



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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Metropolitan Transportation Commission Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Program

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OBJECTIVES/POLICY STATEMENT

In order to provide economic opportunity for residents and businesses, and stimulate economic development in the San Francisco Bay Area Region, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) hereby establishes a Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Program (“SBE Program” or “Program”) to assist SBE firms in participating in MTC non-federally funded, non-architectural and engineering (A&E) materials, equipment, supplies, services and construction contracts. This Program is aimed at using the power of the public purse to stimulate economic development.

The objectives of the SBE Program include:

1. To increase the number of certified SBEs participating in non-federally funded, non-A&E contracts;
2. To increase overall competition on non-federally funded, non-A&E contracts potentially allowing for the completion of projects at a lower overall cost;
3. To create a level playing field on which SBEs can compete fairly on non-federally funded contracts;
4. To ensure that only SBE firms (prime Consultant/Contractor or Subconsultant/Subcontractor/Vendor) meeting the Program’s eligibility requirements are eligible for the Evaluation Preference allowed under the Program;
5. To help remove barriers to the participation of SBEs in non-federally funded contracts; and
6. To identify business enterprises that are qualified as SBE’s and are qualified to provide MTC with required materials, equipment, supplies and services.

The Director of Administration & Facilities Services Section (AFS) has been designated as the SBE Liaison Officer (SBELO). In that capacity, the AFS Director is responsible for implementing all aspects of the Program. Implementation of the SBE Program is intended to be consistent with the MTC Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program.

SUBPART A – GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

A.1 Objectives

The objectives are found in the policy statement on the first page of this Program.

A.2 Applicability

MTC is a recipient of state and local funds. As a condition of this assistance, and in compliance with Proposition 209, MTC shall implement this Program without consideration of race, sex, or ethnicity. This Program sets forth the policies and procedures to be implemented by MTC to confirm that small businesses have the maximum opportunity to participate in MTC non-federally funded materials, equipment, supplies, services and construction contracts.

When a non-federally funded, non-A&E contract is awarded to a Consultant/Contractor/Vendor based on the Evaluation Preference described in C.1 of this Program, the Consultant/Contractor/Vendor must adhere to all the requirements included in this Program.

This Program applies solely to non-federally funded, non-A&E materials, equipment, supplies, services and construction contracts.

A.3 Definitions

MTC adopts the following definitions listed below for this SBE Program:

1st Tier Subconsultant/Subcontractor/Vendor – A subconsultant or subcontractor to a Consultant or Contractor.

2nd Tier Subconsultant/Subcontractor/Vendor – A subconsultant or subcontractor to a 1st Tier subconsultant or subcontractor.

AFS – Administrative and Facilities Services Section.

Bid – The offer of the bidder for the construction project when completed and submitted in response to an IFB on the prescribed bid form.

Bid Preference – The application of a percentage discount to the total amount of a bid submitted by a Bidder for a contract solely for the purpose of bid comparisons when determining the lowest and best bid, or lowest responsible bid. The use of a bid preference for bid comparison does not alter the total amount of the bid submitted by a bidder or the contract executed based on a bid.

Business Suppliers – An individual or business entity that makes available a certain commodity for meeting demand or for purchase at a given price.

Civil Construction – Civil Construction is a segment of the broader construction industry focused on building core infrastructure such as highways, roads, bridges, telecommunications, subway tunnels, light rail transit lines and public buildings.

Commercially Useful Function (CUF) – An SBE performs a commercially useful function when it

is responsible for the execution of the work of the contract and is carrying out its responsibilities by actually performing, managing, and supervising the work involved. An SBE does not perform a CUF if it does not perform or exercise responsibility for at least 60 percent of the total cost of its contract that would be expected on the basis of normal industry practice for the type of work involved. If, in MTC's judgment, the SBE does not perform a CUF in the transaction, no Evaluation Preference will be awarded.

Community Based Organization (CBO) – A non-government agency created to provide training, employment or community assistance.

Consultant/Contractor/Vendor – The individual, partnership, corporation, joint venture or other legal entity entering into a contractual agreement with MTC.

