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## Veterans Day Tribute for Vets Working on High-Speed Rail

In honor of this year's Veterans Day, the California High-Speed Rail Authority paid tribute to the men and women of the military, especially those who are working on the high-speed rail program. Currently, there are 28 Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises (DVBE) committed to the high-speed rail program state-wide.

The Authority Board of Directors is keenly aware of the need to help small businesses, particularly those firms owned by or employing veterans. Board Vice-Chairs Jim Hartnett and Tom Richards, as well as Board members Mike Rossi and Patrick Henning, Sr., are all military veterans.

"My heart swells with pride when I think about the business opportunities high-speed rail is providing for veterans," Hartnett said. "Starting a business can be

especially challenging for disabled veterans who are returning from active duty and reintegrating into civilian life."

Last year, the Authority signed a Stra-

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*"My heart swells with pride when I think about the business opportunities high-speed rail is providing for veterans."*

Jim Hartnett  
Board Vice-Chair

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tegic Partnership Agreement with the California Department of Veterans Affairs to share resources and make sure certified firms owned by disabled veterans get information about high-speed rail »

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To access and download more information pertaining to the small business program, visit the Authority's SB Resources

webpage at [www.hsr.ca.gov/Programs/](http://www.hsr.ca.gov/Programs/)

[Small\\_Business/index.html](http://www.hsr.ca.gov/Programs/Small_Business/index.html)



» and its business opportunities.

The Authority's aggressive Small Business Program calls for a 30 percent goal for small business participation. It includes a three percent goal for DVBE and a 10 percent goal for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE).

## Meet some of the DVBEs working on High-Speed Rail

### 111th Aerial Photography Squadron

Lt. Colonel Pat Belanger, a retired fighter pilot and decorated veteran, is proud of his military service. He served in the Air National Guard's 144 Fighter Wing, based out of Fresno, where he flew six different fighter jets, including the F-16, and racked up nearly 16,000 hours of flight time.

His military experience is the foundation of the 111th Aerial Photography Squadron, an aerial photography firm that's also a certified DVBE. "I earned my company's DVBE status through hard work and dedication," Belanger said. "It's opened doors and generated opportunities for my business."

Belanger, his wife Julie, and three employees do aerial photography and mapping for various industries and agencies.

"The high-speed rail project is by far the largest project that we've been involved with," Belanger explained. "We had to acquire new equipment and develop new techniques to follow the new rail bed for a continuous 29 miles."



### Small Business Program

The Authority is committed to small businesses playing a major role in building the state-wide high-speed rail system. The Small Business Program has an aggressive 30 percent goal for small business participation including Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs), Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises (DVBEs) and Micro-Businesses (MBs).

## Ecotech Resources, Inc.

Jeffrey Root was surveying the landscape for contracting opportunities when he found the perfect partner in the Authority.

“My business would have tanked if it were not for the high-speed rail project,” said Root, principal owner of Ecotech Resources, Inc. “High-speed rail has really turned me around.”

Based in Berkeley, Ecotech Resources won a subcontract to conduct environmental tests to determine if there’s any contamination on properties being acquired to clear the path for high-speed rail.

“Because of the high-speed rail, I was able to hire three contractors to support the work I’m doing in the Central Valley,” Root said. “So I am providing work to four people and it’s great. The four of us are rocking and rolling.”

## Petra Resources Management

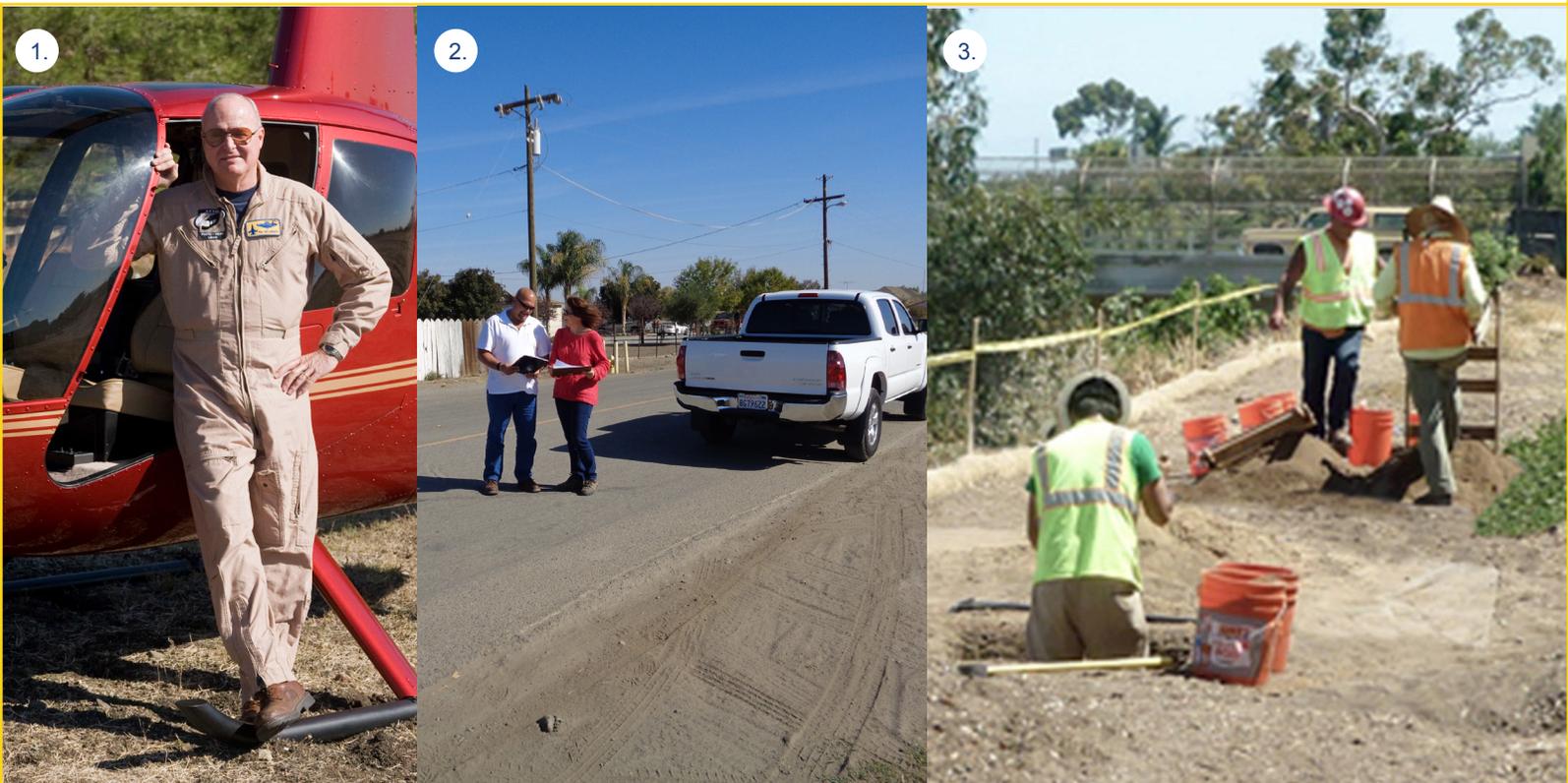
No one has to tell Bill Cook it takes years of work to prepare a section of high-speed rail for construction. While the project forges ahead in the Central Valley, Cook’s company, Petra Resource Management (PRM), is providing archeological services along proposed routes between Los Angeles and San Diego.

