Investing in California Small Businesses

SMALL BUSINESS NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 4: ISSUE 1 MAY 2016

Contents

1. Firms Cements Big Gains
3. Construction Training Leads to High-Speed Rail Job
5. DVBE Offers Wide Range of Services
6. Design-Build Team on Board for CP 4
7. CP 1 Extends North
8. BAC Member Works to Change Lives
10. California Procurement Undergoes Big Change
12. Faces of Women In Construction
14. NSI Gets Second Ride on High-Speed Rail
15. Veteran is Vanguard for Third-Party Deals
16. Firm Tracks Birds of Prey
17. Company Helps Clear Rail Path
18. Central Valley Construction Progress
19. Supporters Hop on Board #IWillRide
20. Small Business Calendar

Small Business Cements Big Gains After Joining High-Speed Rail Project

In March, Outback Materials celebrated the grand opening of its new concrete plant in Fresno. Owner Curtis Lovett said the expansion into Fresno had been many years in the making, with growth plans being shelved after the housing market crash.

Lovett is proud of the new plant. It features the only variable speed concrete mixer on the West Coast, which allows workers to avoid spillage during the loading process. A recycling system prevents the plant's water from going down the drain. All of the water is used including water used to clean concrete trucks. It's reclaimed and put into making concrete. Lovett also expects he'll hire about 25 new workers including managers, truck drivers, operators, a dispatcher and an accountant.

If it weren't for the California High-Speed Rail Authority's aggressive small business goals, Lovett doesn't think his business would have expanded. "When you buy from local companies, the money stays here because they spend it in California," Lovett said.

"The bigger companies send their profits outside of the country."

> "When the high-speed rail proposal was published I didn't think we had much of a chance against these billion dollar companies."
>
> Curtis Lovett
> Owner
> Outback Materials

Lovett's grandfather and father worked in the concrete business. He started driving a concrete mixer truck to put himself through college. After graduation, ›

Investing in California Small Businesses

SMALL BUSINESS NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 4 • ISSUE 1
MAY 2016

Contact Information
CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY
770 L Street, Suite 620
Sacramento, CA 95814

SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM
Main: (916) 324-1541
Email: *sbprogram@hsr.ca.gov*

Alice Rodriguez
Small Business Advocate
Email: *alice.rodriguez@hsr.ca.gov*

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
Karen Massie, *Managing Editor*
Email: *karen.massie@hsr.ca.gov*

To access and download more information pertaining to the small business program, visit the Authority's SB Resources webpage at ***www.hsr.ca.gov/Programs/Small_Business/index.html***

The ***Investing in California Small Businesses*** newsletter is published quarterly by the Communications Division of the California High-Speed Rail Authority. To view past newsletters visit: ***www.hsr.ca.gov/Programs/Small_Business/newsletter.html***

CALIFORNIA High-Speed Rail Authority
www.hsr.ca.gov

he had a successful career working for some of the leading companies in the industry. But he still wanted more. He explained, "After working for large multinational corporations, I longed for interaction, having a local approach and getting to know customers."

In 2004, he bought Outback. At that time, it consisted of three concrete plants in Mariposa, O'Neals and Oakhurst. A year later, the company grew when he acquired Harmon Ready Mix in Auberry and Rio Mesa Ready Mix in Friant. Then the housing market crashed forcing construction to come to a near halt.

Outback Materials owner Curtis Lovett, center, led Fresno County Supervisor Henry Perea, left, and Assemblyman Jim Frazier - (D) Oakley, right, on a tour of his new concrete plant that opened recently in Fresno.

Demand for concrete was still at a low point when the first construction package for high-speed rail was awarded to Tutor Perini/Zachry/Parsons. "When the high-speed rail proposal was published, I didn't think we had much of a chance against these billion dollar companies," Lovett said. "They can just drop the price and put you out of the competition." But Outback had something other small Central Valley concrete companies didn't have -- a good working relationship with large global concrete suppliers.

"I called the contractor, Tutor Perini." Lovett recalled. "I was interviewed by Ron Tutor, owner to owner. We went through all the details of the proposal and we were chosen to supply the project."

Outback is also supplying concrete to the high-speed rail project out of the plant in Friant, which is close to the Fresno River Viaduct site near Madera. He's grateful for the opportunity and pointed out his recent expansion into Fresno means better service for customers. He calls his new plant, "an investment in the people of Fresno." He added, "It's for the contractor that works with his wheelbarrow on the weekends trying to make an extra dollar and not just for the major companies."

- Elizabeth Jonasson

Small Business Program

The Authority is committed to small businesses playing a major role in building the statewide high-speed rail system. The Small Business Program has an aggressive 30 percent goal for small business participation including Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs), Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises (DVBEs) and Micro-Businesses (MBs).

Faces of High-Speed Rail: Pre-Apprenticeship Training Student Lands Job on High-Speed Rail

Prospective construction workers continue to flock to classes designed to lead to jobs on California's high-speed rail project and other infrastructure projects. Two years ago, Yovani Moreno joined students taking Pre-Apprenticeship Training classes at the Construction and General Laborers' Local 294 union hall in Fresno.

"I had a felony in my past so it was hard to maintain a job," explained Moreno. "I worked in landscaping, manufacturing and food packing. I also had a contract with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) doing mainly landscaping, litter abatement and flagging. But I only made minimum wage -- $8 an hour. I wanted something more."

Pre-Apprenticeship courses train students in several areas -- electrical, plumbing, concrete, math, rigging and more. Moreno was eager to learn. "I learned the basic fundamentals of construction, from how to build a building from the ground up to letting it stand tall," he said. After the six week session, Moreno took several tests and following an interview, he joined the Laborers' Union.

It wasn't long before he started working as a laborer's apprentice on the high-speed rail project. He's done a variety of jobs -- from digging and setting up forms to laying concrete and moving beams. The starting pay was about $17.50 an hour. Accumulating hours on the job has allowed him to move up in rank and pay.

Currently, he is doing traffic control for Associated Traffic Safety, a woman owned Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) that has a contract on high-speed rail's Construction Package 1 in Fresno. "I'm making $23.95 an hour right now," Moreno explained. "So, I'm at the top as an apprentice and I plan to graduate to being a journeyman. My pay, to my amazement, will go up to $28 an hour."

