

Investing in California Small Businesses

SMALL BUSINESS NEWSLETTER • Volume 10: Issue 3

SUMMER 2022



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 Enterprise (DBE), Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) and Micro-Business (MB).



Investing in California Small Business

**SMALL BUSINESS NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 10 • ISSUE 3
SUMMER 2022**

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To access and download more information pertaining to the small business program, visit the Small Business Resources webpage at https://hsr.ca.gov/small_business/

The *Investing in California Small Businesses* newsletter is published quarterly by the Office of Communications of the California High-Speed Rail Authority. To view past newsletters visit: https://hsr.ca.gov/small_business/newsletter.aspx

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"It is more important now than ever that our Business Advisory Council and our participating small businesses reflect the diversity of this state,"

Catrina Blair

Process and Program Development Chief,
California High-Speed Rail Authority

I hope all of you out there are enjoying your summer by getting in some well-deserved vacations and time spent with your family and friends. We're doing a temporary throwback to Catrina's Corner for this issue while our Small Business Advocate Ashley Mistler is on maternity leave through early fall. The theme of our summer issue is progress across the state, and there's a lot of great milestones I would like to catch you up on.

In June, the Newsom Administration and the Legislature came to an agreement on the FY 2022/23 state budget. The bill, signed by the Governor on June 30, included the appropriation of the remaining \$4.2 billion in voter-approved Proposition 1A funding. We are grateful for their support to advance an electrified, two-track, high-speed rail segment between Merced and Bakersfield with a new combined station in downtown Merced connecting to the Amtrak San Joaquins and the Altamont Corridor Express. In addition to the \$4.2 billion for our program, the overall multi-year transportation package in the budget totals \$15 billion with \$10.8 billion of funding for transit, port-related goods movement, active transportation, climate adaptation and other purposes. As you can expect, there will be lots of opportunities for California small businesses to play a major role in developing

these transportation projects.

Updates from our Small Business program include the several new organizations that joined our Business Advisory Council this year, bringing the total number of member organizations to 18. Adding these new groups is essential to helping us cultivate partnerships between the Authority and small businesses in California and brings new opportunities for important input and feedback from industries and organizations across the state. We are pleased to see all the new faces that are helping us advance this historic program! You can view the full Council roster [here](#).

Also, in case you missed it, back in April, we took home two awards at the [2022 Annual State Agency Recognition Awards](#) held by the Department of General Services. The awards celebrate outstanding achievements and accomplishments in small business and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) advocacy and contracting by recognizing state agencies, departments, advocates and leadership whose exceptional work and dedication helped accomplish the Governor's commitment to meet or exceed small business and DVBE contracting goals. This year, reporting only on state-funded contracts, we won a Notable Achievement Award and a Most Improved Small Business and DVBE Program for exceeding the state's goals. It's always good to be recognized, and we want to continue building upon the good work we are doing with small businesses.

We're also continuing to partner with organizations across the state to host events that help small business get connected with high-speed rail and other major projects. In June, we hosted an informational booth at the 2nd Annual Caltrans Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Summit in Inglewood. It was a great opportunity to connect with small businesses in Southern



Cyrita "Ceci" Pacheco has joined the team as the Authority's Small Business Compliance Manager.

California, and we look forward to continuing to build those partnerships. You can read more about that event on [page 15](#) of this issue. We also have several events coming up with our Northern California PTAC groups and the 11th Annual Veterans and Small Business Summit in September. For a more detailed look-ahead, please see our calendar on [page 5](#).

We're also continuing to grow as a program. In July, Cyrita "Ceci" Pacheco joined our team as the new Small Business Compliance Manager. She brings more than 12 years of experience with state services in a variety of topics, such as management, personnel background, extensive training, FISCAL system implementation, eProcurement strategies and Small Business Certifications. In her previous roles with Department of General Services, she served as a certification manager where she oversaw small business certification applications. Additionally, she assisted the public and many

Catrina's Corner

Chief, Process and Program Development Branch



small businesses with navigating Cal eProcure and the SB/DVBE certification process. She also led her team in successful compliance of more than 200 state departments to ensure accuracy and transparency on procurements and purchases for the State of California. We could not be more pleased to have her join us.

Speaking of procurements, we continue to move forward with several major contracts. We have issued Notices of Proposed Awards for the [Program Delivery Support Contract](#) and design services contracts for the [Fresno to Bakersfield Locally Generated Alternative](#) and the [Merced to Madera](#) sections in the Central Valley. Statements of qualifications for our Design Services for [Central Valley Stations](#) contracts were due this week, and we anticipate additional action on these and other procurements coming in the next few weeks and months. If you aren't on it already, now is the time to make sure your business is registered through our ConnectHSR Vendor Registration program. You can [register online](#) on our website.

As I close out this column, I want to recognize and celebrate that we have surpassed 700 small business working on the high-speed rail project statewide. That number represents more than 200 small business from Northern California, the Central Valley and Southern California, respectively, that are all providing a number of services that help move this program forward. Because the high-speed rail program will positively impact so many communities across the state, it is more important now than ever that our Business Advisory Council and our participating small businesses reflect the diversity of this state. Let's keep up the good work!

1. The Authority was excited to be back out in the small business community as part of the 2nd Annual Caltrans DBE Summit at So-Fi Stadium in Inglewood.
2. Governor Gavin Newsom signed a \$308 billion state budget that provides direct tax refunds for 23 million Californians. (photo courtesy of @CAGovernor)
3. We're preparing new banners for in-person outreach – hope to see you at a small business event soon!



