



Caltrans District 4 Calmentor Program

Partnership with A&E Firms Supports Growth of Bay Area Businesses

In February 2007, Caltrans District 4 launched a mentor-protégé program, called "Calmentor". The program is the result of an ongoing partnership between Caltrans District 4 and the private consulting community, and their mutual desire to support the involvement of certified Small Business Enterprise (SBE), Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DE) and Disabled Veterans Business Enterprise firms in the pursuit of meaningful District 4 Architectural and Engineering (A&E) contract work. The Calmentor program has been developed in response to the Governor's Executive Order S-11-06 (which included a provision to meet or exceed the 25% small business participation goal) and the State's commitment to the Small Business community.

The primary goal of the Calmentor program is to expand the pool of certified businesses participating in transportation projects, by creating an environment with a range of opportunities to collaborate with established A&E firms.

At a recent Calmentor kick off meeting, mentors and protégés came together to discuss program guidelines, partnership goals, roles and expectations for participants, the pairing process, function of the Steering Committee, and the program's implementation schedule (including milestone activities). Due to the overwhelming interest expressed by many firms who missed the original deadline (December 2006), the Steering Committee suggested that the Calmentor program should allow additional businesses to submit applications for consideration.

As of April 2007, Calmentor has 51 mentor/protégé members, and is currently accepting new members.

For more information about how to apply to the program contact, Curtis Lindskog, Program Recruitment Leader at: curtis.lindskog@shawgrp.com. Upon receipt of the application it will be posted on the "New Applicant" link of the Calmentor website for review by the Steering Committee Members.

Calmentor would like to spread the word about the benefits and opportunities of being a participating firm. Please let us know if you'd be interested in having a program representative speak at an upcoming organization meeting or event, by contacting Sharon Kyle, Program Publicity Leader at: skyle@hntb.com. We're also seeking interested guest speakers for Calmentor's quarterly program meetings. Please contact Ms. Kyle for more information on program topics and meeting format specifics at the above email address.

For general program information, visit the District 4 Calmentor website at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/calmentor/>, or for additional information please contact:

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