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## Five World-Class Construction Teams Qualify to Bid on Next Phase

Marking a significant milestone in the effort to keep high-speed rail moving south towards Bakersfield, the Authority will release a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Construction Package 2-3 (CP 2-3) in the coming weeks. Last month, Authority announced that five world-class construction teams qualified to bid on the next 60-mile phase of high-speed rail construction from Fresno to the Tulare-Kern County line near Bakersfield.

The selected design-build firm will be responsible for delivering final designs for bridges, culverts, trenches and tunnels, utility relocations, aerial structures, grade separations, security and drainage. The environmental clearance for the route is already underway and is anticipated to be final by spring 2014.

Each proposal must also meet the provision of the Authority's aggressive small business program. It requires a **30 percent small business participation goal which includes a 10 percent goal for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises and a three percent goal of Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises.**

The design-build contract will bring thousands of jobs to the Central Valley, an area with one of the highest unemployment rates in California and the nation. The route will also provide environmental benefits, relieve roadway congestion, enhanced driver safety and spur economic development. »

The *Investing in California Small Businesses* newsletter is published quarterly by the External Affairs Division of the California High-Speed Rail Authority.

To view past newsletters visit: [www.hsr.ca.gov/Programs/Small\\_Business/newsletter.html](http://www.hsr.ca.gov/Programs/Small_Business/newsletter.html)

# Investing in California Small Businesses

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



**CALIFORNIA**  
**High-Speed Rail Authority**

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

» The five design-bid teams that have qualified to submit bids on CP 2-3 in alphabetical order are:

- **CALIFORNIA RAIL BUILDERS**- Ferrovial Agroman US Corp. and Granite Construction Company
- **DRAGADOS/FLATIRON/SHIMMICK** - Dragados USA, Inc., Flatiron West, Inc. and Shimmick Construction Co., Inc.
- **GOLDEN STATE RAIL PARTNERSHIP** - OHL USA, Inc. and Samsung E&C America, Inc.
- **SKANSKA-AMES A JOINT VENTURE** - Skanska USA Civil West California District Inc. and Ames Construction, Inc.
- **TUTOR PERINI/ZACHRY/PARSONS, A JOINT VENTURE** - Tutor Perini Corporation, Zachry Construction Corporation and Parsons Transportation Group Inc.

— Lisa Marie Alley

## Upcoming Industry and Networking Events

The Authority is hosting an Industry Forum and Pre-Bid Conference on April 8 in Visalia for businesses interested in working on the next phase of the high-speed rail project. The Industry Forum will provide an opportunity for small business owners to meet with the qualified firms eligible to submit proposals for the design-build RFP for CP 2-3. The Pre-Bid Conference for the Project and Construction Management (PCM) Request for Qualifications for CP 2-3 will provide networking between prime and sub-contractors. Both events will include formal presentations that cover details and requirements of the contracts, how to bid and the importance of small business participation.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, April 8, 2014

### Industry Forum for Design-Build Contract

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### Pre-Bid Conference for Project Construction Management Services

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Visalia Convention Center  
303 East Acequia Avenue  
Visalia, CA 93291

## 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 (DBE), Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises (DVBE) and Micro-Businesses (MB).

# California Firms Awarded Right-of-Way Engineering and Surveying Contracts

Recently, small businesses seeking contracts and Californians who want to work got a big boost from high-speed rail. In February, the Authority's Board of Directors green lighted negotiations with five California firms vying for right-of-way engineering and surveying contracts. Four of the five small businesses are certified small businesses and two of them have their headquarters in the Central Valley.

"These contracts show a continued commitment to creating jobs and working with small businesses in the Central Valley," said Authority Small Business Advocate Robert Padilla. "The employees of these firms will bring vital engineering and surveying experience to the project and help support economic growth as they live, work and shop in the region."

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- Robert Padilla  
Small Business Advocate

"The right-of-way process is complex and the expertise of these contractors will be a great support. The Authority is committed to continuing to work with property owners, elected officials, stakeholders and the public throughout the right-of-way acquisition process."

- Diana Gomez  
Central Valley Regional Director

The five firms are:

- **Chaudhary & Associates, Inc.**
- **Hernandez, Kroone & Associates, Inc.**
- **Mark Thomas and Company, Inc.**
- **O'Dell Engineering**
- **Quad Knopf, Inc.**

Quad Knopf is based in Visalia and O'Dell Engineering is headquartered in Modesto. However, under the high-speed rail contract all of the companies will open offices in Fresno, Tulare or Kings County and adhere to the Authority's 30 percent small business participation goal. The Board's action allows Chief Executive Officer Jeff Morales to negotiate final terms and execute contracts with the companies. Each contract will be worth up to \$3.2 million over four years.

