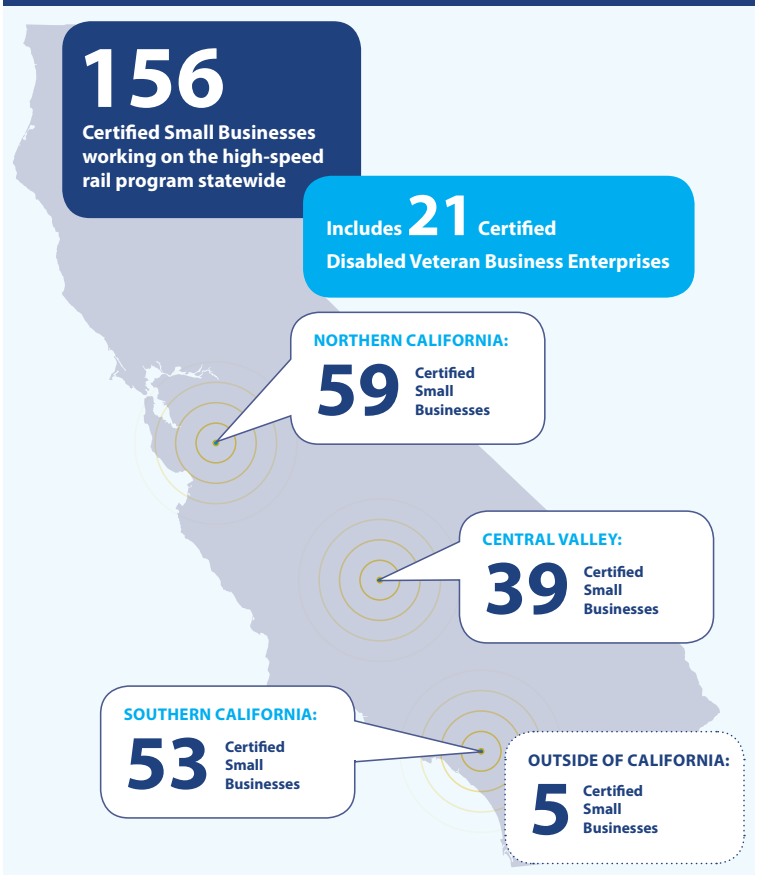
CALIFORNIA High-Speed Rail Authority

SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM • OCTOBER 2014

Investing in Small Businesses

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) is committed to ensuring that certified small businesses play a major role in building the statewide high-speed rail system. The Small Business Program has an aggressive 30 percent small business participation goal which plays a major role in the construction of high-speed rail and is creating local jobs and economic activity for the small business community.

SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION*
AS OF JUNE 30, 2014



*Based on 21 contracts

SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM

An aggressive Small Business Program allows certified Small Businesses (SB), Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises (DVBE), Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE), Microbusinesses (MB) Minority and Women-Owned firms a chance to take part in this historic program. In 2012, the Authority's Board of Directors approved the Small Business Program which has a 30 percent small business participation goal for all contracts lead by the Authority.

The 30 percent goal includes:

- 10 percent DBE participation goal.
- 3 percent DVBE participation goal.

SMALL BUSINESS CERTIFICATION WORKSHOPS

California small businesses are getting help from the Authority as they prepare to participate in the Small Business Program. The Authority has held more than 15 certification workshops statewide designed to provide small businesses with hands-on technical assistance and on-the-spot certification assistance. Through these workshops, the Authority has assisted hundreds of small businesses with their certifications, and more workshops are being scheduled. While the Authority is not a small business certifying agency, the Authority recognizes the small business certifications from the California Department of General Services, the California Unified Certification Program, and the U.S. Small Business Administration 8(a) Program.

www.hsr.ca.gov | (916) 431-2930 | sbprogram@hsr.ca.gov

PRE-BID CONFERENCES & INDUSTRY FORUMS

To make sure that small businesses are provided an opportunity to network and serve as subcontractors on the Authority's major contracts, the Authority hosts industry forums and/or pre-bid conferences for businesses interested in working on the high-speed rail program. These events provide small businesses with an opportunity to meet with prime firms and network with other businesses and Authority staff.

SMALL BUSINESS NEWSLETTER

In an effort to keep the small business community apprised of the latest news and contract opportunities on the high-speed rail program, the Authority issues a quarterly small business newsletter. Implemented in 2013, the newsletter readership base has grown into the thousands, and provides the most valuable resource tools for potential bidders to stay current on what is going on at the Authority.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATES

In the last two years, the Authority has reached out to partner with several existing small business organizations to ensure that public awareness of small business opportunities on the project are being created. The Authority has partnered with the following organizations:

Cooperative Agreements

- California Department of Veterans Strategic Partnership Agreement
- Economic Development Corporation Serving Fresno County
- United States Small Business Administration
- Department of General Services

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

- Minority Business Development Agency, U.S. Department of Commerce
- Women Construction Owners & Executives, U.S.A.
- Valley Small Business Development Corporation

THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Business Advisory Council (BAC) was created by the Authority's Board of Directors in 2012 to help eliminate barriers for small businesses and increase their participation in the program. The BAC assists the Authority with implementing practices that effect and/or impact the small business community. BAC members represent construction, professional services and trade associations from around California. To learm more about the BAC visit ***http://www.hsr.ca.gov/Programs/Small_Business/business_advisory_council***

Small Business Facts

• According to the Governor's Office of Business & Economic Development, California's 3.4 million small businesses account for 99% of the state's employers and employ 52% of the workforce.

"Being awarded the demolition contract for the first 29-miles of high-speed rail has given us an opportunity to expand and grow. We just moved into a larger office in Clovis and hired a project manager."

-Jill Kroeker

Owner of J. Kroeker, Inc.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Small Business Program

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