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Small Business Opportunities
Learn What It Takes To Work On
The Nation's Largest
Infrastructure Project

HSR Small Business Program
Connecting California

Sign-Up For
Connect HSR



www.hsr.ca.gov

www.hsr.ca.gov



Small Business Events

August 17 and 18, 2022
California High-Speed Rail Authority Board Meeting
 Time TBD
 Webcast Meeting Online

September 15, 2022
California High-Speed Rail Authority Board Meeting
 Time TBD
 Sacramento (specific site TBD)

November 17, 2022
California High-Speed Rail Authority Board Meeting
 Time TBD
 Sacramento (specific site TBD)



August 24, 2022
Business Advisory Council
 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
 Webcast Meeting Online

October 20, 2022
California High-Speed Rail Authority Board Meeting
 Time TBD
 Sacramento (specific site TBD)

November 30, 2022
Business Advisory Council
 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
 Webcast Meeting Online



2022 VIRTUAL
MEET THE PRIMES
CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS
 CONNECTING DISADVANTAGED AND SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISES WITH PRIME CONTRACTORS AND BAY AREA PUBLIC TRANSIT AGENCIES



August 18, 2022
[2022 Virtual Meet the Primes](#)
 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM
 Zoom Meeting Online

Disadvantaged and Small Business Enterprises (DBEs/SBEs) are invited to connect with Business Outreach Committee (BOC) representatives, and prime construction contractors. Meet prime construction contractors and staff from various public transit and transportation agencies. (Photo courtesy of Business Outreach Committee)



August 25, 2022
[District 7 Road Tour to Caltrans](#)
 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Online

District 7 Small Business Road Tour to Caltrans series supports small business communities seeking government contracting with Caltrans. Focusing on incorporating diversity, equity and inclusion particularly to underrepresented minority small businesses. This workshop features guest speakers from the California High-Speed Rail Authority. All are welcome!



September 27, 2022
[Southwest Veterans' Business Resource Center 11th Annual Veteran and Small Business Summit](#)
 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
 Conference and Recreation Center
 14075 Frederick St., Moreno Valley, CA 92553

The Southwest Veterans' Business Resource Center, Inc., (SWVBRC) works with communities and businesses to serve Veterans, Active Duty members and Spouses through outreach and education programs. The SWVBRC hosts annual business summits that give small businesses and job seekers the opportunity to meet with buyers and exhibit their services. Come attend this free event. (Photo courtesy of SWVBRC)

Speedreads

New Small Business Program BAC Portal

The California High-Speed Authority's (Authority) Small Business Program recently launched our [Business Advisory Council \(BAC\) Portal landing page](#). This new resource allows our BAC members and the public to gain information specifically about the high-speed rail project.

In addition to our current BAC member organizations roster, the BAC Portal provides details regarding our Small and Disadvantaged Business Program. The page includes links for how to become a member of the BAC and how to register to attend our BAC meetings, as well as information on our current prime contractor's performance and small business participation numbers. The page is a resource to our council members and any firms seeking information on HSR project related topics, including:

- BAC Resources (Bylaws, Connect HSR, Operating Guidelines)
- Small and Disadvantaged Business Program
- Executive Liaisons Resources
- Link to Authority Small Business Assistance Form

The Authority's Small Business Program will continue to improve its processes and procedures to provide the most up-to-date information related to the California High-Speed Rail project.

Paris-Berlin High-Speed Service Set to Begin Operations in 2023

The French high-speed rail operator SNCF announced that it will start [operating one trip per day between Paris and Berlin](#) by the end of 2023, connecting two of Europe's most prominent capital cities. SNCF said that they believe demand for longer-haul train trips is rising, and that they expect to have enough demand to support this 7-hour-long trip. (image courtesy of Jeff Pachoud/AFP/Getty Images)



Richmond-Raleigh Rail Wins Federal Funding Infusion

The Federal Railroad Administration has awarded a **\$58 million grant** to Virginia and North Carolina, letting the states begin engineering work on their planned Richmond to Raleigh “S-Line” rail project. The states will be jointly building the route on a right-of-way currently owned and operated by freight railroad CSX, who they will acquire the land from. Officials say the S-Line is **the first step** in creating a connected Southeast high-speed corridor from Washington to Atlanta. In the meantime, the S-Line will reduce travel times between Raleigh and Richmond by an hour and allow riders to connect to regional trains reaching Washington and beyond. (image courtesy of NCDOTcommunications)



Siemens Partners with Egypt to Build World's 6th Largest High-Speed Rail System

Egypt is about to get a huge **new high-speed rail system**. After being awarded an \$8.7 billion contract, German industrial giant Siemens is set to design the new system, which will reach over 1,200 miles across Egypt, connecting 60 different cities with trains reaching top speeds of 142 miles per hour. The system is set to be one of the largest high-speed rail systems in the world and will cut riders' carbon emissions by 70% when travelling across the country. (image courtesy of Paulvinten | Istock | Getty Images)

Turkey Begins Work on New High-Speed Rail Line

A groundbreaking ceremony was recently held **to mark the beginning of construction on a new high-speed rail line** that will connect Ankara, the capital of Turkey, and Kayseri, a large, industrialized city in eastern Turkey. This line will allow passengers to travel between the two cities in around two hours. The new line will only require approximately 88 miles of new tracks as it branches off an existing high-speed rail line connecting the cities of Ankara, Yerkoy and Sivas. This work complements **the ongoing work** to connect the cities of Bursa, Bandirma and Balikesir to the existing Istanbul – Ankara high-speed rail line. (image by **Btian Paul Dorsam**, distributed under a **CC BY-SA 4.0** license)



Engineering Firm Sets the Standard for Innovation

SC SOLUTIONS

Value Through Innovation.

"We've been around long enough now that our engineering support spans through the entire life cycle of each segment from initial planning to environmental clearance."

Farid Nobari

Senior Engineering Consultant, SC Solutions



When it comes to earthquakes, engineers will tell you it's better to be safe than sorry.

After the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989, most businesses didn't have access to super-computing capabilities. A small company in Palo Alto with expertise in processing complex data-driven problems turned its attention to infrastructure—pioneering the application of high-speed computer software and modeling techniques to structural engineering.

Now based in Sunnyvale, [SC Solutions](#) grew into an engineering consulting company providing innovative engineering solutions for structures and dynamic systems. For over 30 years, the certified small business has specialized in analyzing and conceptualizing structural and geotechnical systems in the transportation infrastructure, port and marine, oil and gas, water resources, and nuclear industries.