Evaluation Preference – The application of a percentage or point preference to the total evaluation score of a Proposer for a procurement or solicitation, solely for the purpose of Proposal or SOQ comparisons when determining the highest ranked Proposal or SOQ. The use of an Evaluation Preference for Proposal or SOQ comparison will alter the total percentage or points allotted to the Proposer.

Invitation for Bid (IFB) – Invitation for Bid issued by MTC for construction services.

Manufacturer – A firm that operates or maintains a factory or establishment that produces on the premises the materials or supplies purchased.

MTC - Metropolitan Transportation Commission.

Monitoring – The system established to measure compliance with the Program.

Post Award – The meeting held between MTC and Consultants/Contractors/Vendors after the award of a Professional Services or civil construction project and before contract execution. Post award meetings occur at the request of either MTC or Consultant/Contractor/Vendor.

Professional Services – any non-public works service(s). Professional Services contracts may contain a minor public works component.

Proposer – Consultant/Contractor/Vendor submitting a Proposal or SOQ in response to a RFP or RFQ.

Proposal – An offer of a Proposer to provide Professional Services, in response to an RFP.

Request for Proposal (RFP) – RFP issued by MTC for Professional Services.

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) – RFQ issued by MTC for Professional Services.

SBE Program – The MTC SBE Program.

Small Business Enterprise (SBE) – A firm that meets the requirements set forth in Section B.3 Certification Standards and SBE Directories.

SBE Broker – An SBE Broker is a firm that is not a vendor but is providing assistance in the procurement of required materials or supplies.

SBE Dealer – An SBE Dealer is a firm that owns, operates or maintains a store, warehouse, or other establishment in which the materials, supplies, articles or equipment of the general character described by the specifications and required under the Agreement are bought, kept in stock, and regularly sold or leased to the public in the usual course of business. The firm must be an established, regular business that engages, as its principal business and under its own name, in the purchase and sale or lease of the products in question.

SBE Directory – The list of firms certified under any of the programs outlined in Section B.3 Certification Standards and SBE Directories, which is used by MTC and its Consultants/Contractors/Vendors to identify potential SBE Consultants/Contractors/Vendors and Subconsultants/Subcontractors/Vendors and suppliers.

SBELO – Small Business Enterprise Liaison Officer.

SOQ – A statement of qualifications submitted by a Proposer in response to an RFQ.

Subcontract – A contract entered into between a Consultant/Contractor/Vendor with a Subconsultant/Subcontractor/Vendor.

Subconsultant/Subcontractor/Vendor – The individual, partnership, corporation or other legal entity that contracts to perform part of or all of the obligations of another's contract.

Subrecipient – Any agency that receives funds from MTC via statute, an interagency, cooperative or funding agreement.

Utilization – Percentage of total dollars of a type of work going to SBEs.

Web-based Diversity Tracking System – The diversity tracking software provided by MTC to Consultants/Contractors/Vendors accessible from any internet browser on any platform or operating system.

SUBPART B - ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

B.1 Program Updates

The SBELO or designee will provide the appropriate authorizing board with updates representing significant changes in the Program.

B.2 SBELO and Program Implementation

MTC has designated the following individual as its SBE Liaison Officer (SBELO):

Director of Administration and Facilities Section (AFS)
Metropolitan Transportation Commission 375 Beale St, Suite 800
San Francisco, CA 94105
Phone: (415) 778-6700
Email: contracts@bayareametro.gov

In that capacity, the SBELO is responsible for implementing all aspects of the SBE Program and ensuring that MTC complies with all provisions of the SBE Program. The SBELO has direct, independent access to the Executive Director concerning SBE Program matters.