> "I had a felony in my past so it was hard to maintain a job. I only made minimum wage - $8 an hour. I wanted something more. "
>
> Yovani Moreno
> Pre-Apprenticeship Training Student

For Moreno, this couldn't come at a better time. The 34-year-old has a fiancée and a 5-year-old son and 8-year-old daughter at home. "This job is such a blessing," he declared. "I come home tired but loving it. I can pay my bills on time. And it really feels good to know that when my daughter's birthday comes up, I can throw her a birthday party and buy her a nice gift."

Moreno said he encourages others to take the apprenticeship training. He's really pushing one friend in particular.

Meanwhile, he thinks he may go to school and keep pushing till he becomes a job superintendent or foreman. He's even thought he could eventually own his own business. "It really doesn't stop here," he said. "I'm looking at so many different things. It's hard but I know if I just keep going. There will be a big payoff in the long run. Best of all, my family will get the benefits."

- Karen Massie

Life for Yovani Moreno (right) has changed since he took Pre-Apprentice Training offered by the Construction and General Laborer's Local 294 in Fresno.

Pre Apprencticeship Training

Over the last three years, the Fresno County Workforce Investment Board (WIB) and its partners have offered Pre-Apprenticeship Training classes to people interested in working on high-speed rail and other construction projects.

The Central Valley Infrastructure Employment Project (CVIEP) started its classes in 2013. Since then, 171 students have completed CVIEP classes in Fresno, Kern, Merced and Stanislaus Counties. A $1.5 million state grant from California's Employment Development Department (EDD) pays for the training costs.

Grant funds from Proposition 39, the California Clean Energy Jobs Act, have paid for pre-apprenticeship classes in Fresno, Madera, Stanislaus and Merced Counties. Since this training program began last year, 62 trainees have graduated from the program.

EDD is also paying for pre-apprenticeship classes for military veterans through the Veteran's Employment-Related Assistance Program (VEAP). Currently, 21 students are taking VEAP courses.

Fresno WIB Training Coordinator Melissa Mata said seven more cohorts (class sessions) are planned for 2016. And by the end of 2017, officials expect training sessions will be available in eight Central Valley counties, including San Joaquin County.

Partners helping out with the training include the Merced County WIB, Kern/Inyo/Mono WIB, Stanislaus Alliance Worknet and the Building and Construction Trades Council.

If you're interested in joining a training class, go to www.valleybuild.net or call (855) 805-7245 or visit ***www.hsrjobs.com***.

- Karen Massie

Draft schedule of Pre-Apprenticeship Training classes

**Subject to change due to recruitment and union availability

Fresno County VEAP #2	April 4, 2016	25 students planned
Kings & Tulare Counties VEAP	May 2016	20 students planned
Merced VEAP	July 2016	20 students planned
Tulare Prop 39	July 2016	20 students planned
Kings Prop 39	September 2016	20 students planned
Stanislaus Prop 39	October 2016	20 students planned
Kern VEAP	Late 2016	20 students planned

Faces of High-Speed Rail: The Many Hats of DVBE Owner Virgal Woolfolk

When he's not toiling in the field under a hardhat, Virgal Woolfolk wears many other hats. Since 1999, his firm, Virtek Company, has offered a wide range of engineering and environmental services to large transportation clients in Southern California. Certified as a Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) owner, Woolfolk said his company's ability to be a "single source solution" provider helped him win a contract on the Palmdale to Burbank high-speed rail project.

Woolfolk has more than 25 years of experience as a surveyor assistant and transportation, environmental and land use planner. He worked at the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and was the first Senior Environmental Planner for the Eastern Municipal Water District in Riverside County where he helped develop the district's growth management plan. He teaches courses on Water and Wastewater Management, Environmental Justice and Business. He also served in the U.S. Navy where he was trained as an environmental specialist.

The St. Louis native pointed out his family knew comedian Red Foxx and boxing star Muhammad Ali before they were famous. Later, he convinced them to join comedienne Elayne Boosler in the "Unforgettable Night of Laughter," his annual fundraiser, which provides financial support for military families who have lost a child. Woolfolk explained, "We stick together as vets. This event is one of the most important things in my life because it allows me to help others."

Since January, Woolfolk has worked in the Angeles National Forest where his team assists with surveying, mapping and monitoring contractors taking soil samples. This work is being done for SENER, a prime contractor handling preliminary engineering and environmental services for the Palmdale to Burbank project section. He said, "They gave us the opportunity to apply the skills of our incredible team and we're very happy with the work we have."

-Rachel Kesting

> "They gave us the opportunity to apply the skills of our incredible team and we're very happy with the work we have."
>
> Virgal Woolfolk
> Owner
> Virtek Company

Virtek Company owner Virgal Woolfolk stays busy (left) helping with with studies in the Angeles National Forest. He constantly meets with (center) other high-speed rail supporters, including Bart Reed, LA Transit Coalition and Sheila Kuehl, LA County Supervisor. He also organizes the "Unforgettable Night of Laughter," (right) a fundraiser for military families who have lost a child.

High-Speed Rail Construction Continues Towards Bakersfield with Next Construction Package