Cook, a Marine Corps Vietnam, Veteran opened PRM in 2012 after running another company for 27 years. He obtained the firm’s DVBE certification and won a subcontract with a prime contractor doing preliminary high-speed rail planning, engineering and public outreach in Southern California.

“It was very important for a young DVBE company to be a part of this project so quickly,” Cook said. “Although my company is relatively new, staff members are credentialed and experienced in cultural resource management compliance and practice.”

His employees spend hours on their hands and knees, digging and sifting soil and rocks as they hunt for and identify objects and sites with prehistoric and historic significance. Cook believes the back-breaking work will allow his company to continue growing. He said, “We expect to be hiring more people as the project progresses.”

— Karen Massie



**1.** Retired fighter pilot **Pat Belanger** flies an R-44 helicopter for 111th Aerial Photography Squadron, which is mapping land in the Central Valley. **2.** Ecotech employees **Marda Herbert** and **Curtis Lindskog** conduct tests on properties to make sure they’re not contaminated. **3.** Archeologists hunt for cultural clues for Petra Resources Management, the firm hired to work along the proposed high-speed rail route in Southern California.

# Design-Build Results Announced for Construction Package 2-3

On Nov. 21, The Authority identified Dragados/Flatiron/Shimmick as the apparent best value team for the design-build contract for Construction Package 2-3 (CP 2-3), the next 65 mile segment of high-speed rail from Fresno to North of Bakersfield.

The Authority has estimated the cost of CP 2-3 to be between \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion. The Authority determined that Dragados/Flatiron/Shimmick, who bid \$1.2 billion, was the, "apparent best value." The ranking and scores for all three proposals are below.

CP 2-3 represents the continuation of construction of the high-speed rail program to the south. CP 2-3 will extend in excess of 65 miles from the terminus of Construc-

tion Package 1 at East American Avenue in Fresno to one mile north of the Kern-Tulare County line. CP 2-3 includes approximately 36 grade separations in the counties of Fresno, Tulare and Kings, as well as various viaducts, underpasses and overpasses.

"Today is a significant milestone as we continue building the nation's first high-speed rail system," said Authority CEO Jeff Morales. "The proposals underscore the value of world class competition and the design-build approach to deliver high-speed rail in California."

In the competitive bidding process, three teams submitted proposals to the Authority for the design-build contract. Design-build combines project design and

"Today is a significant milestone as we continue building the nation's first high-speed rail system. The proposals underscore the value of world class competition and the design-build approach to deliver high-speed rail in California."

Jeff Morales  
Authority CEO

construction into a single contract. The proposals were evaluated and ranked based on 30 percent for technical merit and 70 percent for cost. Factors such as an understanding of the project, schedule capacity, project approach and safety were part of the technical scoring.

In October 2013, the Authority issued a Request for Qualifications for potential design-build teams interested in the contract. Five teams were qualified and began competing for the contract. On October 30, 2014, three of the teams submitted their proposals, which were reviewed by an evaluation panel comprised of California state personnel.

The design-build contract includes the Authority's Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) and Small Business participation goals.

The Authority will continue to work through the ongoing procurement process and a contract will be presented to the Authority's Board of Directors in the coming weeks.

— Annie Parker

RFP NO. HSR 13-57 Apparent Best Value\*

Proposer	Total Proposal Price - TPP	Price Proposal Score – PPS (maximum 70 points)	Technical Proposal Score - TPS (maximum 30 points)	Total Proposal Score
1. Dragados/Flatiron/Shimmick	1,234,567,890	70	26.67	<b>96.67</b>
2. Tutor Perini/Zachry/Parsons, a Joint Venture	1,739,700,000	49.68	26.61	<b>76.29</b>
3. Golden State Rail Partnership	2,065,644,000	41.84	25.47	<b>67.31</b>

\*The above matrix identifies the Total Proposal Scores for determining the Apparent Best Value Proposer.

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) has determined that Dragados/Flatiron/ Shimmick is the Apparent Best Value Proposer. The Authority will proceed with the procurement with the Apparent Best Value Proposer. If the Authority is unable to achieve final contract award with the Apparent Best Value Proposer, it may proceed with the next most highly ranked Proposer.

Due to the ongoing procurement, no further information will be disclosed at this time.

# Authority looks for a Rail Delivery Partner

As California's high-speed rail program transitions from preliminary planning and design to delivery and integration, the Authority is now in search of a Rail Delivery Partner (RDP) and has issued a Draft Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for such services.