The procurement will cover support services for acquiring more than 1,000 parcels of real property from just south of Madera

to north of Bakersfield. The engineering and surveying work will include staking and marking parcels, drafting maps, developing legal property descriptions and identifying and relocating underground utilities. The firms will also be responsible for administration and project management, progress reports and project tracking systems.

"The right of way process is complex and the expertise of these contractors will be a great support," said Diana Gomez, the Authority's Central Valley Regional Director. "The Authority is committed to continuing to work with property owners, elected officials, stakeholders and the public throughout the right-of-way acquisition process."

The Authority is meeting and exceeding goals set out in an aggressive small business program which includes a 30 percent participation goal for small businesses competing for contracts with the Authority.

— Karen Massie



## Draft 2014 Business Plan Released

The Authority is required by Public Utilities Code Section 185033 to prepare, publish, adopt and submit a business plan to the California Legislature every two years. The Authority's Business Plan is an overarching policy document used to inform the Legislature, the public, and stakeholders of the project's implementation, and assist the Legislature in making policy decisions regarding the project.

On February 7, the Authority released the Draft 2014 Business Plan which summarizes the progress the Authority has made over the last two years, updates the 2012 Business Plan to include recent ridership

forecasts and cost estimates, and describes the next major decisions and milestones that lie ahead.

The main components of this draft plan have changed little from the 2012 Business Plan, with capital costs effectively un-



changed, down by 1%. Ridership projections are increasing and farebox revenue projections are decreasing, and continuing to cover operations and maintenance. The updates, including refinements to underlying models and analysis, are based on current data and recommendations from outside experts such as the United States Government Accountability Office.

The release of the plan kicked off the 60-day comment period that closes on April 8. The Board of Directors is expected to adopt the plan at their April meeting and by statute, the plan must be submitted to the Legislature by May 1.

To submit a comment visit: [http://www.hsr.ca.gov/About/Business\\_Plans/Draft\\_2014\\_Business\\_Plan.html](http://www.hsr.ca.gov/About/Business_Plans/Draft_2014_Business_Plan.html)

— Annie Parker

### Native American Owned Firm

## Native American-Owned Small Business Lands High-Speed Rail Contract

A Clovis-based company has jumped on board the high-speed rail project. Blair, Church & Flynn Consulting Engineers (BC&F), a Native American-owned small business, recently received a contract with design-build contractor Tutor Perini/Zachry/Parsons that will contribute to the California High-Speed Rail Authority's 30 percent participation goal for small businesses.

The \$1.6 million contract is for relocating underground utilities on Construction Package 1 which runs from outside Madera to just south of downtown Fresno. "Our firm is a natural fit, offering a local, proven resource with more than 55 years of experience

providing civil engineering to the Fresno area and key utility stakeholders," said David

"Our firm is a natural fit, offering a local, proven resource with more than 55 years of experience providing civil engineering to the Fresno area and key utility stakeholders."

— David Mowry  
President and CEO  
Blair, Church & Flynn Consulting Engineers



Mowry President and CEO of BC&F.

"The utility relocation work involves long-term clients we care deeply about. We understand their infrastructure and know first-hand how important reliable utility service is to our community."

BC&F will prepare plans for the relocation of existing utilities for the Madera Irrigation District, Fresno Irrigation District, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District and the city of Fresno. The utilities will include storm drain lines, water and sewer mains and irrigation facilities.

— Karen Massie

## Small Business Participation Soars on Construction Package One

While most Fresno residents are fast asleep, a tiny robot is trundling underground. Work crews are using the robot to find and map underground sewer lines that may have to be moved.

It's part of the preliminary work being done on Construction Package 1, the high-speed rail section that will run from Avenue 17 outside Madera to East American Avenue just south of downtown Fresno. The Tutor Perini/Zachry/ Parsons (TPZP) design-build team has hired 27 small and disadvantaged businesses to work on the project.

Certified small business Valverde Construction, Inc. is doing utility relocation while Earth Mechanics, Inc. (EMI) is providing ge-

otechnical services, examining the physical and chemical makeup of the ground where railroad underpasses and overpasses will be located.

And whether crews are working during the day or night, Alert-o-Lite, a Fresno-based small business, is setting up barricades to keep workers safe from vehicle traffic.

Nearly 200 more employees are helping TPZP finalize high-speed rail design plans. The project and construction management team of Wong-Harris has 22 employees and three small businesses overseeing engineering, environmental compliance and construction of the project.

— Karen Massie



As the project approaches final design, TPZP and its subcontractor, Earth Mechanics, Inc., have begun conducting geotechnical and drilling work in the Fresno area. The work is designed to identify soil types and will be used to complete the design work and prepare for erecting structures, including bridges and overpasses.



Local small business Valverde is employing robots to inspect underground utilities in Fresno. This technology is being used to map underground sewer lines that may have to be moved.

