



MEDIA ADVISORY

Date: Tuesday, August 5, 2014
District: District 6 – Fresno
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALTRANS WELCOMES THE HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY TO CALMENTOR

FRESNO – As an advocate of small business participation, Caltrans Central Region (Districts 5, 6, 9 and 10) implemented in the 2007 year, a small business Architectural & Engineering (A&E) mentor-protégé program, known as the Central Region Calmentor Program. Today we are excited to welcome the California High-Speed Rail Authority as a member to the program.

“Having the High-Speed Rail participate in the Calmentor program adds additional resources and opportunities for our businesses” said Nabeelah Hanif, Caltrans Office Chief, Central Region Program Project Management.

Participants of the program are Mentors, Protégés, Caltrans staff and various additional government agencies. Mentors are established firms who are typically prime consultants willing to commit time to help certified firms achieve their growth potential. Protégés are firms that are certified in either the Small Business (SB) or Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) programs and who are seeking A&E contracts with Caltrans or other public agencies. Caltrans Central Region is the program’s primary sponsor whose aim is to facilitate the growth of SB and DBE certified firms. Any public or local organization may join to co-sponsor this program.

“The High-Speed Rail Authority embraces the opportunity to mentor small businesses so that they are better equipped to be a part of this project. This program is in line with our ambitious participation goals of 30% for Small Business Enterprises (SBE), 10% for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE), and 3% for Disabled Veterans Business Enterprises (DVBE)” said Diana Gomez, Central Valley Regional Director.

The next Central Region Calmentor meeting:

Tuesday, August 26, 2014
Caltrans District 6 Office
2015 E. Shields, Ste 100, Fresno, CA 93726
Workshop 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. | Quarterly Meeting 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
*Participation is also available by VTC in San Luis Obispo, Stockton and Bishop

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About Calmentor

The mission of the Calmentor Program is to increase the pool of certified firms participating in transportation projects by providing them opportunities to network and partner with established firms. In promoting partnership with the private consulting industry, Calmentor supports the participation of certified Small Business Enterprise (SBE), Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE), and Disabled Veterans Business Enterprises (DVBE) firms in Central Region A&E contracts. Calmentor is consistent with the recent Governor's Executive Order No. S-11-06 to encourage new businesses, grow existing businesses, and promote small and emerging business contracting with the State. Voluntary participation in the program is through acceptance and screening of completed applications from mentors and protégés.

About California High-Speed Rail Authority

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) is responsible for planning, designing, building and operation of the first high-speed rail system in the nation. California high-speed rail will connect the mega-regions of the state, contribute to economic development and a cleaner environment, create jobs and preserve agricultural and protected lands. By 2029, the system will run from San Francisco to the Los Angeles basin in under three hours at speeds capable of over 200 miles per hour. The system will eventually extend to Sacramento and San Diego, totaling 800 miles with up to 24 stations. In addition, the Authority is working with regional partners to implement a statewide rail modernization plan that will invest billions of dollars in local and regional rail lines to meet the state's 21st century transportation needs. To learn more visit the Authority's website at <http://www.hsr.ca.gov> and join us on [facebook.com/CaliforniaHighSpeedRail](https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaHighSpeedRail) and follow us at twitter.com/cahsra

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