"The services we are seeking would allow us to build multiple high-speed rail sections at one time and help deliver high-speed rail to Californians sooner than we previously thought possible," said Authority Chief Program Manager Frank Vacca.

The issuance of the Draft RFQ allows firms interested in partnering with the Authority a chance to make comments on the contract. Services sought by the Authority would continue to include strategic advice, business planning, continued development and management assistance for the Authority. Areas to be added to the consulting

"The services we are seeking would allow us to build multiple high-speed rail sections at one time and help deliver high-speed rail to Californians sooner than we previously thought possible."

Frank Vacca  
Authority Chief Program Manager

contract would greatly expand the focus on program delivery, systems and project integration and specialized technical expertise. The transition to RDP services enhances accountability for program delivery and project execution while also focusing on future high-speed rail-related needs with

expanded contract capabilities. The Authority would continue to have oversight and ultimate responsibility for the program.

Authority staff received approval from the Authority Board of Directors (Board) at the November 18 Board meeting to seek qualified teams to provide program management, integration and program delivery services. Interested firms have until January 7, 2015, to turn in their comments regarding the Draft RFQ. Authority staff will use comments received from the Draft RFQ to make changes to the RDP contract as-needed.

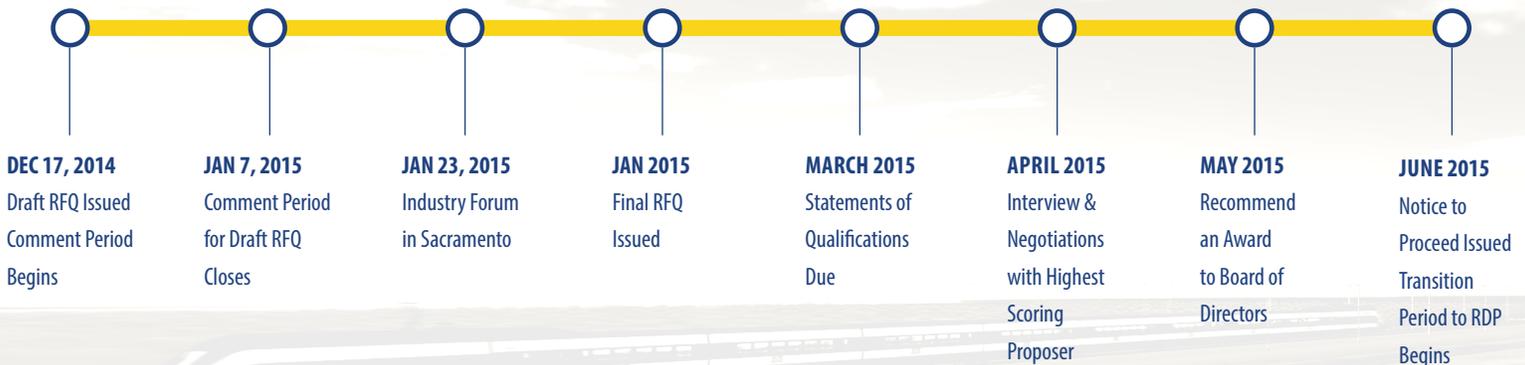
The Authority will then host one-on-one meetings with potential delivery partners before issuing a Final RFQ in late January. The Authority anticipates making a Recommendation of Award to the Board in May.

This contract will include the Authority's 30 percent Small Business participation goals.

The RDP contract would be for services through 2022, which would allow the firm to be in place as California's high-speed rail services begin.

— Orville Thomas

## Rail Delivery Partner (RDP) Contract Timeline



## Tier 4 Construction Equipment Being Used on High-Speed Rail Program

With the start of demolition and other activities that require heavy construction equipment in the Central Valley, the Authority is committed to ensuring that all equipment used for these activities – including cranes, crawlers and excavators – meet California's and the nation's most stringent environmental standards for diesel engines.

"The Authority is building high-speed rail using modern construction equipment that helps protect air quality and reduce greenhouse gas pollution," said Jeff Morales, Authority CEO. "Through this commitment to sustainable construction, we are building California's high-speed rail system in an environmentally responsible manner."

On November 19, the Authority and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency hosted a media event designed to showcase the Tier 4 that is currently being housed at the Construction Package 1 (CP1) Herndon construction yard just north of Fresno. This equipment is currently being used to do

demolition and other pre-construction activities, and it will be used for other civil engineering works within CP 1.

The use of Tier 4-rated construction equipment is an essential part of a series of agreements reached between the Authority and the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District. An MOU between the two parties - signed in May 2014 - ensures that while thousands of Valley residents get to work on construction of the project, their families and communities will not suffer negative impacts from the construction emissions and other pollutants.

The EPA has adopted a comprehensive national program to reduce emissions from non-road diesel engines by integrating engine and fuel controls. Tier 4 refers to the most stringent EPA engine standards for non-road heavy-duty diesel engines. A Tier 4 designation is achieved via different methods such as clean and efficient exhaust systems, electronically controlled engines, and selective catalytic reductions

"The construction of this first-in-the-nation high-speed rail will bring air quality benefits to residents of the San Joaquin Valley and, by using clean diesel engines during the construction phase, emissions of soot and nitrogen oxides are reduced up to 95% compared to older models."

Jared Blumenfeld  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Regional Administrator for the Pacific Southwest

to significantly reduce the levels of harmful pollutants such as particulate matter (PM) and nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>). By 2030, the annual benefits throughout the U.S. from using Tier 4 engines are estimated to reduce NO<sub>x</sub>, PM2.5, and sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) by 82 percent, 90 percent, and 99.7 percent respectively.

— Annie Parker



1. From Left to Right: **Samir Sheikh**, Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District, **Kate White**, Deputy Secretary for Environmental and Housing, California State Transportation Agency, **Jeff Morales**, CEO, High-Speed Rail Authority and **Jared Blumenfeld**, Regional Administrator, U.S. EPA Pacific Southwest.

