



March 18, 2008

To: Chambers of Commerce and Trade Organizations

Subject: BART Availability and Utilization Study

BART is currently conducting an Availability and Utilization Study (Study). The purpose of the Study is to analyze and evaluate BART's contracting practices in the areas of procurement of products, equipment, and supplies; construction services; and professional services, including technical, architecture, engineering and paraprofessional services. BART is sponsoring a community meeting to inform the business community about the Study. Representatives from chambers of commerce, trade associations, and governmental organizations, like your organization, will have the opportunity to provide information literature and information of interest to local businesses.

Your members are cordially invited to attend the community meeting being held on April 2, 2008. At each meeting an overview of the Disparity Study process will be presented and businesses will have the opportunity to share their contracting experiences. In addition, purchasing managers from BART will discuss upcoming contracting opportunities.

Mason Tillman Associates, Ltd, an Oakland consulting firm, is conducting the Study. Since being founded in 1978, the firm has conducted 97 Availability and Utilization studies, none of which has ever been challenged in a court of law. The results of the Study will assess BART's past efforts to contract with minority, women-owned, and disadvantaged business enterprises.

Please pass along information about this meeting to your members:

Date: Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Place: Joseph P. Bort Metro Center
Lawrence D. Dahms Auditorium
101 – 8th Street
Oakland, California

Time: 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Refreshments will be served

Please RSVP by email at bartmeeting@mtaltd.com, visit www.bartmeeting.com, or call 510.291.9682 for more information.

Your organization is invited to set up a table to provide literature and information of interest to small, local, minority, and women-owned businesses. As table space is limited, please contact Carrie Maultsby at 510.238.4686 or by email at cmaultsby@mtaltd.com. We look forward to seeing you at this meeting.