The SBELO is responsible for developing, implementing and monitoring the SBE Program, in coordination with other appropriate officials. The SBELO has staff to assist in the administration of the SBE Program. The duties and responsibilities include the following:

1. Gathers and reports statistical data and other information as required.
2. Reviews third party contracts and purchase requisitions for compliance with the SBE Program.
3. Works with AFS staff to determine if a Proposer/Bidder has achieved the requirements for the Evaluation Preference.
4. Confirms that notices of procurement and solicitations are available to SBEs in a timely manner.
5. Identifies qualified contracts and procurements so that SBE preferences are included in all applicable procurements.
6. Analyzes MTC's progress toward SBE attainment and identifies ways to improve progress.
7. Participates in pre-proposal/pre-bid meetings.
8. Advises the Executive Director and/or the appropriate authorizing board on SBE matters and achievement.
9. Provides outreach to SBEs and CBOs to advise them of opportunities and technical assistance to SBEs to assist in Proposal, SOQ and/or bid preparation and obtaining bonding and insurance.

B.3 Certification Standards and SBE Directories

MTC does not administer an SBE certification program. To be eligible for the Bid/Evaluation Preference allowed under the SBE Program, firms (prime Contractor or Subconsultant/Subcontractor/Vendor) must be certified under any of the programs outlined below:

1) *California Certified Small Business as certified by the California Department of General Services (DGS) -Procurement Division (PD) - Office of Small Business and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Services (OSDS)*

The State of California SBE Directory can be accessed at:

<https://caleprocure.ca.gov/pages/PublicSearch/supplier-search.aspx>

2) *A Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) as certified by the California Unified Certification Program (CUCP)*

The CUCP Directory can be accessed at:

<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/business-and-economic-opportunity>

3) *City and County of San Francisco Local Business Enterprise (LBE) as certified by the Contract Monitoring Division (CMD) Directory Certification Unit*

The Directory of Certified LBEs can be accessed here:

<https://sfgov.org/cmd/directory-certified-lbes>

4) *Alameda County Small Local and Emerging Business (SLEB) program as certified by the Alameda County SLEB Certification Unit*

The SLEB Supplier Query System Database can be accessed at:

https://www.acgov.org/sleb_query_app/gsa/sleb/query/slebresultlist.jsp?smEmInd=C

5) DVBE/LBE/LGBTBE/MBE/SBE/WBE certification from a formal certifying agency in the nine-county Bay Area, provided that the certification can be verified through a searchable database and meets the requirements of the State of California Small Business Program¹. (Disadvantaged Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE), Local Business Enterprise (LBE), Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Business Enterprise (LGBTBE), Minority Business Enterprise (MBE), Small Business Enterprise (SBE), Women Business Enterprise (WBE))

Note:

¹ Per Title 2, California Code of Regulations, § 1896.12. Eligibility for Certification as a Small Business.

To be eligible for certification as a small business, a business must meet all of the following qualifying criteria:

- (1) It is independently owned and operated; and
- (2) Its principal office is located in California; and
- (3) The officers of the business (in the case of a corporation); officers and/or managers, or in the absence of officers and/or managers, all members in the case of a limited liability company; partners in the case of a partnership; or the owner(s) in all other cases, are domiciled in California; and
- (4) It is not dominant in its field of operation(s), and
- (5) It is either:

(A) A business that, together with all affiliates, has 100 or fewer employees, and annual gross receipts of fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) or less as averaged for the previous three (3) tax years, as biennially adjusted by the Department in accordance with Government Code § 14837(d)(3) (If the business or its affiliate(s) has been in existence for less than three (3) tax years, then the GAR will be based upon the number of years in existence); or

(B) A manufacturer as defined herein that, together with all affiliates, has 100 or fewer employees.

B.4 Record Keeping Requirements

When a non-federally funded, non-A&E contract is awarded to a Consultant/Contractor/Vendor based on the Evaluation Preference listed in Subpart C, Section C.1 of this SBE Program, AFS will monitor the contract per Subpart D, to confirm that the Consultants/Contractors/Vendors are in compliance with the requirements of the SBE Program. AFS staff will report SBE participation to the appropriate authorizing board via reports generated from the web-based diversity tracking system.

MTC will require Consultants/Contractors/Vendors to maintain records and documents of payments to all Subconsultants/Subcontractors/Vendors (SBEs and non-SBEs) for four (4) years following the completion of the contract. MTC will perform interim reviews of contract payments to SBEs. Payments to SBE Subconsultants/Subcontractors/Vendors will be reviewed to verify that the actual amount paid to SBE Subconsultants/Subcontractors/Vendors equals or exceeds the dollar amounts stated in the schedule of SBE participation included in the contract.