2. Terex 1100 Crane. 3. CASE Excavator.

## Small Business Advocate has Big Plans

It seems he's always in a perpetual state of motion. Perhaps, that's because Jose Camarena wears several hats for the California High-Speed Rail Authority. Almost a year ago, he was hired as the Director of Contract Compliance. "It was the chance of a lifetime to be able to be a part of this historic project," Camarena said. "I couldn't pass up the opportunity."

Recently, he was tapped as the Small Business Advocate and in January 2015 he will begin chairing the Business Advisory Council (BAC), which advises the Authority on how it can increase the number of small businesses working on high-speed rail. Camarena is also working to step up the visibility of the Small Business (SB) Program, which sets small business participation goals. He's also increasing the number of SB networking events the Authority attends and has started holding workshops designed to certify small businesses interested in state contracts, including those for high-speed rail.

"I want to make an impact," Camarena explained. "I want our customers to experience an improved level of response and attention from the SB outreach program." He's already getting it done with help from Contract Compliance Officer Peggy Chiok, Information Officer Karen Massie and Padilla & Associates, a regional consultant firm assigned to the Small Business Program.

Before taking over as the Small Business Advocate, Camarena and his Contract Compliance staff in the Authority's Fresno office were monitoring high-speed rail contracts. They will continue to ensure that prime contractors live up small business goals they're

required to meet. He'll also implement the Authority's Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) and the National Targeted Hiring Initiative. During construction of high-speed rail, they promote the hiring of California community businesses and residents, including those facing employment barriers such as

**"It was the chance of a lifetime to be able to be a part of this historic project. I couldn't pass up the opportunity. I want to make an impact. I want our customers to experience an improved level of response and attention from the SB outreach program."**

Jose Camarena  
Small Business Advocate

being homeless, a single parent or a military veteran.

Prior to coming to the Authority, Camarena spent 23 years at the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). He served as the Central Region Resource Manager for the construction division. He also worked on design, maintenance, project development and environmental planning of many highway projects, including the State Route (SR) 99 rehabilitation project in Madera, the first design-build project in California. He also served as a public information officer during a series of accidents on SR 99.

"Those accidents prompted a change in how Caltrans communicates and advises the public about the dangers of driving in the fog," he explained. "Caltrans spent \$12 million on message boards in Tulare County for the 'What you can't see can KILL you', media campaign."

During his spare time, he stays busy doing Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and ranching on a five-acre plot of land east of Fresno.

Camarena moved to the Fresno area in 1989 to attend California State University – Fresno.

— Karen Massie



Small Business Advocate **Jose Camarena** gives an update on high-speed rail progress at the Authority's Business Advisory Council (BAC) meeting. In January, he'll take over as chair of the BAC.

# Construction Activities Ramp up in the Central Valley

From the demolition of blighted buildings to geotechnical and final design work, the Authority is ramping up activities within Construction Package 1 (CP 1) - a 29-mile stretch of the high-speed rail system from Avenue 17 in Madera to East American Avenue in Fresno. This is in preparation for major civil engineering work and construction activities that are just around the corner.

"People are really going to start to see structures going up and major construction activities in the coming months," said Authority CP 1 Project Manager Hugo Meija. "This is an important time for the project and it represents the continuation of the hard work that's been going on to make high-speed rail a reality in the region."

The Authority's Design-Build contrac-

tor Tutor Perini/Zachry/Parsons (TPZP) continues to make progress on finalizing roadway and bridge designs. The firm has been holding workshops and task force meetings throughout the region to ensure stakeholders have input into what's going on and to keep the public informed. TPZP is also progressing on third-party designs and getting input from local irrigation, public works departments and other utility providers who want their cables, fiber optics and antennas to be included on new underground cable pathways and radio towers when utilities are relocated for high-speed rail.

Over the summer, there were a series of tests and demolition activities conducted to prepare for construction. In June, TPZP conducted a series of tests in Madera near

the Fresno River that will contribute to the final bridge design for high-speed trains to cross the river. In July, demolition of existing buildings started in downtown Fresno, and to date, approximately 17 buildings have been demolished.

"The high-speed rail program is putting people to work today, and that's good for the project and our community," said Central Valley Regional Director Diana Gomez. "Many of the buildings we have demolished have been ready to come down for a long time and were safety hazards. Getting rid of them paves the way for high-speed rail and new economic opportunities in the region."

TPZP and the Authority are also working to implement the provisions of a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA), including

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Diana Gomez  
Central Valley Regional Director



Workers go over plans to dismantle the old Del Monte plant in Fresno in November and clear the way for a high-speed rail station. The demolition work was conducted by J. Kroeker Inc., a woman-owned business headquartered in Fresno.

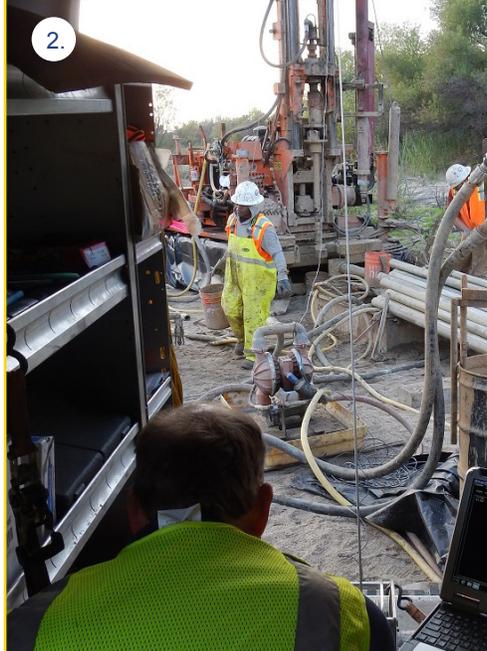
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Hugo Mejia  
Authority CP 1 Project Manager

National Targeted Hiring goals and Small Business participation goals. Key goals of the CBA are to create jobs and business opportunities in California and specifically in the Central Valley, which continues to have high unemployment rates. The Authority also continues to partner with local stakeholders and several local workforce investment boards to help the unemployed and underemployed find job training opportunities for high-speed rail construction work.