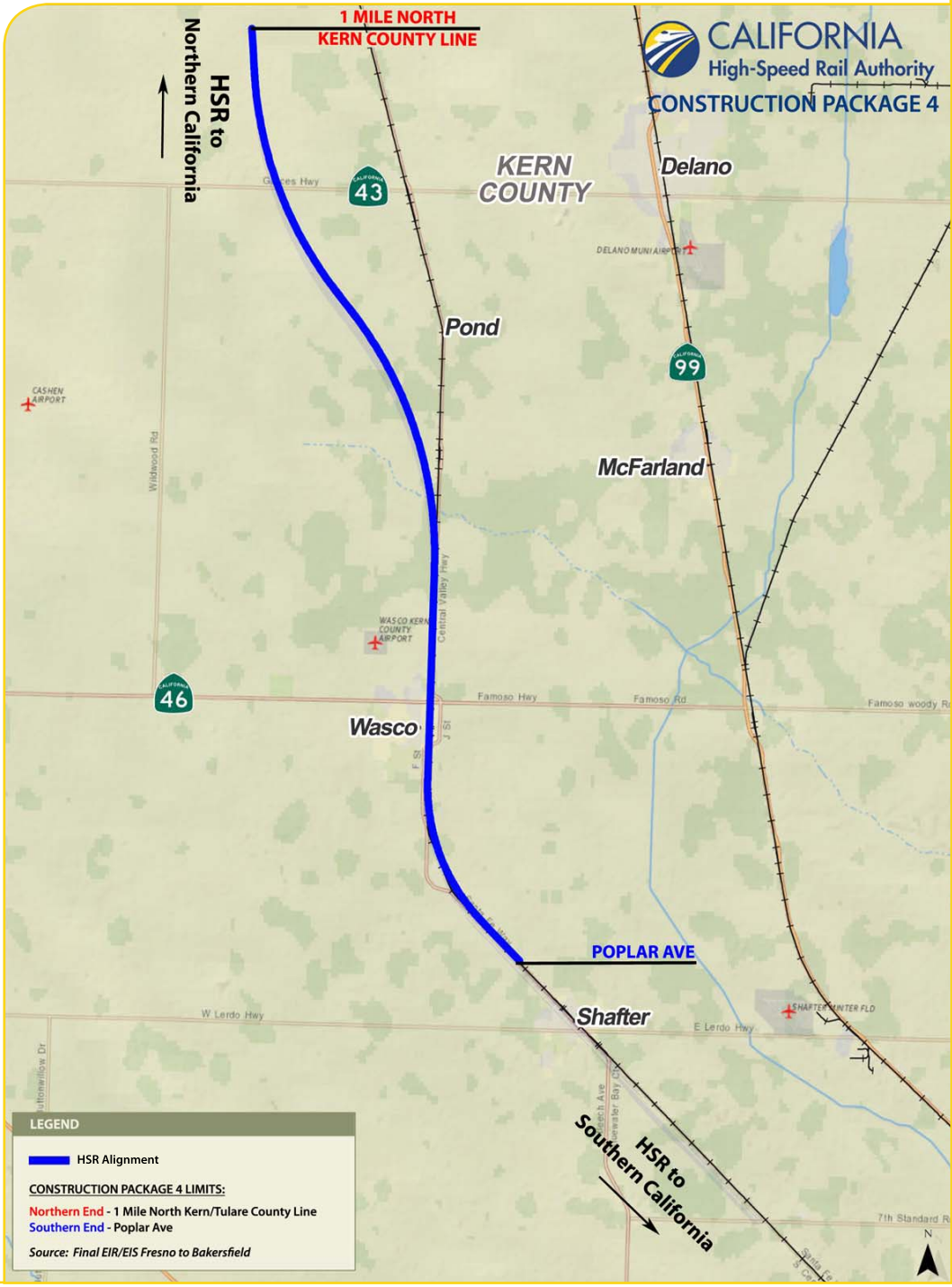
The Authority has signed a design-build contract with California Rail Builders (CRB) for Construction Package 4 (CP 4), 22 miles of high-speed rail that stretches through Tulare and Kern counties and the cities of Wasco and Shafter. The deal was executed in March 2016, two months after the Authority Board of Directors announced the consortium of world class companies as the Apparent Best Value Proposer for CP 4. The contract was originally estimated between $400 million to $500 million with the bid from California Rail Builders coming in at approximately $347 million.

"We continue to attract world leading design and construction firms who want to be a part of high-speed rail in California," said Authority CEO Jeff Morales. "We're moving this program forward and people can already see major construction projects as we build over 100 miles of infrastructure in the Central Valley."

California Rail Builders is led by Ferrovial Agroman US Corp., which has designed and constructed more than 65 high-speed rail projects worldwide. Over the past eight years, Ferrovial has been awarded seven major design-build contracts in North America totaling $8 billion, including North Tarrant Express segments along I-35W near Fort Worth, Texas and Berths 142-143 Backland Improvements Project for automated shipping terminals at the Port of Los Angeles in California.

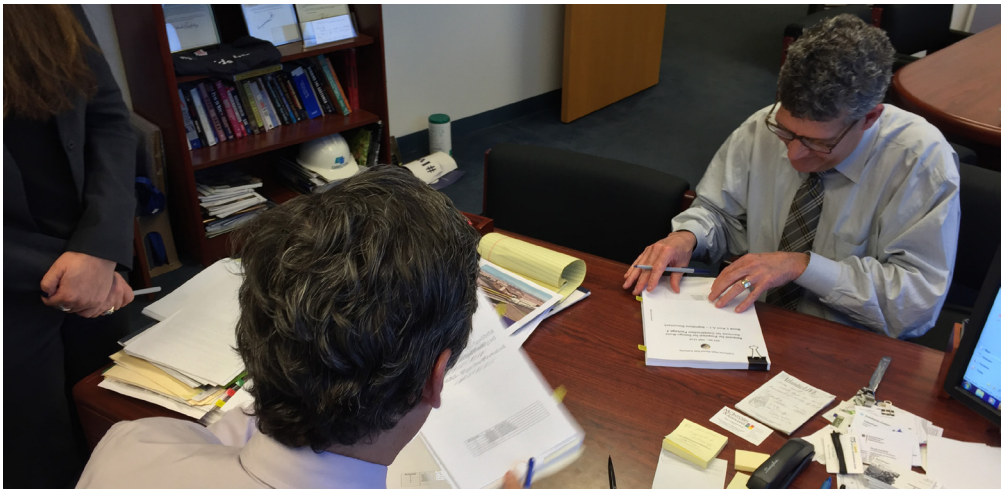
The CRB contract was awarded as part of a multi-year bidding process. Five teams submitted proposals to the Authority. They were evaluated and ranked on 30 percent for technical merit and 70 percent for price. Factors such as an understanding of the project, schedule capacity, project approach and safety were part of the technical scoring.

Work on Construction Package 4 will extend from one mile north of the Tulare/Kern County line to Poplar Avenue, just north of Bakersfield. The work will include



"We continue to attract world leading design and construction firms who want to be a part of high-speed rail in California. We're moving this program forward and people can already see major construction projects as we build over 100 miles of infrastructure in the Central Valley."

Jeff Morales, CEO Authority



The Authority's Chief Counsel Thomas Fellenz (right) and CEO Jeff Morales (left) sign the contract for Construction Package 4 (CP 4) with the design-build team of California Rail Builders. Led by Ferrovial Agroman US Corp., the team bid on 22 miles stretch of high-speed rail in the Central Valley.

construction of at-grade, retained fill and aerial sections of the alignment, relocation of four miles of existing BNSF tracks, construction of waterway and wildlife crossings and roadway reconstructions, relocations and closures. This phase of construction received state and federal environmental clearances in 2014.