Senior Engineering Consultant Farid Nobari described the Loma Prieta earthquake as a "milestone event" for the company. The aftermath of the quake required Caltrans to explore new methods to analyze and monitor

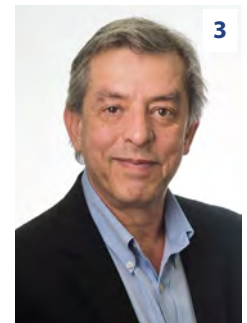
1. SC Solutions contributed to a seismic design criteria update for Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) structures.
2. Principal Engineer Matt Bowers
3. Senior Engineering Consultant Farid Nobari

structures to ensure they were safe.

"Running analysis calculations out in the field on structures that were being retrofitted and replaced created a bridge from early computational services to engineering services," said Principal Engineer Matt Bowers.

With experience working on Taiwan's high-speed rail program, SC Solutions joined the California High-Speed Rail program in 2006 as part of the Project Management Team. They became a Rail Delivery Partner in 2015, providing structural design requirements review and oversight over many facets of the project, including preliminary engineering designs, construction procurement documents and change orders.

"We've been around long enough now that our engineering support spans through the



entire life cycle of each segment from initial planning to environmental clearance," said Nobari. "One of the important highlights of what we did, which benefits us and the program, is the international research of all design requirements for the high-speed rail system."

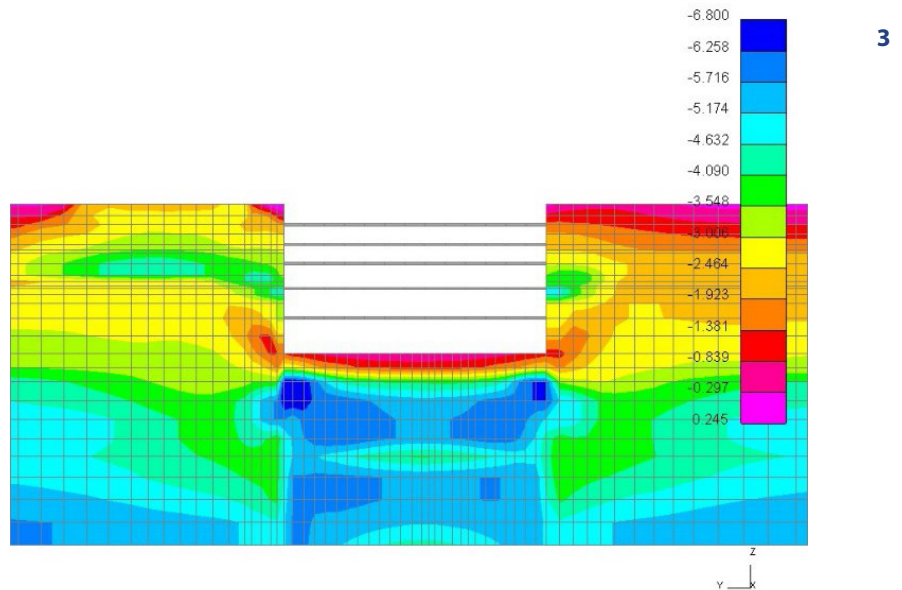
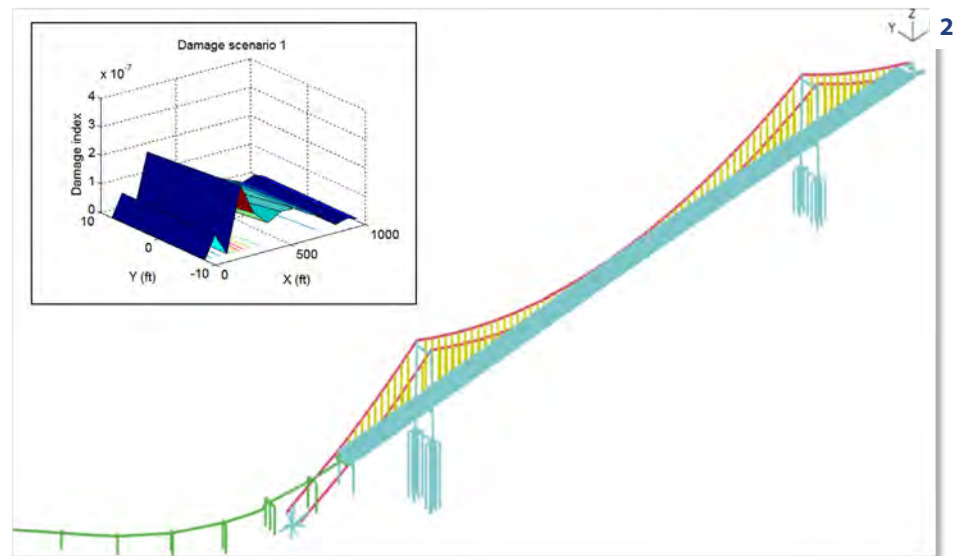
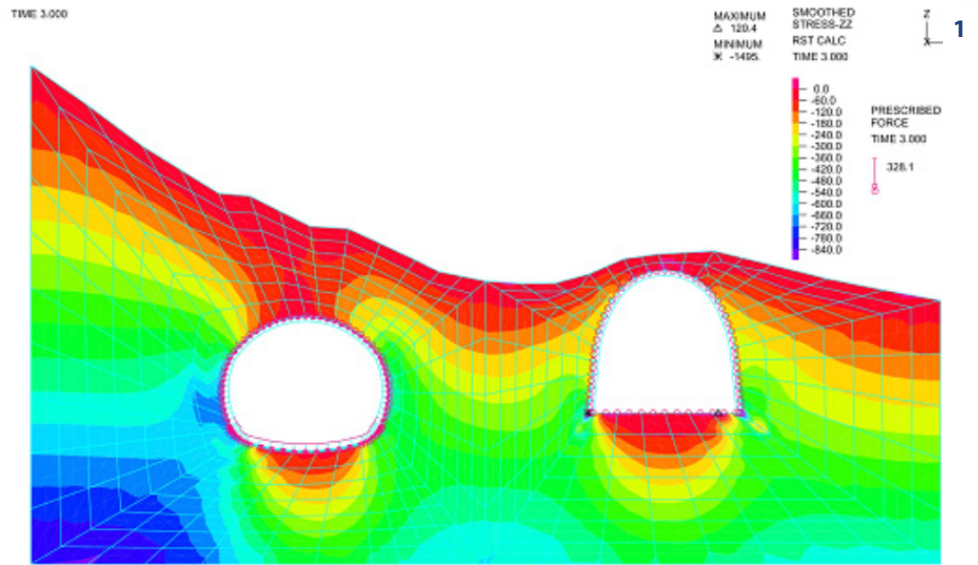
"We had to do our own special studies and apply never known before laws and codes coming from the Federal Railroad Administration, knowing we will be the first regulated under them," said Bowers. "On the one hand, we work with international standards but also provide reliable concurrence that will meet codes that are already in place."

