



Community and Workplace Culture Committee

5/11/2026 Committee Meeting

6b

Subject

Quarterly Business Outreach Update

Executive Summary

This quarterly update provides information on Business Outreach and Community Engagement initiatives and projects. The next quarterly update is scheduled for August 2026.

Details and Background

Staff will give an overview of the business certifications that Metropolitan recognizes and high-level details on the support available to the certified vendors.

Accepted certifications include:

- MWD Self-Certified Small Business – Metropolitan’s certification officer conducts a thorough review of the vendor’s submission to ensure it complies with the Small Business Administration small business guidelines and thresholds.
- State of CA-Department of General Services – Metropolitan signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the State of California in 2005 to become a reciprocity partner, which allows us to accept all four of their certifications.
 - Micro Business (MB) – Gross Receipts under \$6 million for MB and less than 25 employees.
 - Small Business (SB) – Gross Receipts under \$18 million for SB and less than 100 employees.
 - Public Works Small Business (PW/SB) – In 2019, the State created a new threshold for services related to public works contractors and consultants, \$43 million and less than 200 employees.
 - Disable Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) – 51 percent or greater ownership by a U.S. military veteran (LLC = 100 percent). Veteran’s Services disability must be rated at least 10 percent.
- Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) – Certification based on federal agency guidelines.

Benefits received include access to vendor development program resources, including local workshops on how to leverage the certifications, as well as support in ensuring vendors remain in good standing.



Lij M. Thomas
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer

4/23/2026
Date



Shivaji Deshmukh
General Manager

4/23/2026
Date