The CRB proposal adheres to the Authority's 30 percent Small Business (SB) participation goals, which includes goals of at least 10 percent participation for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) and 3 percent for Disable Veteran Business Enterprises (DVBE). It will also, provide flexible bonding and retainage requirements to encourage and facilitate SB participation. The following SB/DBE/DVBE/MB subconsultants/subcontractors are listed in the CRB Proposal in alphabetical order:

- Bond and Kennedy, Inc.
- G&C Equipment Corporation
- JMA Civil, Inc.
- Katch Environmental Inc.
- MARRS Services Inc.
- Unico Engineering, Inc.
- USC Supply

-Annie Parker

Central Valley Progress

Construction Package 1 Northern Extension

On March 8, 2016, the Authority Board of Directors approved plans to extend the limits of Construction Package 1 (CP1) northward by approximately 2.72 miles from Avenue 17 to Avenue 19 in Madera County. The extension stretches toward Merced and San Jose and is a part of the Merced to Fresno section, which is already cleared environmentally. It will allow for a more logical connection and transfer point near an existing Amtrak station and bring the Authority closer to delivering the first operating segment of high-speed rail.

The northern extension will be added to CP 1 through a change contract order for the design-build team of Tutor Perini/Zachry Parsons (TPZP). The design and construction work is consistent with the work TPZP is already doing on CP1 and will result in a time and costs savings on the team's current contract.

Work on the extension will include three grade-separated structures and a bridge over Schmidt Creek. The Authority has already started acquiring an estimated 40 parcels needed to finish the work. TPZP estimates that it will take 18 months to complete construction for the extension and it's not expected to impact the schedule for CP 1. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds will be used to pay for the extension.

-Karen Massie

Business Advisory Council Member Spends Retirement Working to Change Lives

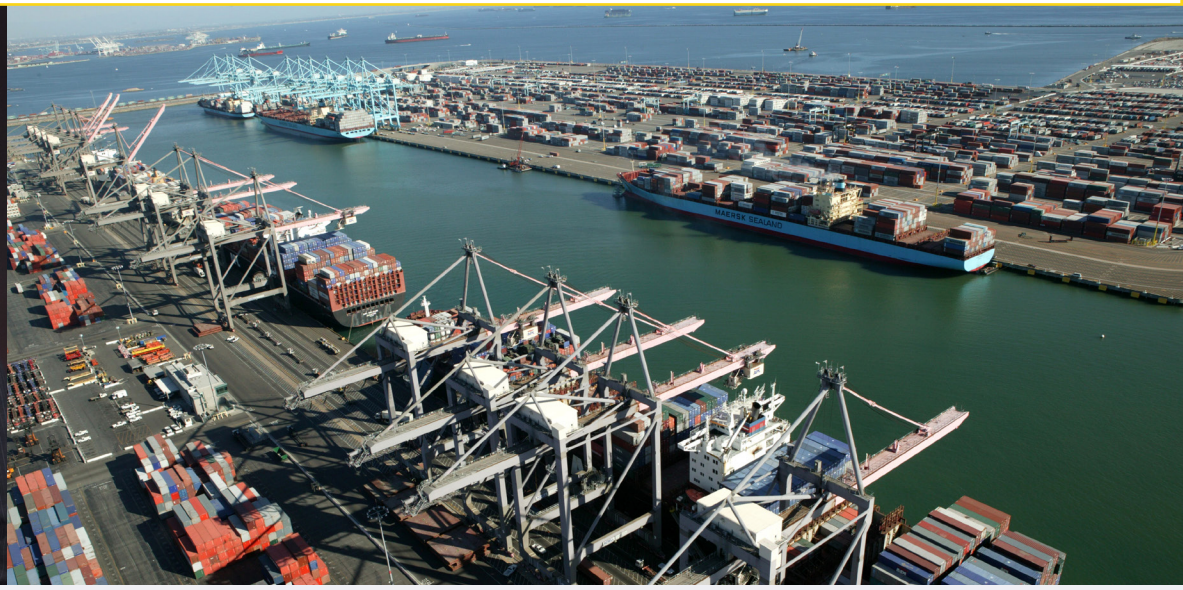
For nearly 50 years, he worked on major infrastructure projects in Southern California. Today, Linden Nishinaga claims he's retired but maintains a busy schedule volunteering and improving the lives of millions of people.

Nishinaga, a civil, structural and earthquake engineer, sits on the Authority's Business Advisory Council (BAC) where he represents the Asian American Architects/Engineers Association of Southern California (AAa/e). "I was one of the original members when the BAC started in 2012," Nishinaga said. "I know about the benefits of high-speed rail because I've traveled on high-speed rail in Japan."

He explained that AAa/e has been around 40 years and is committed to promoting business opportunities and education programs for Asian American professionals in the field of design, engineering, architecture and construction. The organization also provides scholarships for local college students interested in careers as professional engineers and architects. Nisinaga said, "Engineering is needed, very lucrative and there's a shortage of highly educated qualified professionals, who can put their stamp on plans for important projects."

Nishinaga also obtained his Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Accredited Professional credential from the U.S. Green Building Council. He uses knowledge about sustainability in his work with the American Society of Civil Engineers' Sustainability Committee and the City of Torrance Water Commission where he's serving a second four-year term. "I'm pushing our (water commission) department staff to get going on planned underground well water, desalination and recycled water projects. Along with conservation, they can help reduce the need for imported water," he said. Nishinaga also strongly encourages using captured rain fall and reusing greywater -- water from bathroom sinks, tubs, and washing machines that hasn't come in contact with fecal matter.

Before retiring in 2012, Nishinaga worked on major innovative design projects. He was with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power in 1971 when the Sylmar Earthquake heavily damaged the DWP Sylmar Converter Station. Using new earthquake design methods, Nishinaga helped retrofit the facility, which feeds



Linden Nishinaga was a project manager on a massive expansion plans for the Port of Los Angeles. The work including constructing an artificial island that now houses harbor terminals on Pier 400.

Asian American Architects/Engineers Association

AAa/e

A Place to Make Connections

electricity from Northern Oregon to the Los Angeles power grid. "We didn't have the computer programs we have today. So we did mathematical calculations by hand," Nishinaga said. "I'm really proud of that project because it's withstood earthquakes much better since then."

In 1984, he went to the Port of Los Angeles where he was a project manager on an expansion plan that included dredging harbor channels and building a multi-modal transportation corridor to a 600-acre artificial island. Today, it's home to harbor terminals for shipping containers but completing the $1 billion project wasn't easy. "Like high-speed rail we were under tremendous scrutiny. People could see the project from homes overlooking the port," Nishinaga explained. "Some called it a costly pipe dream. But we got it done in about ten years – on time, within the budget and in a quality fashion."