"As a multidisciplinary company, we pride ourselves on holding higher standards of quality and performance than any one industry. We usually are the first to bring state-of-the-art to practice, and we always have to be ahead of the curve, or others will catch up," said Nobari.

The company's founders recognized the value of their staff's collective effort and contribution to the business's success. Ownership of the company was turned over to employees in 2022, making SC Solutions 100% employee-owned through an employee stock ownership program. "We are proud that our staff are not only the most important asset of the company, but now also are owners of the company they work for," said Nobari.

Looking to the future, SC Solutions wants to build on the opportunities the California High-Speed Rail Authority's Small Business Program provides. "It is a badge of honor that has opened doors, and it's up to us to keep them open," Nobari concluded. "We work hard and want to make every client as satisfied as possible. That's how a small business survives."

Anthony Lopez



1. Seismic validation data modeled for the fourth bore of the Caldecott Tunnel in the Berkeley Hills.
2. Visualization from a model-based data analysis and structural health monitoring project for the Carquinez Bridge connecting Crockett and Vallejo, California. In collaboration with the University of Michigan, a wireless system was developed and deployed on the bridge to aid in cost-effective long-term infrastructure management.
3. Seismic design validation data was used to safeguard Los Angeles County Metropolitan.

Southern California Strategic Communications Firm Delivers Vision, Connects Communities



“It has been rewarding to serve as the bridge of communication between the Authority and the community. It is important for the community to be informed about this important project and understand that their voice really makes a difference in projects like this.”

Laura Hernandez,
Project Manager, MBI Media

A passion for connecting with people, sharing stories and delivering results is what drove Mary McCormick to start her business, **MBI Media**, in 1989. With a successful career in the television news industry and winning countless Emmy Awards, McCormick was ready for a change.

As a camerawoman and producer in television—her expertise of capturing and communicating the story was her primary goal. For the past three decades, MBI—a Southern California based strategic communications small business has created a legacy of quality communications for clients in the environmental, engineering and design industries.

McCormick says initial efforts were focused in the transportation sector which included understanding the unique culture and workings of the railroad world. MBI was selected by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway to provide training videos for the certification of all West Coast Mechanical employees, as well as other strategic communications materials

for both the Operations and Signal Divisions.

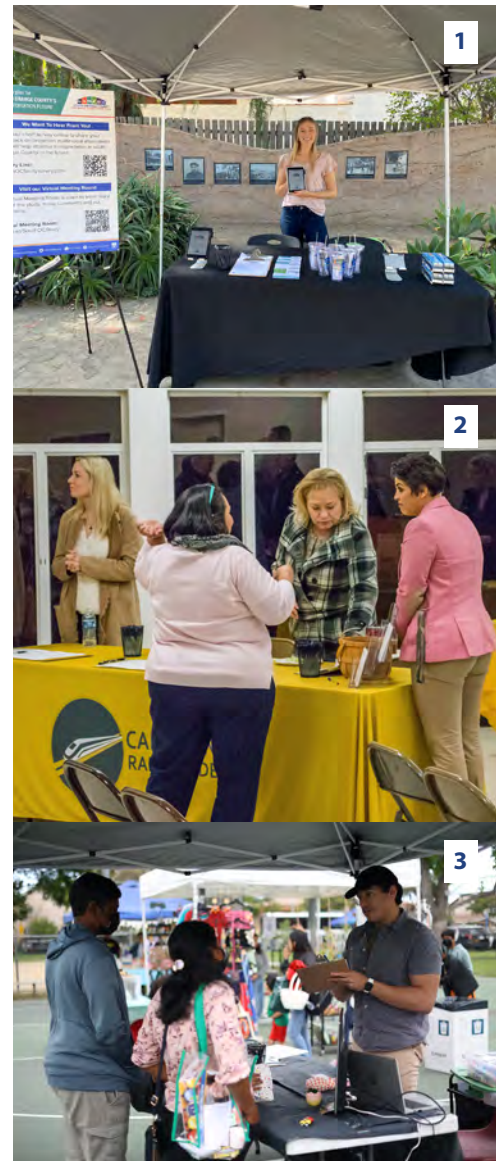
Today, under the guidance of McCormick, the team of more than 25 employees is led by current President Matt Castle. The firm provides services for clients in Southern California and throughout the state including Caltrans, LA Metro, City of Los Angeles, City of Long Beach, Metrolink, Orange County Transportation Authority, San Diego Association of Governments, Orange County Public Works, Riverside County Transportation Commission and, of course, the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority).

MBI’s collaborative team of professionals, along with their full-service media production and design studios, creates strategic, innovative, and engaging content and information resources to help their clients reach their targeted audiences. From websites and social media content to print materials and community outreach, MBI works closely with clients to strategically reach their target audiences with a range of quality information resources.

Their strategy shifts with the times.

“During the pandemic, we were able to provide our clients with the same high-level service they expect from us. Our team successfully transitioned the typical, in-person type of outreach and meetings to the virtual world,” said Castle. “We were the first to launch Virtual Meeting Rooms (VMR) for our clients.” MBI has now seamlessly combined both virtual and in-person meetings with creative graphics and strong analytics and data.