Portions of State Route (SR) 99 located within the CP 1 project area will need to be realigned to accommodate the high-speed rail system between the existing SR-99 and UPRR corridors. The Authority has contracted this work to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and work is underway for property acquisition, with major construction anticipated to begin in spring 2016.

— Annie Parker



1. A huge excavator moves demolished material at Del Monte packing plant in Fresno. Prior to demolition, hazardous material was removed from the building by Katch Environmental Inc., a Fresno based firm owned by former military veteran **Paul Katchadourian**.
2. A crew member monitors computers and meters while fellow workers operate a drilling rig pulling plugs of soil out of the earth. The tests will help design a high-speed rail bridge to cross the Fresno River in Madera.
3. Workers set up a drilling rig that they’ll run during geotechnical work – testing the chemical and physical makeup of the ground where a viaduct will be located.
4. Local media organizations tour the Del Monte demolition area in October 2014 to get an update on progress.

# Construction Package 4 Request for Qualifications Hits the Streets

While work is underway on Construction Package 1, and a design-build contractor is being selected for Construction Package 2-3, the Authority is continuing the forward momentum of the high-speed rail program by releasing the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for design-build services for Construction Package 4 (CP 4).

CP 4 represents the next 30-mile phase of construction through the counties of Tulare and Kern and the cities of Wasco and Shafter. It will begin one mile north of the Tulare/Kern County and continue to Galpin Street north of Bakersfield. The Authority has already seen a wide range of interested

firms who want to get on board to be part of the high-speed rail program, and there were be many opportunities for Certified Small Businesses to participate. The estimated contract cost is \$700 to \$900 million.

“The Authority continues to deliver on its voter-mandated mission to build high-speed rail in California, and this next construction package is essential to moving that effort forward” said Jeff Morales, CEO of the Authority. “As we have already seen with the ongoing construction work in the Central Valley, high-speed rail is creating jobs, small business opportunities and benefitting the local economies.”

The RFQ was released on November 21 and statements of qualifications are due on

January 30, 2015. The Authority will then review these applications and establish a shortlist of the most highly qualified firms to provide design-build services for the project. Firms will be selected based on experience, technical competency, ability to perform and other factors. The qualified firms will then be eligible to submit formal design-build proposals in 2015.

The Authority remains committed to small businesses playing a role in delivering the high-speed rail program. The design-build contract included the Authority's adopted 30 percent goal for small business participation in the work. The RFQ is posted online available from the Authority's website at [http://www.hsr.ca.gov/Programs/Construction/design\\_build\\_construction\\_contracts.html](http://www.hsr.ca.gov/Programs/Construction/design_build_construction_contracts.html). All applicant questions regarding the RFQ must be submitted via [www.bidsync.com](http://www.bidsync.com).

— Annie Parker

“The Authority continues to deliver on its voter-mandated mission to build high-speed rail in California, and this next construction package is essential to moving that effort forward. As we have already seen with the ongoing construction work in the Central Valley, high-speed rail is creating jobs, small business opportunities and benefitting the local economies.”

Jeff Morales  
Authority CEO

## Hundreds Flock to CP 4 Industry Forum

The Authority hosted a CP 4 Industry Forum in Bakersfield on December 5. Over 110 people representing prime firms and small businesses attended the event. They were able to view a presentation about CP 4, talk to Authority staff and network. A sign-in sheet and the presentation from the event are currently available on the Authority's website at [http://www.hsr.ca.gov/Programs/Construction/design\\_build\\_construction\\_contracts.html](http://www.hsr.ca.gov/Programs/Construction/design_build_construction_contracts.html).



1. Central California Regional Director **Diana Gomez** being interviewed by local media after the Industry Forum.  
2. Potential primes and small businesses learn details about Construction Package 4.

## ARCADIS U.S. Selected to Manage Second High-Speed Rail Construction Section

ARCADIS U.S. Inc. (ARCADIS) has been selected to manage construction on the program's second construction package in the Central Valley. The contract, executed on November 7, calls for ARCADIS to work with the Authority to oversee construction contractors working on Construction Package 2-3 (CP 2-3), which runs more than 60 miles from Fresno to north of Bakersfield. The work includes providing extra oversight of inspections and testing, construction safety and security, technical and environmental compliance, document control and public outreach.

ARCADIS' agreement met the Authority's 30 Small Business (SB) participation goal, with a SB commitment of 30.5 percent.

However, the firm exceeded the Authority's 10 percent Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and 3 percent Disadvantaged Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) goals by setting its commitment at 15.6 percent for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) and 4.8 percent for Disadvantaged Veteran Business Enterprises (DVBE).

ARCADIS and their parent company ARCADIS NV, are respected industry leaders in engineering, design, construction and the management of water, transportation, environmental and large infrastructure projects. Their past projects include the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority's Metro Regional Connector Transit Corridor, the Port of Long Beach's Middle Harbor

Phase 1 construction, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Hurricane Katrina Levee Reconstruction, the Chicago Transit Authority's Wilson Transfer Station Reconstruction, and the Germany Ebensfeld-Erfurt High-Speed Rail.

Under the Authority's contract, ARCADIS could receive up to \$71.86 million based on actual work performed.

— Orville Thomas



### Right-of-Way

## Right-Of-Way Contracts Awarded to Small Businesses

When the Authority awarded contracts for right-of-way services along the Central Valley, it was California's small businesses that led the way. Out of the eight firms approved for the contracts, six were certified small businesses. Three of the eight were based in California while another three currently have offices in the Golden State.

Now, the eight – Associated Right of Way Services, Inc., Bender Rosenthal, Inc., Briggs Field Services, Inc., Continental Field Services Corp., Epic Land Solutions, Inc.,

Hamner, Jewell & Associates, a division of Beacon Integrated Professional Resources, Inc., Steele Land Services, and Universal Field Services Inc. – will all be setting up shop in California's Central Valley as part of the negotiated terms. In addition to requiring the firms to have offices based in Madeira, Fresno, Tulare, Kings or Kern Counties, the firms must also adhere to the 30 percent small business participation goal as part of their contract. "These firms represent small, women-owned, and disadvantaged busi-

nesses that call California home. They will employ the men and women who will push this program forward and bring California the nation's first high-speed rail system.", said Don Grebe, Director of Real Property.