Later, he was in charge of seismic assessment studies and upgrading over 100 facilities for the Long Beach Department of Public Works. That work included Long Beach City Hall and designing and constructing the city's first LEED certified public building.

Nishinaga spent a life time designing and renovating power, water and transportation facilities that have benefited countless workers and residents. "High-speed rail can do the same thing," he said. "If designed correctly, it can be more energy-efficient than planes or cars and provide clean, safe, reliable, comfortable transportation. That's something California needs."

-Karen Massie

"I was one of the original members when the BAC started in 2012. I know about the benefits of high-speed rail because I've traveled on high-speed rail in Japan. If designed correctly, it can be more energy-efficient than planes or cars and provide clean, safe, reliable, comfortable transportation. That's something California needs."

Linden Nishinaga
Engineer
Asian American Architects/
Engineers Association of Southern California

After the 1971 Sylmar Earthquake, Linden Nishinaga helped design plans to seismically retrofit the Sylmar Converter Station in the northeastern San Fernando Valley. Today, he represents the Asian American Architects/Engineers Association (AAa/e) of Southern California on the Authority's Business Advisory Council. AAa/e members can count on hearing about business opportunities, including those for high-speed rail.

Major Change for Procurement in California

The state of California has just made a major change in the way it does business with small businesses and other outside vendors.

"It's going well," said Jim Butler, Chief Procurement Officer for the State of California. He's referring to Cal eProcure, the new online procurement portal for vendors and suppliers interested in state contracts for all types of goods and services.

Cal eProcure is a part of FI$Cal, the Financial Information System for California, one of the largest information technology undertakings in the history of the state. The FI$Cal System will enable the state to combine accounting, budgeting, cash management and procurement operations into a single financial management system. Obviously, there are a lot of questions about Cal eProcure. But this new website comes with online training and webinars where the user can ask questions of the instructors. "We've conducted more than 100 webinars since we went live in December," Butler explained. "More than 1000 people have participated in the webinars. They can see people using the website for certification or advertising. They can ask questions and get answers as they go along."

Cal eProcure replaced BidSync, the website the state has used since 2009 for certifying small businesses (SBs) and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises (DVBEs), finding information on those businesses and advertising state contracts. "BidSync did a good job," Butler pointed out. "For the last several years, over 90 percent of the SBs that applied for certification were approved and it took about 30 minutes."

But the new system has a major advantage. "It [also] has the state budget, state accounting, purchase orders, requisitions and all statewide contracts," explained Butler. "It's all in one system." Users can also access the site from their cellphones and tablets.

The state rolled out the certification portion of the website last December and small businesses that were interested in doing business with the state could start getting certified. Meanwhile, over 26,000 small businesses and vendors in the old BidSync system were transferred to Cal eProcure. All of their certifications were extended to July 2016 to make sure they didn't have any problems.

In January, state agencies started using the system and advertising contracts. Before any of that could happen, employees from the Department of General Services, FI$Cal, other agencies and contractors spent two years designing, testing, training and writing new policies for Cal eProcure. "The people that made it happen are rock stars," Butler declared. "They put a lot of blood sweat and tears into this."

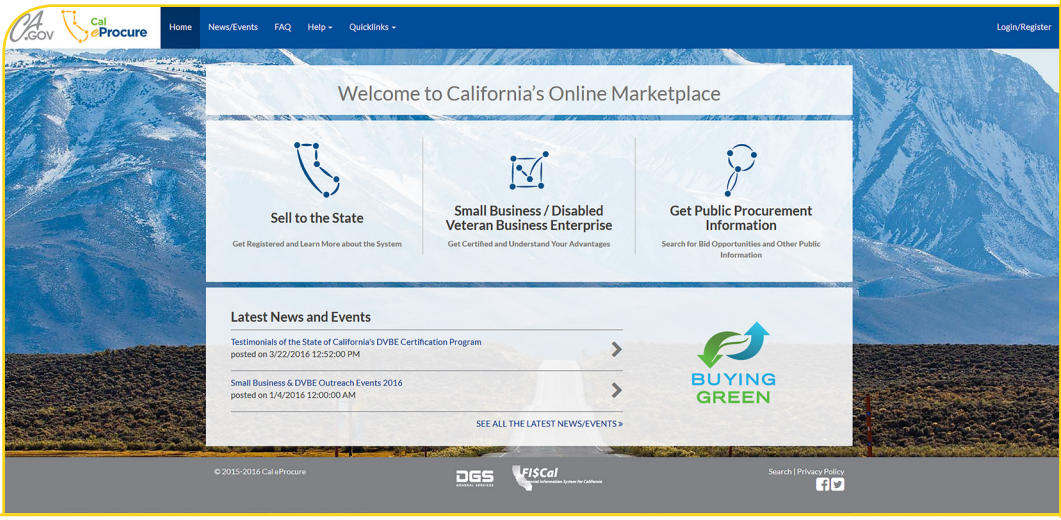
Butler said between now and July workers assigned to the new procurement portal will fine tune the system. In a few years, he hopes it will include electronic bidding and paperless purchases, "a full electronic system from beginning to end."

Anyone interested in more information can go to ***https://caleprocure.ca.gov***.

-Karen Massie

"The people that made it happen are rock stars. They put a lot of blood sweat and tears into this."

Jim Butler
Chief Procurement Officer
State of California



Small Business Outreach for 2016 Off to a Rousing Start

As high-speed rail construction marches south through the Central Valley, the need grows for more certified small businesses. During the month of January, 104 small business owners and representatives attended five small business certification workshops hosted by the Authority and the Department of General Services (DGS) in Northern, Central and Southern California.

Small Business Advocate Alice Rodriguez was on hand during each session to let companies know about ongoing and future bidding opportunities on Authority contracts. "We don't want anyone left in the dark about our business opportunities and how they can participate," said Rodriguez. "We want prime contractors to have a diversified list of certified Small Businesses, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises that they can choose from to help us reach our 30 percent goal for small business participation."

At the workshops, DGS representatives explained that California changed its procurement process in December when it launched Cal eProcure, a new online portal for businesses to sell products and services to the State. Workshop participants also heard from local representatives of the Small Business Administration, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority.

Twenty-one small businesses have obtained their certification at Authority workshops since the beginning of the year. Twenty-one others were working on finishing the certification process.

Rodriguez is also working on an online database that allows the public to see contact information for small businesses and primes on the Authority's vendor registry. She said she hopes to start some new workshops where small businesses can learn how to navigate the state procurement process and get help from design-build teams and federal, state and resource partners.