B.5 Public Outreach

MTC will participate in outreach events with other San Francisco Bay Area transportation agencies and CBOs to leverage its efforts to assist SBE firms. MTC will also participate in Caltrans' CalMentor Protégé Program for small business development.

SUBPART C – EVALUATION PREFERENCE AND SBE PARTICIPATION

C.1 Evaluation Preference

MTC will allow an evaluation preference to be applied as a percentage discount to the total amount of a proposal/bid submitted by a Proposer/Bidder for a contract solely for the purpose of bid comparisons when determining the lowest and best bid, or lowest responsible bid. The use of an evaluation preference for Proposal, SOQ, or Bid comparison does not alter the total amount of the bid submitted by a bidder or the contract executed based on a bid. The SBE Program evaluation preference will be applied to all locally-funded solicitations when issued.

The Evaluation Preference applied as a percentage or point preference to the total evaluation percentage or points of a Proposal, SOQ, or Bid submitted by a Proposer/Bidder for a contract will be solely for the purpose of evaluation comparisons when determining the highest ranked Proposal or SOQ. The use of an Evaluation Preference for Proposal, SOQ or Bid comparison will alter the total evaluation percentage or points allotted to a Proposer/Bidder.

The Evaluation Preference will be applied to all non-federally funded solicitations. The Evaluation Preferences will be applied as follows after MTC verifies that the responsiveness requirements have been met:

- An Evaluation Preference of five percent (5%) or five (5) points will be added to the total evaluation percentage or points, when the Proposer meeting specifications commits to twenty-five percent (25%) SBE participation for the work (which can be achieved by the prime, by a sub(s), or a combination of prime and sub(s) who meet the requirements set forth in Section B.3 of this SBE Program), or
- An Evaluation Preference of 10 percent (10%) or ten (10) points will be added to the total evaluation percentage or points, when the Proposer meeting specifications commits to forty percent (40%) SBE participation for the work (which can be achieved by the prime, by a sub(s), or a combination of prime and sub(s) who meet the requirements set forth in Section B.3 of this SBE Program).

AFS staff will monitor MTC's SBE Program to confirm that the Consultants/ Contractors/Vendors are in compliance with the requirements of the SBE Program. The report of SBE awards, commitments and payments will be generated from the web-based diversity tracking system.

C.2 Maintaining Participation

Once a project begins, it is important to achieve and maintain the level of SBE participation that allowed the Evaluation Preference. Prime Consultants/ Contractors/ Vendors must maintain the SBE percentages indicated in the Proposal, SOQ or Bid documents at the time of Proposal, SOQ or Bid submittal throughout the term of the contract.

If MTC modifies the original scope of work, the Consultant/Contractor/Vendor must make reasonable efforts to maintain the SBE participation that allowed the Evaluation Preference. In the event of amendments, AFS staff may use their discretion to allow adjustments to SBE percentages for the amended portion of the work. Upon request, MTC staff will help firms to determine methods of maintaining percentages.

Should the prime Consultant/Contractor/Vendor fail to maintain the SBE participation listed at the time of Proposal, SOQ or Bid submittal, MTC reserves the right to enforce Consultant/Contractor/Vendor compliance with this SBE Program through one or more of the remedies included in Section D.3 of this SBE Program.

C.3 Substitution of Listed Subcontractors

Substitution of listed Subconsultants/Subcontractors/Vendors shall generally be made in accordance with Public Contracts Code Section 4107. In addition, the SBELO must concur in any decision to permit substitution of a SBE Subconsultant/Subcontractor/Vendor when the award was made on the basis of the Evaluation Preference listed in Section C.1 above.

C.4 Joint Venture Agreements

A business that is competing for MTC contracts may associate with a certified SBE business to compete for contracts as a Joint Venture (JV). JVs receive an Evaluation Preference depending upon the SBE percentage of participation as set forth in Section C.1 of Subpart C, Evaluation Preference and SBE Participation. The parties must agree to enter into the relationship for at least the term of the project.

