

# CALTRANS/SBA

## BONDING ASSISTANCE INITIATIVE

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in consultation with the Governor's Office of Small Business Advocate, have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), to offer a technical assistance surety bond guarantee program to promote increased small business participation in Caltrans, State highway and transit projects.

This initiative is vital to placing more small businesses on the path to full and adequate utilization within California, bringing success to more small businesses, thereby strengthening the State's business community and economy. Further, this initiative provides a viable means to advance the *unimpeded participation of all willing, ready, and able construction contractors and subcontractors, professional architectural and engineering firms, suppliers and truckers, without regard to race, ethnicity, gender, or physical disability to participate in the State's Contracting Program.*<sup>1</sup>

SBA's Surety Bond Guarantee Program helps eligible small businesses obtain bid, performance and payment bonds by guaranteeing surety companies between 70% and 90% of the bond amount.

SBA's Surety Bond Guarantee Program contains two components: Prior Approval Program and Preferred Program. For more information, please visit their Web site at [www.SBA.gov](http://www.SBA.gov).

Surety companies certified by the U.S. Treasury to issue bonds are eligible to apply for participation in the SBA Surety Bond Guarantee Program. For applications, contact or visit your nearest SBA office listed below:

**Fresno District Office**

2719 North Air Fresno Drive  
Suite 200  
Fresno, CA 93727  
Phone: (559) 487-5791

**Los Angeles District Office**

330 North Brand, Suite 1200  
Glendale, CA 91203  
Phone: (818) 552-3215

**Sacramento District Office**

6501 Sylvan Road, Suite 100  
Citrus Heights, CA 95610  
Phone: (916) 735-1700

**San Diego District Office**

550 West C Street, Suite 550  
San Diego, CA 92101  
Phone: (619) 557-7250

**San Francisco District Office**

455 Market Street, 6th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105-2420  
Phone: (415) 744-6820

**Santa Ana District Office**

200 W. Santa Ana Blvd.  
Suite 700  
Santa Ana, CA 92701  
Phone: (714) 550-7420

For more information or assistance with completing an SBA Surety Bond Guarantee application, please contact a Small Business Development Center (SBDC) in your area (see SBDC Locations attachment) or contact Linda Madden at (916) 324-8384 or via email at [Linda.Madden@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Linda.Madden@dot.ca.gov).

**Caltrans Office of Business and Economic Opportunity**



<sup>1</sup> California Executive Order No. S-11-06 (July 21, 2006)

# California Department of Transportation and U.S. Small Business Administration Partnership Announcement

Press Release Issued: May 21, 2009

## **SMALL BUSINESSES GAIN INCREASED OPPORTUNITY TO COMPETE FOR CALTRANS CONTRACTS**

### ***California Partners with U.S. Small Business Administration on First-In-The-Nation Initiative***

In an effort to increase contracting opportunities for California's small businesses, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has partnered with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to help California small businesses bid on construction projects. The first such partnership in the nation and one of the top ten recommendations from participants at Governor's Conference on Small Business & Entrepreneurship, the joint Bonding Assistance Initiative helps qualified small businesses access bond guarantees – which are required on Caltrans construction contracts and are currently difficult for small businesses to attain.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and California's new partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration relieves what was previously a huge challenge for these organizations in bidding on Caltrans projects," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "Helping California's small businesses helps our economy, helps our state – and in this case helps level the playing field for these small business contractors."

Under the joint Bonding Assistance Initiative, qualified small businesses can more easily obtain the necessary bond guarantees required on Caltrans construction contracts. Prior to this partnership, California-based small businesses faced a limited number of companies issuing SBA surety bond guarantees. California's new partnership with the SBA will increase the number of surety bond companies statewide so small businesses will have easier access to bond guarantees and applications, which are required on Caltrans construction contracts.

With better access to bond guarantees, this initiative will help increase small business bid participation as Caltrans advertises its projects, including those funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act). California has received nearly \$2.6 billion in Recovery Act funding for highway and local streets, and Caltrans is advertising projects for contractors, including small businesses.

The SBA helps eligible small businesses obtain the surety and performance bonds needed to work on state highway projects through its Surety Bond Guarantee Program, a public-private partnership between the federal government and the bond-issuing surety industry. Caltrans, through its Office of Business and Economic Opportunity, will work in conjunction with the SBA to provide free education and technical assistance statewide through Caltrans and SBA district offices.