The contract terms are each for four years and combined will not exceed \$35 million. The procurement will cover support services for acquiring more than 1,000 parcels of real property from around Merced to north of Bakersfield as well as a northern extension that will include the continuation of the alignment towards the Bay Area.

— Orville Thomas

## Small Business Adds High-Speed Rail to List of Big Projects

He laughed as he remembered having a shoeshine stand in Birmingham, Alabama at age 12. "Ever since I was eight years old, I wanted to be my own boss," recalled Gene Hale. "When I opened the shoeshine stand, I had to get a business license and pay taxes."

For the last 33 years, Hale has run G&C Equipment Corporation, a Gardena-based Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) that sells and leases construction equipment, material and supplies. Last June, Hale landed a contract to work on high-speed rail in the Central Valley.

Hale, a Vietnam Veteran, says his time as an Army sergeant still helps him today. "It gave me the leadership skills and discipline I need to run my company and to succeed in life," he explained. Before hanging out his shingle, he also graduated from CSU-Dominquez Hills with a business and finance degree and worked as a financial analyst at an investment firm. "That taught me how to prepare financial statements, do realistic cash flow analyses and how to explain my business to someone else," Hale said. "I don't have to hire anyone to do that for me."

At first, Hale worked out of his home and sold used rental equipment. It wasn't long before he expanded and began selling construction supplies such as transformers, generators, plumbing and electrical material and power tools, in addition to large pieces of equipment.

He's worked on some huge infrastructure projects over the years including San Francis-



**Gene Hale**, President of G&C Equipment Corporation has worked on many large infrastructure projects, including the Pentagon, FBI headquarters and San Francisco's Moscone Center.

co's Moscone Center, the Pentagon and FBI headquarters in Washington, D.C. and the Staples Center and Century Freeway in Los Angeles.

He will supply steel, lumber and concrete forms for high-speed rail. Hale said it will be enough work that he'll hire some local people in the Century Valley.

Hale belongs to a long list of business organizations including Presidents Obama's Export Council and the Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber of Commerce (GLAAACC), where he serves as the group's Chairman. When he started his business, Hale pointed out networking at business organization gatherings helped him immensely. Today, that's



where he tells other small business owners, how to get involved in multi-million dollar projects. "It takes a lot of hard work. But I also have a lot of information and experience because I've been in business more than 30 years," Hale said. "So I don't mind telling them. It's my way of giving back to the community."

— Karen Massie

"It takes a lot of hard work. But I also have a lot of information and experience because I've been in business more than 30 years. So I don't mind telling them (small business owners). It's my way of giving back to the community."

Gene Hale  
CEO/President  
G&C Corporation



**Gene Hale and President Obama.** In 2010, Obama appointed Hale to the President's Export Council, the principal national advisory committee that advises the President on international trade.

# New Small Business and Jobs Report to be Released Quarterly

On December 10, the Authority issued the latest Small Business Participation and Jobs Report for the First Quarter of the 2014/15 Fiscal Year. The report covers the period of July 1 through September 30, 2014 and looked at 23 prime contractors.

For this reporting period, the prime contractors and their subcontractors logged 328,388 man hours worked that resulted in 632 full-time equivalent jobs. Combined, these 23 prime contractors have 190 certified small businesses committed to perform work on the high-speed rail program, including 28 Disabled Veteran Business

Enterprises and 47 Disadvantaged Business Enterprises.

“Now that work on the nation’s first high-speed rail program is underway in the Central Valley, we are seeing the faces of people getting much-needed jobs, and small businesses that have been able to expand and hire new people,” said Authority CEO Jeff Morales. “Not only are we

providing jobs, we are also working with our stakeholders in the area to get interested workers connected with job training and other resources they can use to launch their careers.”

This report is the second in the series of reports launched in 2014 with the purpose of providing a timely and transparent accounting of jobs and small business participation in the high-speed rail program. The reports are available on the Authority’s website at: [http://www.hsr.ca.gov/News-room/studies\\_reports.html](http://www.hsr.ca.gov/News-room/studies_reports.html)

— Karen Massie

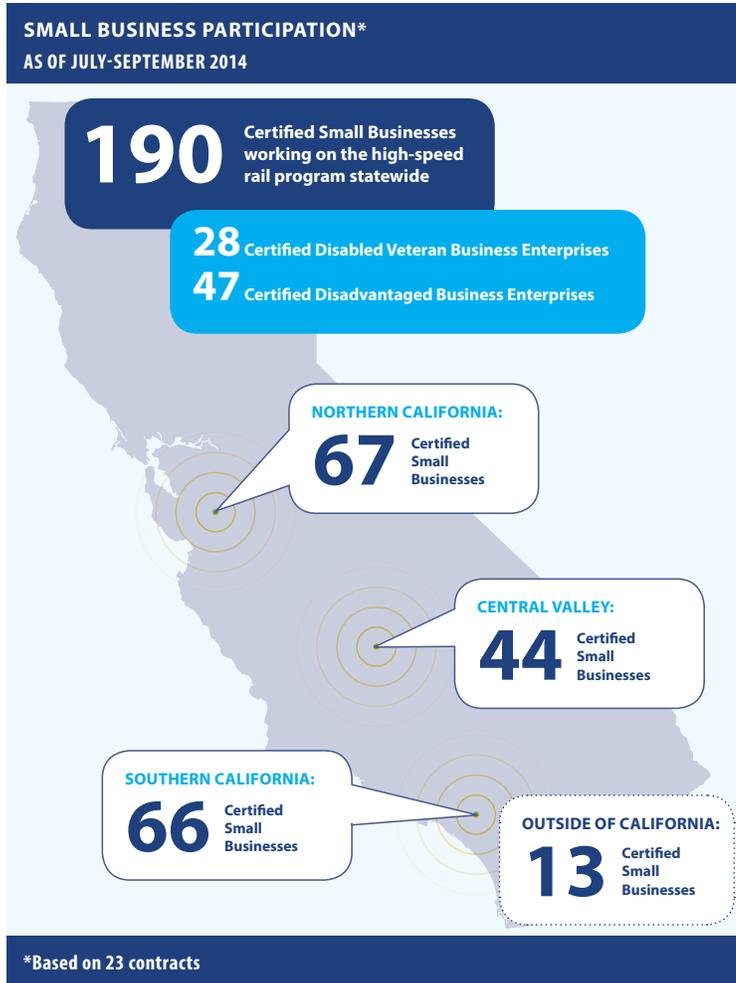
## Wagner Engineering & Surveying, Inc.