Upcoming free small business workshops are posted on our events page for the Authority: ***http://hsr.ca.gov/ Newsroom/events.html***.

If you want to be included in the mailing list for these workshops, please contact us at ***sbprogram@hsr.ca.gov***.

-Alice Rodriguez

> "We want prime contractors to have a diversified list of certified Small Businesses, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises that they can choose from to help us reach our 30 percent goal for small business participation."
>
> Alice Rodriguez
> Authority Small Business Advocate

In an effort to help meet an aggressive 30 percent small business participation goal, the Authority held a series of workshops around the state. Small Business Advocate Alice Rodriguez (standing) explained how small businesses can get involved in the high-speed rail project. Department of General Services Small Business Liaison Wayne Gross and other DGS staff led small businesses through the process of becoming certified to do business with the state.

Faces of High-Speed Rail: Women WorkingHard on High-Speed Rail

The National Association of Women in Construction designated the week of March 6 as Women in Construction Week. In honor of the celebration, the California High-Speed Rail Authority honored women working to build the nation's first high-speed rail program in the Central Valley.

As construction advances, the Authority remains committed to promoting diversity and inclusiveness in the workplace. To date, approximately 300 men and women have been dispatched to multiple work sites within Construction Package 1, which stretches 32 miles from Avenue 19 in Madera to American Avenue south of Fresno. These workers represent a fraction of the construction workforce that will be needed to build the entire high-speed rail system from San Francisco to the Los Angeles area.

"While there are more than one million women employed in the construction industry, that only comprises about ten percent of the construction workforce," said Sandy Field, the immediate past-president of The National Association of Women in Construction. "During Women in Construction Week we said thank you to women for their important contribution to this field and we hope this brings attention to the industry and encourages others to consider it as a viable career."

"This project means a lot to the Central Valley and we want to make sure that women in this region have an opportunity to contribute to this project and help ensure its success," said Central Valley Regional Director Diana Gomez. "We have over 100 miles under construction in the Valley. It's the perfect time for women who want to learn the trade to join us."

By sharing these stories, the Authority hopes these women will serve as an inspiration to those considering a career in the industry.

> "We have over 100 miles under construction in the Valley. It's the perfect time for women who want to learn the trade to join us."
>
> Diana Gomez
> Authority Central Valley Regional Director

Women in Construction – Kristen Katchadourian

Before most people have had their first cup of coffee, 27-year old Kristen Katchadourian is making deliveries to job sites up and down the Central Valley. As the Project Manager for Katch Environmental, Inc., Kristen is out the door by 6:30 a.m. delivering generators, water trailers and any other materials the job site may need. "In an industry full of men, I get to be a woman getting my hands dirty and serve as site-support for our crew members out in the field," Katchadourian said.

The Fresno-based small business, owned and operated by her father Paul Katchadourian, has been contracted to do hazardous materials abatement and demolition on the high-speed rail project in the Central Valley. Kristen, a Valley native, says she enjoys her job, but is especially excited to work for a company that plays a role in high-speed rail. "It's such an incredible project that we get to be a part of," she says. "For the high-speed rail to start here, it's just an amazing opportunity for Fresno."

After attending Biola University in Los Angeles, Kristen thought she would pursue a career in college ministry and live in Southern California. But she soon realized her heart remained in the Valley and decided to work alongside her father. "I think Fresno has the potential to be the best version of itself and high-speed rail is helping the DNA of this city to flourish."

Kristen Katchadourian works for her father's firm, Katch Environmental, but she doesn't mind getting her hands dirty as she helps with abatement on properties being acquired for the high-speed rail project.

Women in Construction – Tammy Prado

Tammy (Tomasa) Prado spent the first 20 years of her professional career as a book keeper. When her daughter, Savannah, was born in 1996, she knew she needed to find a career that could provide a better future for her family. In 2002, she was indentured into the Carpenters Union and is now working at the first construction site for high-speed rail in the Central Valley.

Born and raised in Madera, she describes her current work on the Fresno River Viaduct as the perfect job. She said "I'm only 8 minutes away from home, have great coworkers, a safe environment and great pay. I couldn't ask for anything else."

Tammy is one of eight carpenters working at the Fresno River Viaduct. She's also the only woman at the construction site. It's a situation that could be intimidating for some, but Tammy fondly remembers the journeymen and foremen who were helpful and encouraged her along the way. "If you let people tell you to just sweep up or do other minor tasks, then you aren't going to learn. You have to show them that you are hungry and want to learn and then they will teach you. I always gave 100 percent and they saw that," Prado said.

She offers this advice to other young women: "Not everyone is meant for college; not because you aren't smart enough, but you might not want to spend your whole day inside in class or in an office."

> "If you let people tell you to just sweep up or do other minor tasks, then you aren't going to learn. You have to show them that you are hungry and want to learn and then they will teach you. I always gave 100 percent and they saw that."
>
> Tammy (Tomasa) Prado
> Carpenter
> Carpenters Local 701 – Fresno

Women in Construction – Becky Zahourek

When Becky Zahourek met Curtis Lovett at truck driving school, she told him one day she would work for him. She made good on the promise and now drives cement trucks for Lovett's firm, Outback Materials.

"If men can do the job, we can do it too." This has been Becky Zahourek's mentality since she started truck driving school ten years ago.

Growing up, Becky didn't know what she wanted to do for a career; she just knew she loved the outdoors, big trucks and dirt. Eventually, she decided to put herself through truck driving school in Fresno. That's where she met Curtis Lovett, owner of Outback Materials. Becky told him, "One day, I will be driving a truck for your company."

Ten years later, Becky is a driver for Outback Materials. As a small business contractor for Tutor Perini/ Zachry/Parsons, Outback Materials is responsible for delivering concrete for Construction Package 1. Becky likes being a truck driver because she gets alone time and gets to travel to work on different projects.

Working with mostly men can be intimidating, but not for Becky. "I'm pretty tough and most of the time the men are respectful," she said.

Becky is proud to work on such a huge project and loves being surrounded by hardworking people. She enjoys being involved in the construction of high-speed rail and seeing the progression of the project as it unfolds before her eyes.

Faces of High-Speed Rail: Quality Work Gets NSI Engineering A Second Ride on High-Speed Rail

Laura Uden is back working on the California High-Speed Rail Program and she considers herself extremely fortunate.

As president of San Jose-based NSI Engineering Inc., Uden is constantly reminded of the challenges of running a small firm whose lifeblood is intrinsically linked to the ability to secure sub-contracting opportunities. Fortunately for Uden, she has found the California High-Speed Rail Authority.