## Contractor Looks Underground to Help High-Speed Rail in the Central Valley

He grew up wanting a career in boxing. Today he works with his hands, but Joe Valverde spends time outdoors wrestling with equipment on construction sites.

Growing up in South Central Los Angeles, Valverde began boxing as an amateur in high school. After a stint in the military, he boxed professionally. Unfortunately, it wasn't enough to put food on the table for

his growing family, so he took a job as a mechanic and eventually began driving a truck for a construction equipment company. He then moved into sales and then management. That gave him the desire to go into business for himself.

In 1972, he started Valverde Construction,

Inc., an engineering and pipeline utility construction firm known today for its experience on large multi-million dollar infrastructure projects. The company has landed a \$38 million subcontract with Tutor-Perini/Zachry/Parsons (TPZP), the high-speed rail design-build team hired to handle the project's initial construction from Madera to Fresno.

"They picked us because of our reputation, the work we do and 41 years of experience," Valverde said. His company worked on the Alameda Corridor, a 10-mile rail line that allows trains to travel from Los Angeles to the ports of L.A. and Long Beach while avoiding more than 200 railroad crossings where vehicles were constantly waiting on freight trains.

Based out of Santa Fe Springs, Valverde's

"I've got a lot of miles in the air and I hate getting screened, X-rayed and waiting for planes. If high-speed rail can get you from San Francisco to L.A. in about two hours, that's less time than it'll take getting on a plane."

— Joe Valverde  
President and Founder  
Valverde Construction, Inc.

firm has opened offices in Fresno and a small crew is completing designs, buying equipment and hiring more workers. They're identifying underground utilities along the high-speed rail alignment. Valverde explained it's a delicate task to relocate and reconnect utilities. "There's a lot of lines and pipes underground," he said.



Valverde and his staff examine utility maps.

"They're used for water, gas, oil, electricity, sewers, phones and internet connections. Some are active and some are abandoned."

Apparently, if shovels or backhoes are used to find underground utilities, they can be damaged. So workers use a vacuum excavator to blow air or water through a large pipe into the ground where it removes earth which is syphoned into a huge tank aboard a truck above ground.

It's a process that's familiar to Valverde's sons. All four work for their father. Two of them are leading the Fresno operations for high-speed rail. A third son is the chief estimator and the oldest is working in San Francisco's Central Subway, an extension of the Muni Metro light rail system that's received \$61 million in high-speed rail funds.

Valverde said they believe in high-speed rail like he does. "I've got a lot of miles in the air," Valverde declared. "And I hate getting screened, X-rayed and waiting for planes. If high-speed rail can get you from San Francisco to L.A. in about two hours, that's less time than it'll take getting on a plane."

— Karen Massie



## Women Construction Owners and Executives

Women Construction Owners and Executives (WCOE) represents women-owned construction industry companies and female executives with some of the largest corporations in the U.S. The organization is dedicated to leveling the playing field for WCOE members. WCOE advocates on their behalf on a variety of issues including equal access to federal contracting opportunities and business financing, supporting legislation that benefits the construction industry and providing professional training to help women-owned firms and to increase the number of female construction industry executives.

WCOE and the Authority recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that seeks to improve the business environment for the construction industry through outreach, education and advocacy. Of course, a special focus is put on women-owned businesses and professional women in the industry.

“Our organization’s mission is to grow our members’ contacts, contracts and their bottom line,” said Lee Cunningham, WCOE President and CEO of BT Metal Sales & Fabrication in Eureka California. “The MOU with the Authority will help women-owned construction firms find out about bid opportunities on the high-speed rail project. It will also help the Authority continue to be successful as it meets its goal of 30 percent participation on the project for small businesses.”

You can find out more about WCOE at <http://www.wcoeusa.org/>



— Karen Massie

### Strategic Partnerships

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.

### Joint Train Procurement by Authority and Amtrak

## Amtrak and Authority Request Bids for High-Speed Trainsets

The Authority and Amtrak are one step closer to new, cutting edge trains. The two agencies recently announced they are accepting bids from train manufacturers to build their next fleet. The announcement highlights cooperation between the agencies, who believe the joint order will increase incentive among world-class companies to bid while reducing the individual cost of each trainset.

The Authority initially wants to buy 15 trainsets designed to hold at least 450 people and operate at a minimum speed of 200 mph. The trains will provide passengers with the latest amenities as they ride from Los Angeles to San Francisco in under three hours.

Amtrak will receive the first trainsets to meet increased demand on their Acela line in the Washington D.C. to Boston corridor.



The Authority’s wants to acquire a high-speed rail prototype that can be tested before 2018.

Bids to build the trainsets are due on May 17. The Authority and Amtrak expect to select the winning manufacturer by the end of the year.

