



Press Release

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DATE: May 3, 2012

High-Speed Rail Authority Partners with U.S. Minority Business Development Agency

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) is partnering with the U.S. Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, to expand outreach and marketing in support of minority-owned business and small business participation on the high-speed rail project. Today, Diana Gomez, the Authority’s Central California Regional Director, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with David Hinson, National Director for MBDA. Authority Small Business Advocate Robert Padilla participated in the signing ceremony.

The five-year agreement outlines the Authority and MBDA’s joint outreach efforts to strengthen and expand the utilization of Central Valley Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs) during the initial construction of the high-speed rail system.

“The Authority is committed to connecting with minority owned businesses and small business owners to let them know that there are real employment opportunities on this one-of-a-kind project,” said Diana Gomez, Authority Central California Regional Director. “Today’s partnership is an important step forward in ensuring that people who are ready to work on the project have the opportunity to do so, and that we’re ready to help them succeed.”

The MOU was signed at the grand opening of a new Fresno MBDA Business Center located at 5067 N. Mariposa Street in Fresno. The center will provide minority-owned firms with professional management and technical assistance, information for regional contracting opportunities, and help businesses to get certified and ready for work.

“MBDA is very excited about this project and its prospects of putting Americans back to work,” said David A. Hinson, National Director, MBDA. “High-speed rail means tens of thousands of new jobs making it possible for Californians to support their families—and not just jobs to build the trains and the train line, but also jobs to operate and maintain it. And there’s more — businesses along the route, like restaurants, retail and suppliers will experience a boost in consumer demand thereby employing hundreds of more Americans.”

The Authority is committed to small businesses playing a major role in building the statewide high-speed rail project. The Authority has an aggressive 30 percent goal for small business participation including a 10 percent Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE), Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises (DVBE) and Micro-Businesses (MB).

About California High-Speed Rail Authority

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) is responsible for planning, designing, building and operation of the first high-speed rail system in the nation. By 2029, the system will run from San Francisco to the Los Angeles basin in under three hours at speeds capable of over 200 miles per hour. The system will eventually extend to Sacramento and San Diego, totaling 800 miles with up to 24 stations. In addition, the Authority is working with regional partners to implement a statewide rail modernization plan that will invest billions of dollars in local and regional rail lines to meet the state’s 21st century transportation needs. To learn more visit the Authority’s website at cahighspeedrail.ca.gov and join us on [facebook.com/CaliforniaHighSpeedRail](https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaHighSpeedRail) and follow us at twitter.com/cahsra/.