California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority)
Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Improvement Plan

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AUTHORITY OF GENERAL SERVICES
PROCUREMENT DIVISION
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FY 2013/14

I. Summary of Small Business (SBE) Participation.

The Authority contract and procurement analysts are required to make an effort to find and use SBEs for purchases and services. The analysts promote the use of SBEs in language contained in the solicitation documents and utilize the SB option whenever feasible. The Authority had over 50 percent SBE participation level in Procurement purchases; however, there was less than 24 percent participation in statewide contracts specific to the development of a high-speed rail system.

II. Explain why the participation Goal Was Not Achieved.

In fiscal year 2013/14 the Authority awarded several large contracts for services that required businesses to have specific expertise in specialized fields. For example, the Authority required legal counsel in matters relating to all federal and state laws pertaining to negotiations with freight and rail companies and obtained services from a large law firm with experience and knowledge in that field. There were no SBEs that had the level of expertise needed to meet Authority contract requirements.

III. Plan to Enhance Contracting Opportunities for Small Business

I. Policy

The Authority will actively promote the use of SBEs in purchasing and contracting activities toward achieving the 25 percent participation goal.

II. Collaborative Efforts

The Authority will inform all employees involved with contracts to be aware of the 25 percent SBE participation goal for the 14/15 fiscal year and provide SB training for all employees and staff.

III. Contracting Practices

The Authority will include the following language in contract bid advertisements: "The State encourages Small Business Enterprises to apply." The Authority will continue to look for products and services being supplied by SBEs and utilize the SB option whenever feasible.

IV. Planning and Advocacy.

The Authority will seek SBEs for bids on services and goods and SBEs will be encouraged to apply for contracts with the Authority.

V. Monitor and Continuously Improve.

The Authority will review FY 2014/15 awarded contracts on a quarterly basis to monitor and track that the SBE participation goal is being met. If the 25 percent SBE goal is not being met, the Authority will implement corrective measures to increase SBE participation.