Basic Elements of the Joint Venture Agreement

A JV must submit a JV Management Plan and/or a JV Agreement in their Proposal or SOQ. Each agreement or management plan must include, but is not limited to the following:

- Detailed explanation of the financial contribution of each partner;
- List of the personnel and equipment used by each partner;
- Detailed breakdown of the responsibilities of each partner;
- Explanation of how the profits and losses will be distributed;
- Description of the bonding capacity of each partner; and
- Management or incentive fees available for any one of the partners (if any).

Commercially Useful Functions (CUF) Performed by Joint Venture Partners

Each JV partner must perform a “commercially useful function” as that term is defined herein. A SBE that relies on the resources and personnel of a non-SBE

firm will not be deemed to perform a CUF.

Joint Venture License Requirements

Each JV partner must possess qualifications, certifications, accreditations, or licenses appropriate for the discipline for which a Proposal, SOQ or Bid is being submitted. If a JV is proposing/bidding on a project requiring license or certification, at the time of Proposal, SOQ or Bid submittal, each of the JV partners must hold a JV License or Certification and possess the requisite specialty license or certification for that profession.

Delineation of Joint Venture Work

The SBE partner must clearly define the portion of the work to be performed during the project. This work must be of the similar type of work the SBE partner performs in the normal course of its business. The Proposal, SOQ or Bid must specify the portions of the project to be performed by each individual JV partner. Lump sum JV participation is not acceptable.

Responsibilities of the SBE Joint Venture Partners

The SBE partner must share in the ownership, control, management responsibilities, risks, and profits of the JV in proportion with level of participation in the project; the SBE partner must perform work that is commensurate with its experience. The SBE partner must use its own employees and equipment to perform its portion of the project. Only the portion of the total dollar value of the contract equal to the distinct, clearly defined portion of the work of the contract that the SBE performs with its own forces will be counted toward SBE participation

Application of Evaluation Preference for Joint Venture Agreements

To be eligible for an Evaluation Preference, at the time of Proposal, SOQ or Bid submittal, each JV partner must each have the qualification, certification, accreditation, or license that is appropriate for the project as required in the contract document of the contract award authority. Unless permission is granted by the SBELO or designee for good cause shown, based on sudden and unexpected necessity, the following actions are not permitted: i) the non-SBE partner performing work for the SBE partner; ii) leasing of equipment or property by the SBE partner from the non-SBE partner; and iii) the hiring of the non-SBE partner's employees by the SBE partner.

Other Joint Venture Conditions

The SBELO or a designee must first approve the SBE JV Agreement/Management Plan before the JV is eligible for an Evaluation Preference. Any changes must also receive the prior approval of the SBELO or designee. In addition to any other information required by conditions specified herein, each SBE JV must provide upon request, cancelled checks and any other financial records to MTC.

C.5 Counting SBE Participation

SBEs may perform as Consultants/Contractors/Vendors, 1st tier Subconsultants/Subcontractors/Vendors, or 2nd tier Subconsultants/Subcontractors/Vendors. Only the value of the work to be performed by the SBE, including materials and supplies, will be counted toward SBE participation.

A SBE must perform a commercially useful function, i.e., must be responsible for the execution of a distinct element of the work and must carry out its responsibility by actually performing, managing and supervising the work. If an SBE 1st Tier or 2nd Tier Subconsultant/Subcontractor/Vendor does not perform or exercise responsibility for at least sixty percent (60%) of the total cost of its contract with its own work force, or if the SBE subcontracts a greater portion of work of a contract than would be expected on the basis of normal industry practice, then it will be presumed that the SBE is not performing a CUF.

Credit for an SBE Dealer of materials or supplies is limited to sixty percent (60%) of the amount to be paid to the vendor for the materials or supplies unless the vendor manufactures or substantially alters the goods. Credit for SBE Brokers is limited to only the fees and commissions portion of the amount paid. All other firms receive 100% credit, less work subcontracted by the SBE to non-SBE firms.