"The Authority is really unprecedented in its dedication to getting small businesses involved in high-speed rail," said Uden, who represents the Disabled Veterans Business Alliance (DVBA) on the Authority's Small Business Advisory Council. "The project is offering fantastic business opportunities [through] fair treatment of small businesses."

NSI Engineering Inc. is a certified woman-owned small business, a DBE and a DVBE that provides quality management and systems engineering services in California and the Western United States. Quality assurance includes monitoring quality control work and ensuring quality requirements are met.

Uden and her team apply quality management principles to their own work. Teams represented by NSI have not received a single audit finding from an agency, owner, or third party on any of their projects and the firm's quality management systems are used as examples for others.

Uden has 25 years in engineering and quality management. She started her firm with Bob McQueen and Ron Murata, who also have years of experience. Their growing six-person firm is working for HNTB Corporation, which won a bid for preliminary engineering and environmental services on the San Francisco to San Jose and San Jose to Merced project sections.

NSI Engineering is also contracted with HNTB to provide quality management support and construction management for Construction Package 4, 22 miles of construction in the Central Valley.

In 2009, Uden teamed with HNTB on the San Francisco to San Jose project section.

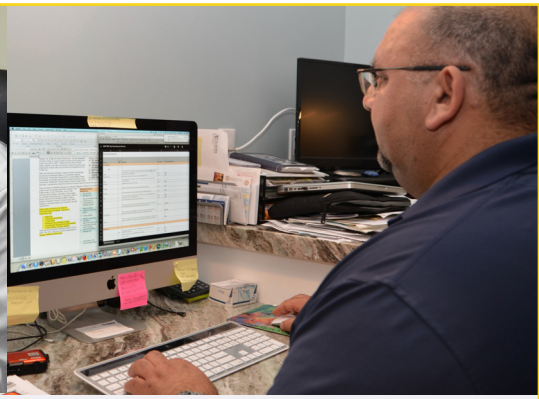
> "The project is offering fantastic business opportunities [through] fair treatment of small businesses."
>
> Laura Uden
> President
> NSI Engineering Inc.

She said she's fortunate to work with a prime contractor whose commitment to small businesses mirrors that of the Authority.

"HNTB has been the most supportive prime we've had over the years," Uden added. "They respect our work and treat us like an equal, not just another small firm."

She believes the Authority's quality management goals along with her firm and HNTB will make for a winning combination for high-speed rail.

-Ricci Graham



NSI Engineering owner Laura Uden, left, recently won a second subcontract for environmental and engineering services for the San Francisco to San Jose and San Jose to Merced sections of high speed rail. She and Bob McQueen, center, and Peter Tzifas, right, develop quality management plans, then put them into action ensuring quality requirements are met on the project.

Faces of High-Speed Rail: Veteran is Vanguard for High-Speed Rail Third-Party Agreements

Douglas Scheidt's office isn't quite what you would expect for Vice President of Operations for Vanguard Construction Services, Inc. The bustling shared space houses engineers working on Construction Package 2-3 (CP 2-3), 65 miles of the high–speed rail project which stretches through the counties of Fresno, Kings and Tulare.

Vanguard is a minority and veteran-owned construction services company based in Fresno. It has a multifaceted role as a subcontractor to Arcadis, the prime contractor handling project and construction management on CP 2-3. Scheidt's official title on this project is Third Party and Utility Coordination Segment Manager. Just a few months into the high-speed rail contract and he is already busy ensuring that the design-build contractor meets the Authority's expectations for working with over 40 entities, who must collaborate to complete their portion of the project. These entities or third parties include local cities and counties, water and irrigation districts as well as communications and power companies. Often times, a negotiated agreement must be reached before any work can commence.

Though mild-mannered, Scheidt's excitement is palpable about participating in what's being touted as the largest infrastructure project in the US. He explained he believes in improving the place he calls home. He's also proud of his work on other local projects such as Chukchansi Park, the downtown Fresno baseball stadium and the Veterans Home of California-Fresno, a 300-bed, long-term care facility. Despite juggling multiple priorities at this stage in his career, Scheidt explained why he chose to be on the high-speed rail project. "This is where my heart lies," he declared. "I have worked on a lot of large projects, but none like this one."

> "I believe they (Fresno State students) see high-speed rail as a source of opportunity. If they join the project when they graduate, it will help reverse some of the Valley's brain drain."
>
> Douglas Scheidt
> Vice President of Operations
> Vanguard Construction Services, Inc

He's been a lecturer at California State University-Fresno where he taught Statics and Strength of Materials. Currently, he's a member of the CSU-Fresno Construction Management Advisory Board. He calls Fresno State students "the next generation of construction professionals." He said, "I believe they see high-speed rail as a source of opportunity. If they join the project when they graduate, it will help reverse some of the Valley's brain drain."

-Elizabeth Jonasson

Douglas Scheidt, owner of DVBE Vanguard Construction Services, wrangles with more than 40 third parties, such as governments, communications, water and power districts and rail systems, to collaborate with each other and the Authority to work on the high-speed rail project.

Faces of High-Speed Rail: Bloom Biological Goes High-Tech Tracking Birds of Prey in the Tehachapis

For more than 40 years, field biologist and avian expert Peter Bloom has specialized in raptor populations and has headed some of the most in depth studies on the birds in the Western U.S., Alaska, India, Peru and Ecuador. In 1987, when the entire population of California condors dwindled to only 27, Bloom played a major role in capturing all of the surviving birds for a breeding program. Last year, his Orange County based firm, Bloom Biological, Incorporated, which is certified as a micro-business, landed a contract with TY Lin to track condors in the Tehachapis. Bloom said, "We know there are about 60 to 70 condors that will fly across the high-speed rail line in the mountains. I'm trying to determine what impact high-speed rail will have on the birds, which are on the state and federal endangered species lists."

Weighing up to 25 pounds with a wingspan of 9.5 feet, California condors are the largest land birds in North America. Bloom pointed out studying the condors is unique because of the availability of a huge amount of tracking data. In 1992, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife began taking condors bred in captivity and reintroducing them to the wild. They were tagged and outfitted with satellite radio transmitters that tell biologists where the birds are. "Because of the satellite data, we don't have to go into the field to track the birds. We can stay in the office and just pull up the data."

The Authority is eager to get the data. Together with information from the public, stakeholders and elected officials, it will be used to help development high-speed rail alignments.