Castle and McCormick are proud of their work on the California high-speed rail project. Since May of 2015 their team has provided vital community outreach and engagement services for the project. Team members provide community outreach for sections of the project, including Construction Package 4 in Kern County and the



1. MBI staff going into the community to provide information on the OCTA South Orange County Multimodal Transportation Study
2. Providing a project update on the California High-Speed Rail Authority's Construction Package 4 (CP 4) to the community of Wasco
3. An MBI team member at a community event in Artesia for the SCAG Electric Vehicle Study

Palmdale to Burbank section of this statewide project. One exciting upcoming milestone MBI is helping the Authority achieve is the upcoming release of the Palmdale to Burbank Draft Environmental Impact Report/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS).

“As a small business, our work representing the Authority engages with residents, communities and stakeholders to deliver progress, updates and information about the project,” said McCormick. “We stand in the gap for the Authority, as we do for all clients. Being part of this historic and critically important transportation link, is truly an honor.”

Castle sees MBI as bridging the gap between the project and the communities it will touch.

“We pride ourselves on creating safe opportunities for real connections, even in the face of challenges,” said Castle. “We love to see complex and technical plans and ideas be turned into more simplified and relatable communication. This allows for these connections to take place organically and effectively.”

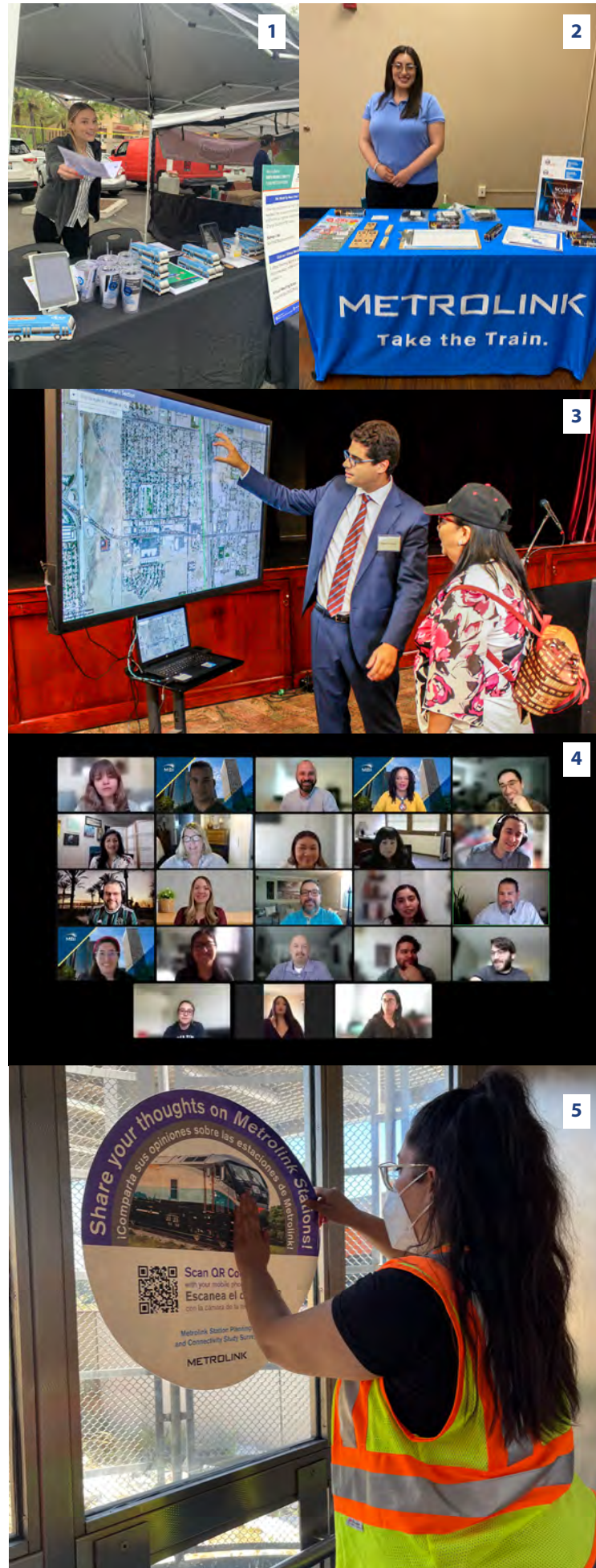
McCormick recalled an early project with high-speed rail being the creation of a video for the Fresno community. The video included animations showing transformative results of the project. It was instrumental in the continued progress and success of the project in the Central Valley.

MBI is leading the way and adapting to the times as it expands the work it does.

“We will continue to thrive in a hybrid environment where community members want both the personal touch of in-person outreach and the convenience of online outreach,” said Castle. “We’ll continue to take part in the important conversation around infrastructure development and growth in our communities.”

Sofia Gutierrez

1. MBI giving the communities in Orange County information on the OCTA South Orange County Multimodal Transportation Study
2. In the community to promote Metrolink at the San Bernardino County Museum Train Days
3. Using an interactive GIS display at California High-Speed Rail Palmdale to Burbank Project Section Open House meetings
4. MBI Media Virtual Team Check-in Meeting
5. Survey Promotion for Metrolink’s Station Planning and Connectivity Study





Seven Years of Rail Delivery Partnership

“Small businesses who partnered with WSP in this program were able to capitalize on program growth opportunities and indirect growth outside. We provided all small businesses the opportunity to grow and prosper.”

Vinod Kambrath
Director of Program Operations, WSP USA

WSP has been an integral part of shaping California’s high-speed rail program from the earliest feasibility studies in the 1990s up to today. WSP has been a partner with the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) as the program achieved many milestones, including:

- 380 miles of the project have been environmentally cleared from San José to Palmdale;
- 119 miles of civil infrastructure under construction in the Central Valley;
- Significant movement on “bookend” projects in Northern and Southern California; and
- Major advancements in station planning statewide.

