



Authorize the General Manager to sign the Equity in Infrastructure Project pledge and participate in the project to support opportunities for historically underserved and underutilized businesses

Organization, Personnel and Technology

Item 7-7

March 8, 2022

Equity in Infrastructure Program Pledge

Five “Mover” Agencies, including Metropolitan invited to join a new nationwide effort to increase opportunities for Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB)

First meeting with Biden Administration officials, and labor was in Washington, DC in December 2021



Goals of the Initiative

- Support Biden Administration's Justice40 Initiative and increase federal-state-local partnerships for infrastructure funding and financing to improve DBE procurement
 - Increase access and reduce barriers for disadvantaged business enterprises
 - Deliver 40% of investments in climate and clean energy to disadvantaged communities

Funding and financing for community wealth building

Administrative and certification alignment

Direct contracting by procuring agencies

Proposed Local Action Goals



Benefits to Metropolitan

- Learn and share best practices from Energy, Transportation and Port Industries
- Expand vendor database to help increase bidding pool and competition
- Lay the foundation for diversity program in order to comply with programs if MWD receives Federal funding

Community Business Partners

State and Regional Minority Business Chambers

- African American
- American Indian
- Pan Asian American
- Hispanic

Disabled Veteran Business Organizations

- Service-Disabled Veteran Elite Association - Federal
- Disabled Veteran Business Alliance Association - State

Women Business Organizations

- National Association of Women Business Owners
- National Latina Business Women Association
- National Association Women in Construction
- Women Business Enterprise Council - West

Business and Agency Partners

Programs

- Regional Alliance Marketplace for Procurement (RAMP) Los Angeles County
- OneLA initiative (LA Chamber)
- Los Angeles Building Council
- Equity in Infrastructure Pledge (EIP)

Resources

- Small Business Development Centers (SBDC)
- Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTAC)
- National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC)

Agency Partners

- CALTRANS
- METRO

Next Steps

- Work within the restrictions in California to meet the objectives of the Pledge
- Continue to participate in Pledge working group to define local and federal scope of work and workplan
- Enhance Metropolitan's current Small Business Program
- Host listening sessions with existing business organizations, ethnic chambers, and small business partners to get input

Board Options

- Option #1
 - Authorize the General Manager to sign the Equity in Infrastructure Project pledge and participate in the project to support opportunities for historically underserved and underutilized businesses
- Option #2
 - Take no action

Recommendation

- Option #1

