



# State and Consumer Services Agency

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
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African American Museum  
Building Standards Commission  
Consumer Affairs  
Fair Employment & Housing  
Fair Employment & Housing Commission  
Franchise Tax Board  
General Services  
Insurance Advisor  
Science Center  
Personnel Board  
Public Employees' Retirement System  
Teachers' Retirement System  
Victim Compensation &  
Governmental Claims Board

**DATE:** May 17, 2004

**TO:** Agency Secretaries and Department Heads  
Business Services and Contracting Managers  
Procurement & Contracting Officials  
SB/DVBE Advocates

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF THE DVBE PARTICIPATION PROGRAM**

The State of California acknowledges the service and sacrifice of its disabled veterans, in part, through the "Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) Participation Program".

Established in 1989, the DVBE Participation Program created a goal for state agencies to award at least three percent of their annual contract dollars to DVBEs. The law allows state agencies to manage their DVBE participation in individual contracts, so long as the overall dollar amount awarded to DVBEs is at least three percent annually. The result is that some contracts may have a goal of more than three percent and some may have no DVBE participation goal.

The Department of General Services (DGS) and Department of Veteran's Affairs (CDVA) are jointly responsible for the Program. The DGS and the CDVA are working hard to ensure that California's DVBEs have access to the information they need to become certified and to participate in the state's contracting opportunities, but we need your help.

A review of the DVBE participation statistics for 2002/2003 shows a total of \$142,670,222 (or 2.7%) awarded to DVBEs statewide out of \$5,282,419,094 for all contracts. Some departments exceeded the goal and are highlighted in the annual report (viewable at: [www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/Legi/Publications/2004Reports/DVBESatewideAnnualReport.pdf](http://www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/Legi/Publications/2004Reports/DVBESatewideAnnualReport.pdf)). However, of the 113 Departments reporting, only 48 (42 percent) met the three percent goal. We need to do better.

The DVBE Participation Program has our full support and we ask the same of you. As the FY 2003/2004 is coming to a close, we challenge you to recommit your departments to meeting the DVBE goals in all contracts now, and exceeding them in 2004/2005! Encourage your procurement professionals and SB/DVBE Advocates to search for innovative ways to get information to DVBE businesses so that more bids are submitted.

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To assist you in your efforts, we encourage you to contact Mariel Dennis, Chief, Department of General Services, SB/DVBE Services Branch at (916) 375-4945, or email her at [Mariel.Dennis@dgs.ca.gov](mailto:Mariel.Dennis@dgs.ca.gov).



Fred Aguiar, Secretary  
State & Consumer Services Agency



Tom Johnson, Secretary  
Department of Veteran Affairs