

CALTRANS EXHIBIT 10-I

NOTICE TO BIDDERS/PROPOSERS DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE INFORMATION

The Agency has determined that Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) can reasonably be expected to compete for the subcontracting opportunities in this Agreement and has established a DBE Availability Advisory of **ENTER FY DBE % HERE** percentage. It is therefore, the Agency's expectation that available DBE firms have an opportunity to participate in this Agreement.

1. TERMS AS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT

- The term "Disadvantaged Business Enterprise" or "DBE" means a for-profit small business concern as defined in Title 49, Part 26.5, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).
- The term "bidder" also means "proposer" or "offerer."
- The term "Agreement" also means "Contract."
- Agency also means the local entity entering into this contract with the Contractor or Consultant.
- The term "Small Business" or "SB" is as defined in 49 CFR 26.65.

2. AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

A. DBEs and other small businesses are strongly encouraged to participate in the performance of Agreements financed in whole or in part with federal funds. (See 49 CFR 26, "Participation by Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in Department of Transportation Financial Assistance Programs.") The Contractor should ensure that DBEs and other SBs have the opportunity to participate in the performance of the work that is the subject of this solicitation and should take all necessary and reasonable steps for this assurance. The bidder/proposer shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the award and performance of subcontracts.

B. Bidders/Proposers are encouraged to use services offered by financial institutions owned and controlled by DBEs.

C. Meeting the DBE Availability Advisory Percentage is not a condition for being eligible for award of the Agreement.

3. SUBMISSION OF DBE INFORMATION

A "Local Agency Proposer/Bidder-DBE (Consultant Contracts)-Information" form (Exhibit 10-O in Chapter 10 of the LAPM) will be included in the Agreement documents to be executed by the successful bidder. The purpose of the form is to collect data required under 49 CFR 26. Even if no DBE participation will be reported, the successful bidder must execute and return the form.

4. DBE PARTICIPATION GENERAL INFORMATION

It is the bidder's responsibility to be fully informed regarding the requirements of 49 CFR 26, and the Department's DBE program developed, pursuant to the regulations. Particular attention is directed to the following:

A. A DBE must be a small business firm defined pursuant to 13 CFR 121 and be certified through the California Unified Certification Program (CUCP).

B. A certified DBE may participate as a prime contractor, subcontractor, joint venture partner, as a vendor of material or supplies, or as a trucking company.

C. A DBE joint-venture partner must be responsible for specific contract items of work or clearly defined portions thereof. Responsibility means actually performing, managing and supervising the work with its own forces. The DBE joint venture partner must share in the capital contribution, control, management, risks and profits of the joint-venture commensurate with its ownership interest.

D. A DBE must perform a commercially useful function, pursuant to 49 CFR 26.55, that is, must be responsible for the execution of a distinct element of the work and must carry out its responsibility by actually performing, managing and supervising the work.

E. The bidder (prime contractor) shall list only one subcontractor for each portion of work as defined in their bid/proposal and all DBE subcontractors should be listed in the bid/cost proposal list of subcontractors.

F. A prime contractor who is a certified DBE is eligible to claim all of the work in the Agreement toward the DBE participation except that portion of the work to be performed by non-DBE subcontractors.

5. RESOURCES

A. The CUCP database includes the certified DBEs from all certifying agencies participating in the CUCP. If you believe a firm is certified that cannot be located on the database, please contact the Caltrans Office of Certification toll free number 1-866-810-6346 for assistance. Bidders/Proposers may call (916) 440-0539 for web or download assistance.

B. Access the CUCP database from the Department of Transportation, Civil Rights, Business Enterprise Program website at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/bep/>.

- Click on the link in the left menu titled Find a Certified Firm.
- Click on Query Form link, located in the first sentence.
- Click on Certified DBE's (UCP) located on the first line in the center of the page.
- Click on Click To Access DBE Query Form.
- Searches can be performed by one or more criteria.
- Follow instructions on the screen.
- "Start Search", "Requery", "Civil Rights Home", and "Caltrans Home" links are located at the bottom of the query form.

C. How to Obtain a List of Certified DBEs without Internet Access

DBE Directory: If you do not have Internet access, Caltrans also publishes a directory of certified DBE firms extracted from the on-line database. A copy of the directory of certified DBEs may be ordered from the Caltrans Division of Procurement and Contracts/Material and Distribution Branch/Publication Unit, 1900 Royal Oaks Drive, Sacramento, CA 95815, Telephone: (916) 445-3520.

6. WHEN REPORTING DBE PARTICIPATION, MATERIAL OR SUPPLIES PURCHASED FROM DBEs MAY COUNT AS FOLLOWS:

A. If the materials or supplies are obtained from a DBE manufacturer, one hundred percent of the cost of the materials or supplies will count toward the DBE participation. A DBE manufacturer is a firm that operates or maintains a factory, or establishment that produces on the premises, the materials, supplies,

articles, or equipment required under the Agreement and of the general character described by the specifications.

B. If the materials or supplies purchased from a DBE regular dealer, count sixty percent of the cost of the materials or supplies toward DBE participation. A DBE regular dealer is a firm that owns, operates or maintains a store, warehouse, or other establishment in which the materials, supplies, articles or equipment of the general character described by the specifications and required under the Agreement are bought, kept in stock, and regularly sold or leased to the public in the usual course of business. To be a DBE regular dealer, the firm must be an established, regular business that engages, as its principal business and under its own name, in the purchase and sale or lease of the products in question. A person may be a DBE regular dealer in such bulk items as petroleum products, steel, cement, gravel, stone or asphalt without owning, operating or maintaining a place of business provided in this section.

C. If the person both owns and operates distribution equipment for the products, any supplementing of regular dealers' own distribution equipment shall be by a long-term lease agreement and not an ad hoc or Agreement-by-Agreement basis. Packagers, brokers, manufacturers' representatives, or other persons who arrange or expedite transactions are not DBE regular dealers within the meaning of this section.

D. Materials or supplies purchased from a DBE, which is neither a manufacturer nor a regular dealer, will be limited to the entire amount of fees or commissions charged for assistance in the procurement of the materials and supplies, or fees or transportation charges for the delivery of materials or supplies required on the job site, provided the fees are reasonable and not excessive as compared with fees charged for similar services.

7. WHEN REPORTING DBE PARTICIPATION, PARTICIPATION OF DBE TRUCKING COMPANIES MAY COUNT AS FOLLOWS:

A. The DBE must be responsible for the management and supervision of the entire trucking operation for which it is responsible.

B. The DBE must itself own and operate at least one fully licensed, insured and operational truck used on the Agreement.

C. The DBE receives credit for the total value of the transportation services it provides on the Agreement using trucks it owns, insures, and operates using drivers it employs.

D. The DBE may lease trucks from another DBE firm, including an owner-operator who is certified as a DBE. The DBE who leases trucks from another DBE receives credit for the total value of the transportation services the lessee DBE provides on the Agreement.

E. The DBE may also lease trucks from a non-DBE firm, including an owner-operator. The DBE who leases trucks from a non-DBE is entitled to credit only for the fee or commission it receives as a result of the lease arrangement. The DBE does not receive credit for the total value of the transportation services provided by the lessee, since these services are not provided by the DBE.

F. For the purposes of this Section D, a lease must indicate that the DBE has exclusive use and control over the truck. This does not preclude the leased truck from working for others during the term of the lease with the consent of the DBE, as long as the lease gives the DBE absolute priority for use of the leased truck. Leased trucks must display the name and identification number of the DBE.