— Orville Thomas

## Business Advisory Council Sets Goals for 2014

The Business Advisory Council (BAC) for the Authority is touting a list of accomplishments for 2013 and setting new goals for 2014.

At the first meeting of 2014, the BAC's Construction Committee and Professional Services Committee said the Authority's accomplishments included identifying which firms won high-speed rail contracts and providing information on upcoming contract opportunities on the Authority's website. The Authority also received high marks for certifying and training small businesses on how to do business with the state and providing teaming opportunities for small business procurement.

BAC committee members had a number of objectives they'd like to tackle with the Authority this year. They include encouraging the Authority to continue ensuring

prompt payment for contractors, expanding the small business outreach list and working with small businesses on how to become bonded to increase their ability to compete for a high-speed rail contract. The BAC encourages shortlisted teams competing for contracts to engage the small business community to help increase procurements opportunities.

"We welcome and appreciate the BAC's input," said the Authority's Small Business Advocate Robert Padilla. "We are committed to engaging small businesses in the procurement process so more of them can participate in the high-speed rail project."

Created by the Authority Board of Directors in 2012, the BAC assists the Authority with implementing practices that effect and/or impact the small business community.

For more information about the Business Advisory Council, please visit [http://hsr.ca.gov/Programs/Small\\_Business/index.html](http://hsr.ca.gov/Programs/Small_Business/index.html)

"We welcome and appreciate the Business Advisory Council's input. We are committed to engaging small businesses in the procurement process so more of them can participate in the high-speed rail project."

- Robert Padilla  
Small Business Advocate



Members of the Business Advisory Council convene for the first meeting of 2014. The BAC serves as a forum to provide essential input and advisement to the Authority in implementing practices that effect and/or impact the small business community.

## 2014 BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

### ASSOCIATION

### PRIMARY REPRESENTATIVE

American Council of Engineering Companies	Arvin Chaudhary
American Indian Chambers of Commerce of California	Gretchen Cox
Asian American Architects and Engineers	Eddy Lau
Asian American Architects/Engineers Association – Southern California	Linden Nishinaga
Asian Business Association	Johnathan Hou
Associated General Contractors of California	Sam Hassoun
California Asian Chambers of Commerce	Scott Leslie
California Black Chambers of Commerce	Aubry Stone
California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce	Ernie Gutierrez
Disabled Veteran Business Alliance	Chris Coles
Elite Service Disabled Veteran Owned Business Network	Bill Ulmer
Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce	Debbie Hunsaker
Kern Minority Contractors Association	Marvin Dean
La Raza Roundtable de California	Paul Guerrero
Latin Business Association	Leonard Ortiz
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People – Sacramento	Betty Williams
National Concilio of America	Diana LaCome
San Francisco African American Chamber of Commerce	Frederick Jordon
Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) – California Region	Vida Wright
US Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce – Western Region	Clyde Wong
Women Construction Owners and Executives	Lee Cunningham

### 2014 BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday	April 17, 2014	Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority	One Gateway Plaza Los Angeles, CA Metro Board Room	1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m
Thursday	June 19, 2014	Caltrans Manchester Center	2901 E. Shields Suite 100 Fresno, CA Yosemite Room 145	1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m
Thursday	August 21, 2014	Department of General Services	707 3rd St. West Sacramento, CA Executive Dining Room	1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m
Thursday	October 16, 2014	Department of General Services	707 3rd St. West Sacramento, CA Auditorium	1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m
Thursday	December 11, 2014	Department of General Services	707 3rd St. West Sacramento, CA Executive Dining Room	1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m

# Calendar of Upcoming Events

Meeting dates, times and locations are subject to change.

EVENTS	DATE	TIME	ADDRESS
Free Small Business Certification Workshop	March 26, 2014	9:00 am - 12:00 am	Larry Reider Education Center 2000 K St. Bakersfield, CA, 93301
Caltrans 10th Annual Procurement and Resource Fair	March 26, 2014	9:30 am – 1:00 pm	Department of Transportation (District 11) Balboa Park Club Ballroom 2144 Pan American Rd. West San Diego, CA 92101
Industry Forum for Design-Build Contract	April 8, 2014	10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Visalia Convention Center 303 E Acequia Ave. Visalia, CA 93291
Pre-Bid Conference for Project and Construction Management Services	April 8, 2014	1:30 am – 3:30 pm	Visalia Convention Center 303 E Acequia Ave. Visalia, CA 93291
Business Advisory Council	April 17, 2014	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Metro Board Room 1 Gateway Plaza Los Angeles, CA 90012
Business Advisory Council	June 19, 2014	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Caltrans Manchester Center Yosemite Room 145 2901 E. Shields Suite 100 Fresno, CA 93726
Business Advisory Council	August 21, 2014	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Department of General Services Executive Dining Room 707 Third St. West Sacramento, CA 95605