Dr. Bloom is in the beginnings stages of his study. Of about 410 condors, approximately 120 are flying free in California and about half of them soar around the skies over the Tehachapis. In 2016, Bloom's company will do field work to take a look at the impact of high-speed rail on Swainson's hawks, which are listed as threatened in California. He will also study golden eagles, which are protected under the federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protect Act.

- Karen Massie

"We know there are about 60 to 70 condors that will fly across the high-speed rail line in the mountains. I'm trying to determine what impact high-speed rail will have on the birds, which are on the state and federal endangered species lists."

Peter Bloom
Owner
Bloom Biological

BBI
BLOOM BIOLOGICAL INC.
research | consulting | conservation

Faces of High-Speed Rail: Hendrickson Appraisal Helps Clear A Path for High-Speed Rail

Ted Hendrickson, owner of San Diego-based Hendrickson Appraisal Company has been working on the high-speed rail program since 2012 and brings more than 30 years of experience to project. Before opening his small business in 1986, he served as a right-of-way agent for Caltrans, so he's familiar with work on large infrastructure projects. His firm specializes in appraisals for commercial, industrial retail, office, multi-residential, waterfront, specialized use and large vacant land holdings. The staff also appraises land with sensitive habitat issues.

The company won its first sub-contract on high-speed rail with prime right-of-way contractor Bender Rosenthal, Inc. (BRI). It is currently working on a second contract with Associated Right of Way Services (AR/WS), Continental Field Services and BRI.

To date, the firm has completed valuation work on more than 100 properties along the high-speed rail alignment. Hendrickson said, "We've been very busy on high-speed rail valuation and I've appreciated the opportunity. The work is complex but very rewarding. It's what we do."

He pointed out he doesn't work alone and he's glad an experienced staff of seven shares the work. Six of them are appraisers, who also specialize in residential, industrial, commercial, special use and agricultural properties. "Our firm has worked on the high-speed rail project from Merced down to Bakersfield and I hope we get another contract on future segments," Hendrickson explained. "I'm very thankful for the opportunity the governor, the Authority and the prime contractors have given us. High-speed rail has been very good for small business, our company and me."

- Karen Massie

"We've been very busy on high-speed rail valuation and I've appreciated the opportunity. The work is complex but very rewarding. It's what we do."

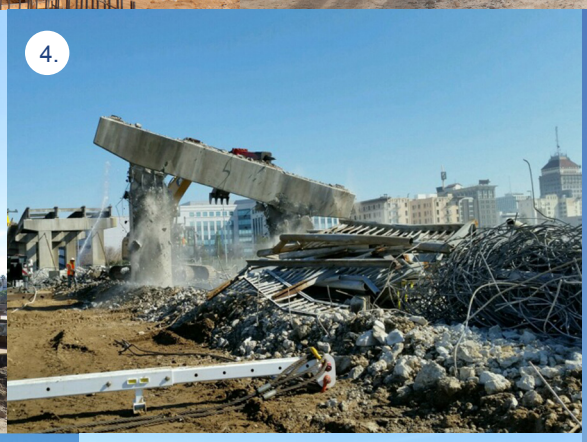
Ted Hendrickson
Owner
Hendrickson Appraisal Company

Appraisers from the San Diego-based Hendrickson Appraisal Company bring years of experience to the job of valuating properties. The job requires precise measurements. Staff members have appraised more than 100 properties along the high-speed rail alignment. This is their second contract on the project.

Central Valley Construction Progress

Work is underway at six project sites within Construction Package 1 (CP 1), and more projects are expected to break ground in the coming weeks and into the summer. CP 1 is the first approximately 32-mile stretch of high-speed rail between Avenue 19 in Madera County to East American Avenue in Fresno County. For more pictures from the work sites and continuous updates on construction visit ***BuildHSR.com***. For road closure information visit Caltrans QuickMap at ***quickmap.dot.ca.gov***.

1 and 2.SR 99 Realignment. 3, 4 and 5. Tuolumne Street Bridge Replacement. 6 and 7. Fresno River Viaduct



Supporters Hop on Board #IWillRide

#IWillRide is a unique campaign that grew out of a high-speed rail student advocacy group founded in 2010 at UC Merced. Designed to educate and inform the public about high-speed rail, more students are joining the movement by launching new #IWillRide chapters at colleges and universities. Former Authority intern Ryan Lynch formed the latest chapter at UC Berkeley where a transportation and policy class also heard from Chief Engineer Scott Jarvis and Director of Planning and Integration Melissa DuMond. In April, #IWillRide made stops at events hosted by the Walt Disney Company in Burbank and Glendale. If you'd like to hop aboard the #IWillRide movement, download and print an #IWillRide sign at ***hsr.ca.gov/Newsroom/iwillride.html*** and post a photo with it on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram along with the reason why you will ride.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Meeting dates, times and locations are subject to change.

EVENTS	DATE	TIME	ADDRESS	
GO-Biz Summit	May 5, 2016	8:00 am - 3:00 pm	Long Beach City College	4901 E Carson Street Long Beach, CA
Caltrans District 4 CalMentor Awards Luncheon	May 5, 2016	11:30 am - 2:00 pm	Caltrans District 4 Offices	111 Grand Avenue Oakland, CA
SCAG Regional Conference and General Assembly	May 6, 2016	8:30 am - 11:30 am	La Quinta Resort & Club	49-499 Eisenhower Drive La Quinta, CA
Authority Board of Directors Meeting	May 10, 2016	9:30 am	Bakersfield City Hall	1501 Truxtun Avenue Bakersfield, CA
San Joaquin Valley Contracting Procurement & Transportation	May 10, 2016	5:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Marriott Hotel Ballroom D	801 Truxtun Avenue Bakersfield, CA
Diversity in Contracting Opportunities Workshop	May 12, 2016	7:00 am - 12 noon	Fresno Ramada Inn Airport, Sierra Room and Foyer Area	5090 East Clinton Way Fresno, CA 93727
Small Business Day	May 25, 2016	8:00 am - 3:30 pm	Sacramento Convention Center	1400 J Street Sacramento, CA
CalVet DVBE Veteran Owned Business Forum	May 27, 2016	8:30 am - 5:00 pm	Irvine Valley College Performing Arts Center	5500 Irvine Center Drive Irvine, CA
Authority Board of Directors Meeting	June 14, 2016	TBD	TBD	Sacramento, CA
Business Advisory Council Meeting	June 16, 2016	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Department of General Services Executive Dining Room	707 3rd Street West Sacramento, CA