For the past seven years, WSP has served as the Authority’s Rail Delivery Partner (RDP), comprised of WSP and our subcontractors, including small, disadvantaged and veteran business partners.

The program delivery strategy WSP partnered in implementing to deliver high-speed rail has advanced the planning, design and construction of multiple segments of the system, allowing the Authority to connect the high-speed rail system with other existing and planned rail and transportation networks across the state. As the RDP, WSP is accountable for day-to-day program management and program delivery activities, including:

- Establishing a program-wide Program Management Information System to interface with existing Authority systems;
- Managing the coordination of design, construction and commissioning on multiple segments that are being delivered through various delivery models and on overlapping timeframes;
- Advising on key delivery strategies; supporting or conducting risk assessment and cost-benefit analyses in support of the Authority’s determination of the delivery strategies;
- Delivering work to meet the overall program’s quality, legal and regulatory requirements; and
- Establishing technical requirements and standards for the entire program.

Throughout the RDP contract, WSP’s Contract Management Team



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1. WSP staff help represent the I Will Ride group at the USC Viterbi School of Engineering.
2. Engineer James Tung assisted with public outreach events as environmental clearance documents were shared with the public in Northern California.
3. Small Business Liaison Rita Ohaya (left) speaks to an attendee at WSP’s Technical Event in August 2019.

has consistently demonstrated a commitment to California’s small business community, the Authority’s Small Business Program and their associated initiatives. Toward that end, WSP has made tremendous efforts to include Small Businesses (SBs), Micro Businesses (MBs), Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises (DVBEs) and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) on the RDP contract. WSP has made assertive good faith efforts to empower and encourage small business participation including, for example, hosting Technical Assistance Training. The Technical Assistance Training was facilitated in collaboration with the United States Small Business Administration and in partnership with the Authority, as well as with:

- Veterans in Business Network;
- California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce;
- Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce;
- Procurement Technical Assistance Center;
- California Department of Veterans Affairs; and
- California Department of General Services.

WSP RDP Contract	Total Contract dollars expenditures	Total dollars spent with SBs/MBs/DVBES/ DBEs	SB utilization percentage
As of May 2022	\$716,655,742.25	\$204,894,357.39	28.6%

“When you are supporting a small business, you are supporting a dream,” said Director of Program Operations Vinod Kambrath. “Small businesses who partnered with WSP in this program were able to capitalize on program growth opportunities and indirect growth outside. We provided all small businesses the opportunity to grow and prosper.”

In addition to these partnerships, WSP’s Contract Management Team has strived to:

- Employ strategies to meet Small Business rates of participation and the intended goals and objectives of the Authority’s Small Business Program;
- Implement, monitor and maintain the Small Business Performance Plan alongside the current business environment and the latest revisions to applicable federal and state laws and regulations;
- Verify the Small Business Performance Plan is executed in compliance with applicable regulations, including Executive Order S-O2-O6, Title VI and the best practices of 49 CFR Part 26; and
- Monitor and report Small Business utilization.

WSP also demonstrated its commitment to supporting small businesses once they were brought onto the program by establishing a Technical Assistance Training program that supported the development of both emerging and established firms, propelling them to success within existing SBE programs. These actions strengthened the position and capacity of small businesses to perform on current public works contracts and better positioned them for future contracting opportunities. Furthermore, WSP’s Contract Management Team has developed initiatives including:

- Encouraging and mentoring eligible firms to apply for small business certification with the appropriate certifying agency;
- Motivating non-certified subcontractors to provide lower tier subcontracting opportunities to certified small businesses;
- Partnering with the Authority to guide small businesses that encounter challenges obtaining insurance, securing financing and providing technical assistance; and
- Most importantly - partnering with local small business advocacy groups and organizations to provide resources for existing and emerging small businesses.

With the upcoming expiration of the RDP contract, the Authority is currently in the procurement process to enter into an agreement with a Program Delivery Support (PDS) contractor.

Damon Dorn



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1. Andres Molina supports the Authority at a small business event in Irvine in 2016.
2. WSP’s Kevin Alvarado represented California High-Speed Rail at Disney’s Environmentalism event in 2018.
3. Kevin Reed presents to small business attendees at WSP’s Technical Event in August 2019.

Using Clues of the Past to Inform Today's Policies



“Understanding past environments and extinctions versus adaptations and resiliency of species may help inform policies today and into the future.”

Dr. Amy Ollendorf,
Paleontology Program Manager,
Applied Earthworks, Inc.

Snails, horses and birches, oh my!

What do these organisms have in common? Evidence of them has been found by Applied Earthworks, Inc. (Æ) along the high-speed rail alignment in the Central Valley.

Founded in 1995, Applied Earthworks, Inc. started as a cultural resource management company specializing in history, archeology, architectural history and coordination with Native Americans. In 2012, Æ added paleontology services. Paleontology Program Manager Dr. Amy Ollendorf says paleontological resources play an important role within environmental laws, such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Applied Earthworks is currently providing paleontological resource services to the high-speed rail project in Construction Package 1 in Madera and Fresno counties. Paleontology field technicians travel along the project alignment to monitor construction activities in areas with a high potential for significant paleontological resources.

“We look for traces of past life on Earth that are fossilized or otherwise preserved,” added Ollendorf.

When asked what is the most interesting discovery found along our alignment, Ollendorf said it depends on who you talk to.

“My background in paleontology is focused on invertebrates and plants,” said Ollendorf. Examples of invertebrates include mussels, snails, mollusks and scallops.

“We also have found a lot of ancient plant materials, like fossilized stems of horsetail rushes and impressions of leaves from birch trees. However, one of our senior paleontologists would suggest the vertebrate fossils we have recovered are the most interesting discovery to date since she’s a vertebrate paleontologist.”

All the paleontological resources recovered by Æ date to the Pleistocene Epoch, which includes the last Ice Age. “The Pleistocene lasted from approximately 2.6 million years ago to 11,700 years ago,” explained Ollendorf.