Wagner Engineering & Surveying employees conducting survey work in So Cal.

Wagner Engineering & Surveying, Inc. is a Certified Small Business based in Northridge that has been working on the high-speed rail program since 2010. Stephanie Wagner, President of the company, recalls, “the 2010 contract was really a business saver for me. At the time, we were all still in the throes of the recession and it allowed me to keep my people working and not lay anyone off.” The company received direction in October to conduct LIDAR mapping for the new Palmdale to Burbank project section. LIDAR mapping technology helps get an accurate picture of the area at a lower cost. “It’s great being a small business in this field because it allows us to be flexible and use the most up-to-date technology for our services,” said Wagner. “This has been an excellent contract for us, and we look forward to doing more work on the high-speed rail project.”

- Marie Hoffman





## Fresno Workforce Investment Board

The Fresno Regional Workforce Investment Board (WIB) has the monumental task of helping the disadvantaged find meaningful jobs. The Board includes 42 people representing businesses, one-stop partners who help job seekers, community-based organizations, local education entities, economic development agencies and labor. Together, they use Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds in the Fresno area to educate and train people who are unemployed and underemployed. Workforce Connection One-Stop centers help match job hunters with employers looking for workers.

Last year, Governor Jerry Brown awarded the Fresno WIB, the Kern/Inyo/Mono Counties Workforce Investment Board and the Stanislaus County Alliance Worknet with a \$1.5 million grant. The money will pay for pre-apprenticeship training and journeyman update classes for 325 unemployed and underemployed Central Valley residents who'd like to help build high-speed rail and other construction projects.

Twenty-five people can attend each seven-week class session known as the Central Valley Infrastructure Employment Project. To date, 81 people have completed the training for a variety of construction trades. Some have joined unions for carpenters, laborers and electrical workers and 64 graduates have obtained jobs. For more information on trainee qualifications, visit the Fresno WIB website at

<http://www.hsrjobs.com>.

### Strategic Partnerships

— Karen Massie

To achieve greater effectiveness in the delivery of procurement opportunities to small businesses, the Authority has cultivated ongoing strategic partnerships with local, community organizations and agencies. The intent of these partnerships is to leverage shared services and resources to become more transparent, accessible and accountable by enhancing the quality of the Authority's services. The Authority is confident that these strategic partnerships will not only maximize the participation of small business participation in its procurement process, but will also strengthen and sustain California's economy.

## Trainsets

### High-Speed Rail Hunts for Trainsets

California's recent effort to buy the nation's first true high-speed trainsets caught the eye of several world-class manufacturing firms.

In early October, the Authority released a Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) and by the end of the month, 10 firms with home offices in nine countries had responded.

The Authority is looking to procure up to 95 trainsets that could seat 450 passengers and run at sustained speeds up to 220 miles per hour. They must be able to transport riders from San Francisco to

Los Angeles and have a five-year record of safety and dependability.

The firms that notified the Authority of their interest are:

- **Alstom Transportation, Inc.,**
- **AnsaldoBreda S.P.A.,**
- **Bombardier Transit Corporation,**
- **Hyundai Rotem Company,**
- **Marnell Transportation, LLC and JV (has since withdrawn),**
- **Kawasaki Rail Car, Inc.,**
- **Siemens Industry, Inc.,**
- **SunGroup USA & World Harmony City/ CNR Tangshan Railway Vehicle Co., LTD.**
- **Talgo Inc.**

The REOI also identified a need for high-speed rail maintenance facilities. The Authority will scout and environmentally clear land for a Heavy Maintenance Facility in the Central Valley and look for sites for light maintenance facilities at terminal stations along the proposed route. These facilities will create jobs for employees who will be responsible for repairs, inspections and management of trainsets.

Conversations with interested firms will help the Authority formulate a future Request for Proposal (RFP) that will be going out in 2015. Manufacturers must also agree to comply with Buy America and Buy California provisions.

— Orville Thomas

## Major Force in Engineering Industry

### Vida Wright Turns Obstacles into Inspiration

She has worked in management at Fortune 100 and Fortune 500 companies, started her own firm and raised thousands of dollars, allowing young people to realize their dreams of becoming an engineer. Her resume may impress others, but it wasn't easy for Dr. Vida Wright to become the respected engineer she is today.

"I grew up in Iran where engineering is considered as prestigious as becoming a doctor or lawyer in the U. S.," Wright recalled. "However, very few women went down that path when I did." She was among a handful of women studying engineering when she graduated at the top of her college class and won a fully paid scholarship to continue her studies in America in 1974.

She got a Master's Degree at Michigan State University and a Doctorate Degree

in Civil and Environmental Engineering at University of California, Davis. Before finishing her Ph.D., she landed a job at Bechtel Corporation, working with a group of 40 people. "There were only two women – me and the secretary," Wright laughed. "I really had to assert myself to let male co-workers know that I was their equal."

She soon moved into management at other firms and worked on major environmental projects at the McClellan Air Force Base, Los Alamos National and Lawrence Livermore Laboratories. In 2007, she founded



Veridico Group, Inc., which has won million dollar contracts for transportation and water projects.