During the term of a contract, work performed by SBE firms whose certification has expired will continue to be counted toward the SBE participation.

SUBPART D – COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

D.1 Monitoring

When a contract is awarded to a Consultant/Contractor/Vendor based on the Evaluation Preference listed in Subpart C, Section C.1 of this Program, AFS will monitor the contract per Subpart D, to confirm that the Consultants/Contractors/Vendors comply with the requirements of the Program. AFS staff will report SBE participation to the appropriate authorizing board via reports generated from the web-based diversity tracking system.

MTC will require Consultants/Contractors/Vendors to maintain records and documents of payments to all Subconsultants/Subcontractors/Vendors (SBEs and non-SBEs) for four years following the performance of the contract. MTC will perform interim reviews of contract payments to SBEs. Payments to SBE Subconsultants/Subcontractors/Vendors will be reviewed to verify that the actual amount paid to SBE Subconsultants/Subcontractors/Vendors equals or exceeds the dollar amounts stated in the schedule of SBE participation included in the contract.

Subrecipients may be required to submit verification of their eligibility for participation in the SBE Program and to provide annual reports of SBE utilization on Professional Services or Civil Construction projects achieved under the SBE Program.

MTC has implemented the following monitoring mechanisms to monitor Consultant/Contractor/Vendor compliance with Program requirements:

1. The SBELO or designee will verify that work committed to SBEs at contract award is actually performed by the SBEs.
2. The SBELO or designee will keep a running tally of actual payments to SBE firms for work committed to them at the time of contract award with the use of MTC's web-based diversity tracking system.

If a Professional Services or Construction project has a public works portion of work valued over \$1,000.00, the State's Labor Code requires Consultants/Contractors/Vendors to pay their employees in accordance with general prevailing wages that apply to that portion of the work. The prime Contractor and all Subconsultants/Subcontractors/Vendors including, if applicable, truckers and owner/operators are required to submit certified payroll records in accordance with Labor Code section 1776 upon request from MTC. Failure to submit certified payroll records could result in withholding of progress payment(s).

Upon request, Consultants/Contractors/Vendors will provide MTC with executed copies of its Subconsultant/Subcontractor/Vendor agreements to verify dollar amounts stated for all SBEs.

D.2 SBE Utilization Report

Consultants/Contractors/Vendors are required to submit monthly SBE Utilization Reports electronically to MTC AFS. The Consultant/Contractor/Vendor will document the dollar value of payments to SBE firms and the percentage of the contract completed. MTC will monitor the contract for compliance with SBE requirements.

This system is web-based, accessible from any computer via the internet. Each Consultant/Contractor/Vendor and Subconsultant/Subcontractor/Vendor will receive an email providing them with Log On identification, a temporary password and instructions on how to use the system. Training will also be provided upon request. Consultant/Contractor/Vendor will include this requirement in all of its subcontracts and purchase orders when required to provide or verify SBE utilization documentation.

If the SBE Utilization Reports indicate potential problems, such as a failure to comply with the contract SBE participation, the Consultant/Contractor/Vendor shall meet with the MTC SBELO or designee to address any deficiencies and discuss appropriate corrective actions. When the Contract completion reaches 50% and the SBE participation completed is less than 50%, a detailed report of the reasons why must be submitted to MTC stating a plan to reach the SBE participation by Contract completion.

Prior to final payment, Consultant/Contractor/Vendor will be required to submit a final SBE Utilization Report by selecting the "Final Audit" reporting designation within the web-based diversity tracking system. In addition to payments to the SBEs, the final report must include payments to and other information about all other businesses, including non-SBE Subconsultants/Subcontractors/Vendors, suppliers of materials and others.

D.3 SBE Program Enforcement

MTC has available several remedies to enforce compliance of the SBE Program requirements contained in its contracts, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Breach of contract action, resulting from a violation of the terms of the RFP, RFQ or IFB and contract.
2. Assessment of a penalty of up to one and one half times the amount that should have been awarded to SBE(s).
3. Termination of Contractor's performance of work under the contract.
4. Any other remedy available to MTC in the contract or the relevant RFP, RFQ or IFB.