Æ’s efforts along the high-speed rail project focus on the recovery and preservation of paleontological resources. Without paleontological mitigation triggered by NEPA and CEQA, these resources would have been destroyed during construction.

“Paleontological resources are non-renewable,” noted Ollendorf. “We wouldn’t know as much about past life on Earth and ancient environments without the statutes requiring observation and collection. Understanding past environments and extinctions versus adaptations and resiliency of species may help inform policies today and into the future.”

The Authority is committed to delivering the greenest infrastructure project in the nation, both in construction and operations. And thanks to Applied Earthworks, Inc., we can learn from California’s environmental and cultural past while building toward the future with the nation’s first electrified high-speed rail system.

Ramiro Diaz



1. Fossilized extinct horse teeth found in Construction Package 1
2. Horsetail rush stem impressions found in Construction Package 1
3. A variety of invertebrate fossils found in Construction Package 1

Authority Joins SoCal DBE Summit

Tuesday, June 21, 2022, the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) Small Business Program hosted an informational booth at the 2nd Annual Caltrans Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Summit at So-Fi Stadium in Inglewood. The event opened with remarks from Secretary of California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) Toks Omishakin, Caltrans' Office of Civil Rights Deputy Director David Deluz, newly appointed Caltrans Director Tony Tavares and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) acting director Randy Warden.

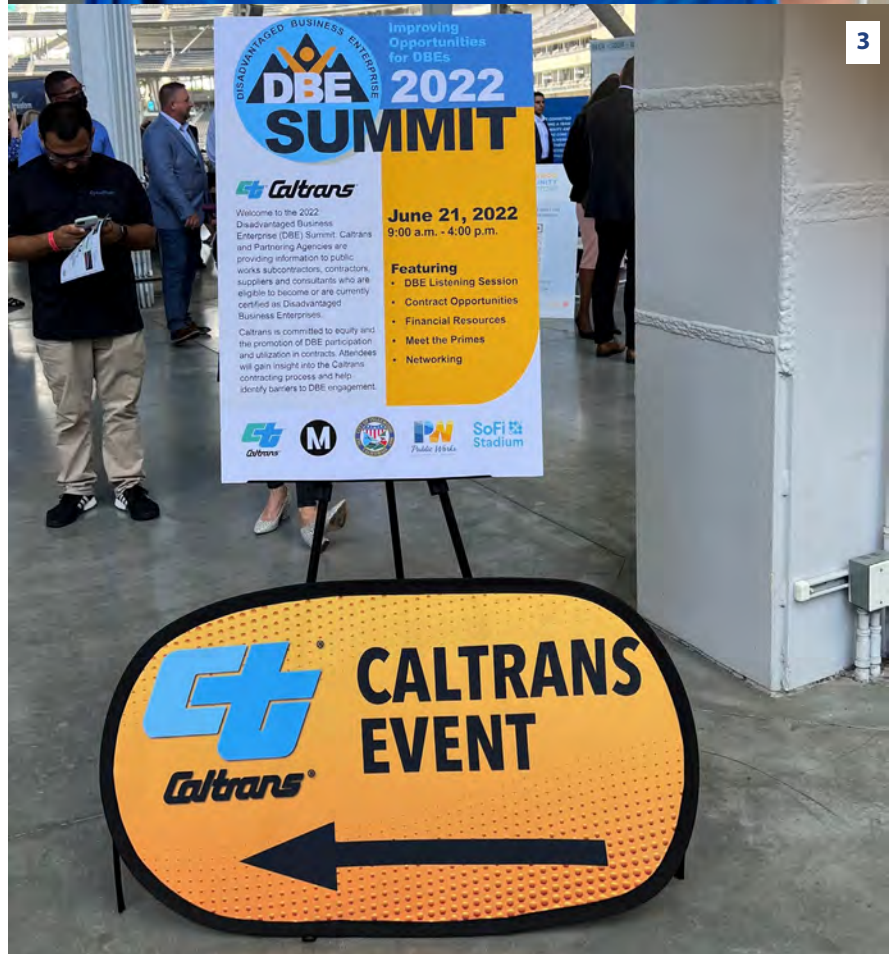
Authority Small Business Manager Damon Dorn, Small Business Technical Associate Otilie Hall and Information Officer Crystal Royval attended the event to answer questions and provide information to interested firms regarding upcoming opportunities on the high-speed rail project.

Throughout the day, several breakout sessions were held to provide small businesses with information beneficial to their success. The Los Angeles County Public Works' Business, Outreach and Compliance office hosted a breakout session on the basics of doing business with the Los Angeles County Public Works office, which included upcoming projects and the County's certification program. In addition, there were presentations by Caltrans' Southern California District 7-Los Angeles, District 8-San Bernardino and District 11-San Diego offices to assist local firms with finding opportunities for their DBE certification.