Along the way, she's joined many professional groups. She's best known for her work with SAME – the Society of American Military Engineers, which has 30,000 members worldwide. Wright explained, "It's a place where engineers can network, meet future clients and obtain top notch technical training."

As a local and regional board member and the Membership Chairman of SAME's Sacramento Post, Wright nearly doubled the group's membership. She makes sure college chapter members attend events with working engineers. And she raises funds for scholarships. "We give up to \$50,000 a year to high school students interested in engineering," Wright said. "That's what I love about SAME. It gives back in so many ways."

Wright represents SAME on the Authority's Business Advisory Council.

— Karen Massie

"I grew up in Iran where engineering is considered as prestigious as becoming a doctor or lawyer in the U. S. However, very few women went down that path when I did. I really had to assert myself to let male co-workers know I was their equal."

Vida Wright  
Founder & Principal, P.E.  
Veridico Group, Inc.



Deputy Chief Program Manager **Scott Jarvis** (far left), Business Advisory Council member, engineer, company owner **Vida Wright** (5th from left) and SAME members hold "I Will Ride" signs in support of high-speed rail. The group was attending SAME's Training and Business Opportunity Symposium at McClellan Park in Sacramento last August.

## SoCal Regional Consultant Services Sought

Backed by a steady stream of cap and trade proceeds, the Authority is accelerating work concurrently in all parts of the state, including Southern California. There is a great opportunity for small businesses looking to join this transformative program with the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for two new contracts for Regional Consultant (RC) Services. The Authority is seeking RCs for the Palmdale to Burbank Project Section and the Burbank to Los Angeles and Los Angeles to Anaheim Project Sections.

Interested firms and certified Small Businesses will provide planning, preliminary engineering, alternative route development, financial and programming analysis,

stakeholder coordination, public outreach, environmental services and right-of-way services for this important section of the high-speed rail system in Southern California.

On October 28, the Authority hosted a Pre-Bid Conference at the Metro Board Room in Los Angeles to allow small businesses to network and learn about the details of the contracts. About 160 people turned out at this event, where Southern California Regional Director Michelle Boehm gave a presentation on the progress made, the direction the Authority is moving in Southern California and how small businesses can get involved. After the presentation, subs and primes got the

opportunity to network.

The contract for RFQ No.: HSR 14-42 Palmdale to Burbank Project Section is estimated at \$56 million and will be for a five-year term. The contract for RFQ No.: 14-39 Burbank to Los Angeles and Los Angeles to Anaheim Project Sections is estimated at \$51 million and will also cover a five-year term. Both contracts include the Authority's 30 percent participation goal for Small Businesses and Disadvantaged Businesses.

The RFQs are currently available at [www.bidsync.com](http://www.bidsync.com) and via a link on the Authority's website: [http://hsr.ca.gov/About/Doing\\_Business\\_with\\_HSR/contracts\\_for\\_bid.html](http://hsr.ca.gov/About/Doing_Business_with_HSR/contracts_for_bid.html). Statements of Qualifications were submitted to the Authority by December 5 at 4:00 p.m. (PST). The Authority will hold discussions and interviews with Offerors in Los Angeles in mid to late December. Pending approval



Photo on left: Interested participants signing in at the Pre-Bid Conference in Los Angeles on October 28. Photo on right: Southern California Regional Director **Michelle Boehm** giving a presentation about the high-speed rail program and the RFQ for Regional Consultant Services in Southern California.

from the Authority Board of Directors, the Authority expects to award both contracts in February 2015.

— Adeline Yee

“Being a Southern California native, I know about traffic. The high-speed rail program will not only connect California’s major population centers, but it’s also improving existing, local transit systems. You’ll be able to avoid sitting in traffic and get home in time for dinner.”

Michelle Boehm  
Southern California Regional Director



Top photo: **Michael Aguillo** (left) from DGS and **Steven Martinez** (right) from Caltrans explain how to land a contract with the Authority and other state agencies to attendees at a Small Business Workshop in Merced on October 30.

Bottom photos: Participants find out what they need to become a state certified small business and how it will benefit their firm.

## How and Why You Should Get Certified

If you’re a Small Business (SB) looking to work on the high-speed rail program, you need to be certified. Only state certified SBs are eligible to be credited towards the Authority’s overall 30 percent SB participation goal. While the Authority is not a Small Business certifying agency, the Authority recognizes SB certifications from the California Department of General Services (DGS), the California Unified Certification Program (CUCP), and the U.S. Small Business Administration 8(a) Program.

Among the benefits to becoming a certified SB, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) or Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) through the state:

- California encourages state agencies to award at least 25 percent of their annual contracting dollars to SBs and at least 3 percent to DVBEs certified by DGS.
- Certified SBs are eligible to receive a 5 percent bid preference and DVBEs are eligible for up to a 5 percent incentive in the formal bid process.
- SBs and DVBEs certified by DGS and DBEs certified by CUCP are reflected in online directories, which state agencies utilize to find SBs.
- Focused outreach to DBEs for participation on federally assisted contracts.

For more information on how to get certified, visit our website at

[http://hsr.ca.gov/docs/programs/small\\_business/SB\\_Certification\\_Guide.pdf](http://hsr.ca.gov/docs/programs/small_business/SB_Certification_Guide.pdf).

— Adeline Yee



# Calendar of Upcoming Events

Meeting dates, times and locations are subject to change.

EVENTS	DATE	TIME	ADDRESS
High-Speed Rail Official Groundbreaking	January 6, 2015	TBA	Fresno, CA
Authority Board of Directors Meeting	January 13, 2015	9:00 am	1001 I Street Sacramento, CA
SBA Government Contracting Workshop	January 15, 2015	9:00 am – 12:00 pm	801 R Street Fresno, CA
Valley Industry and Commerce Association	January 20, 2015	8:00 am – 10:00 am	4222 Vineland North Hollywood, CA
Authority Business Advisory Council	February 19, 2015	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	707 Third Street West Sacramento, CA
SBA Government Contracting Workshop	February 19, 2015	9:00 am – 12:00 pm	801 R Street Fresno, CA

