2000, Ali made a life-changing decision: he moved to America with his wife and four young children, starting over in a country where no one recognized his qualifications.

For years, Ali faced rejection. He scoured for coins to put gas in his car while struggling to find a job in his field.

In 2002, he passed the California Professional Engineering exam. He worked at a Geotechnical company in southern California for three years before moving to Sacramento. There, he worked for an environmental company while attending California State University, Sacramento, where he graduated with a master's degree in civil engineering in 2006.

But his struggles continued. He repeatedly applied for different jobs in different parts of the state.

"They did not want to offer a job to me because my experience was from another country," he said. "Then I thought, 'I have a combination of experience in construction management, geotechnical, environmental, and structural fields, so I should open my own business.'"

On January 12, 2009, Ali opened TSI Engineering, Inc. construction company in his garage. At a Caltrans outreach event, he learned about the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program for socially and economically disadvantaged individuals. He decided to apply for DBE certification to help him get on contracts.



Maqsood Ali started TSI Engineering, Inc. in his garage in 2009.

It was at that time that he also met Andrew Tagg, now Senior Vice President of First Northern Bank, who helped Ali with small business development and lending.

Ali's family grew to six children before his company, TSI Engineering, Inc. landed its first Caltrans Minor B project to install an ethanol tank in Modesto in 2009.

"I am so thankful for Caltrans. Sometimes I cannot stop my feelings and I start crying," he said. "If Caltrans didn't give me this Minor B project, I wouldn't be able to eat. I completed it in two months and got $40,000, which fed my kids for the whole year. This Minor B project encouraged me and changed my life."

Tagg said for the last 15 years, he's watched Ali grow his business from his garage to be one of the greatest success stories he's ever seen.

By 2024, TSI Engineering had become Caltrans' highest-paid Subcontinent Asian DBE firm, employing 27 people, and handling major projects like a $20 million Caltrans contract to rehabilitate the Westley Safety Roadside Rest Area near Tracy.

Today, Ali's mission is to help others achieve their dreams. He often speaks at colleges and institutions, including the National University of Sciences & Technology, Islamabad; GIK Institute; the University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore; and the National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences, Lahore.

He recently collaborated with Columbia University's School of Professional Studies to develop a 'Foundation of Construction Business; Formation & Operations' curriculum to guide a new course (based on his experience and success) in Columbia's Master of Construction Administration Program.

His company even gives back to his village in Pakistan, installing water filtration plants to provide clean water for the community.

Maqsood Ali's story is a powerful reminder of what can be achieved through resilience and a commitment to education. His success, driven by his faith and desire to lift others, continues to inspire generations.

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.

Resources

- One hundred and sixty-six protégé firms have graduated since the inception of the Construction Mentor Protégé Program (CMPP), which expanded statewide last year. The program supports the growth of small and disadvantaged construction firms, teaching them to effectively compete in Caltrans construction projects. For more information, visit the CMPP.
- The Office of Civil Rights (OCR) Workforce Development Branch (WDB) offers Supportive Services to OJT Heavy Highway Construction Trades Academy pre-apprenticeship and Heavy Equipment Operator Pilot Program graduates. As of February 2025, 24 of the 40 graduates have secured employment in various construction trades. In January 2025, the OJT/SS HEO/Heavy Highway Construction program deployed academies statewide. For more information, email OJT.SS@dot.ca.gov or DBE.SS@dot.ca.gov
- To increase the number of active certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firms on Caltrans' FHWA-assisted construction and professional services contracts, Caltrans started a Business Development Program (BDP) to provide free training from elite industry specialists, resources, workshops, upcoming Caltrans project alerts, business plans, and networking for ready, willing, and able small and disadvantaged businesses. To enroll, fill out the BDP Enrollment Interest Form. To receive notifications for upcoming events, training workshops, quick tips, and contract opportunities, opt into the mass notification system here.



Quick Links

Learn How to Contract with Caltrans

See Upcoming Architectural and Engineering (A&E) Work on the A & E Look Ahead Report

Register for Caltrans' Bidding Connect Portal

See Current Construction Projects Advertised

Click Quick Links on Cal eProcure to find all small business solicitations and past state purchases.

Caltrans' Opt-In Feature Allows Small Businesses to connect with Primes

Find your District Small Business Liaison at this link.

Additional Resources

Association of Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (APTAC) provide free advice on all aspects of selling to the federal, state, and local governments. Find your local agency on the link to get started.

Small Business Development Centers throughout California counsel and train business owners to start, run, and grow their firms. Find your local center for assistance today.

The Construction Resource Center provides hands-on technical assistance, eLearning modules, educational materials, and mentorship programs to contractors, tradespeople, and future construction professionals.

Builders Exchanges, including the Bay Area Builders Exchange, Humboldt Builders Exchange, Sacramento Regional Builders Exchange, Golden State Builders Exchange, and Central California Builders Exchange help business owners find more work.

Email questions to erin.g.vontersch@dot.ca.gov, or to sign up for the Small Business Press.