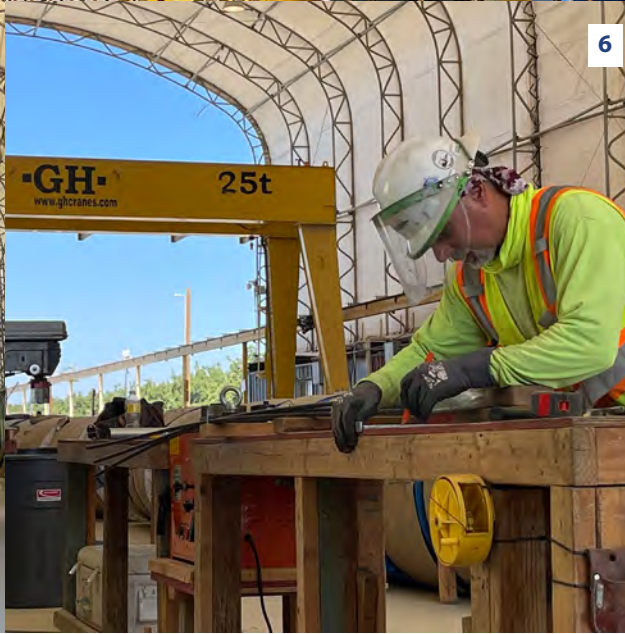
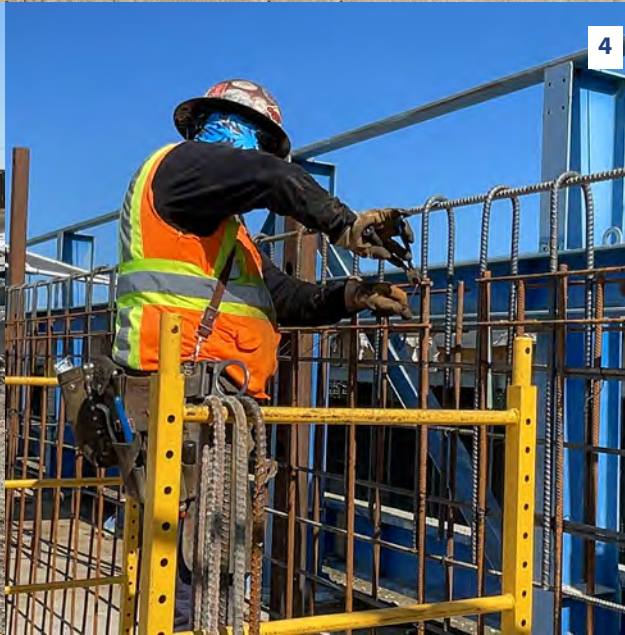
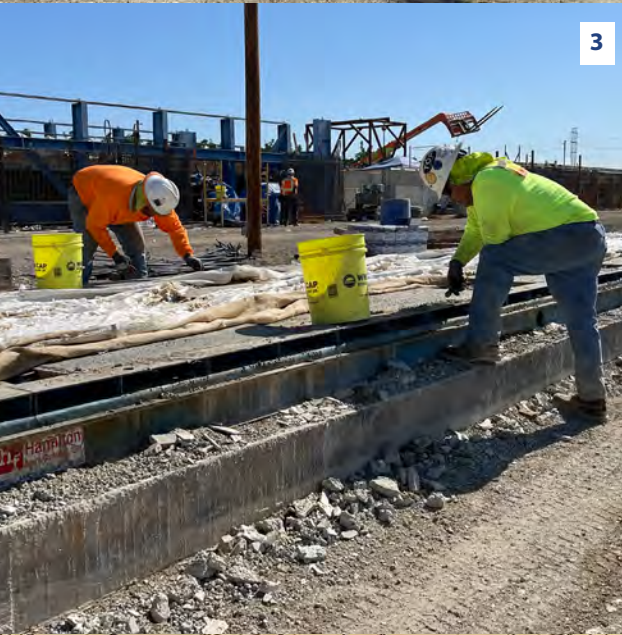
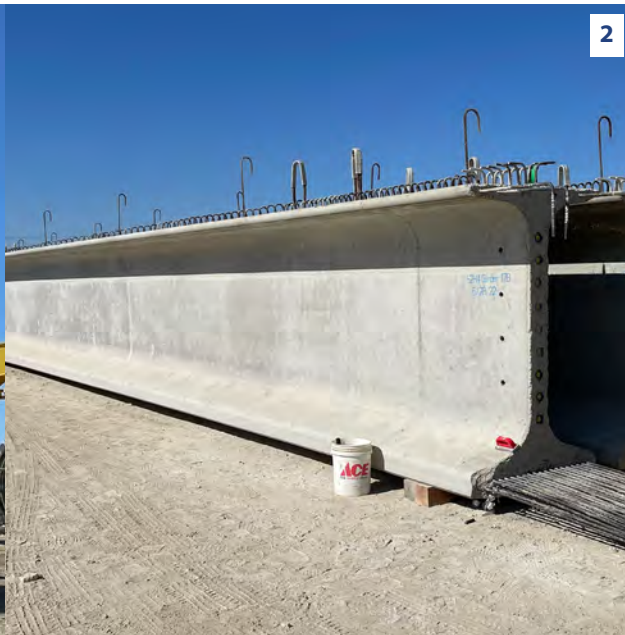
With more than 300 businesses registered to attend, the Authority's team accepted business cards and capability statements from several potential firms looking to gain insight into ways to utilize their DBE certification. All firms that visited the Authority's booth were provided a QR code with links to the Authority's ConnectHSR database registration page and additional links related to the project. Information was provided that included contacts to our current Authority Design-Build prime contractors who are always seeking certified Small Business, Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) and DBE firms to help them reach the Authority's overall 30% small business participation goal.

Damon Dorn

1. HSR SB Team assisting interested firms
2. SB Technical Associate, Otilie Hall, SB Manager Damon Dorn
3. Caltrans Event direction signage



High-Speed Rail Happenings at the Pre-Cast Girder Facility



1. The Dragados-Flatiron Joint Venture (DFJV) Pre-Cast Girder Facility in Hanford is the largest job-specific pre-cast facility in California.
2. The facility, unlike any other in the state, was conceived of in 2017 and completed in 2018 because DFJV couldn't find a supplier to meet its needs and schedule.
3. The facility is responsible for manufacturing more than 1,300 different types of girders and nearly half a million pre-cast deck panels for various structures along the 65-mile segment.
4. This facility allows DFJV to make as many as eight girders at a time which expedites the bridge making process in Construction Package 2-3.
5. The 40-acre facility is located on Grangeville Boulevard east of State Route 43 in Hanford, a short distance away from the Hanford Viaduct.
6. The vast majority of workers staffing the facility reside in the Central Valley, providing a boost to the local economy.

All photos from July, 2022.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

SUMMER 2022

LATEST VIDEOS: WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/CAHIGHSPEDRAIL



Summer 2022 Construction Update

The California High-Speed Rail Authority Summer 2022 Construction Update highlights continued progress being made on the nation's first high-speed rail project. Like the temperature in the Central Valley, high-speed rail construction continues to rise, and this update features the latest on major construction projects from Madera to Kern counties. Highlights include progress across all high-speed rail construction packages and updates on several structures including Avenue 15 1/2 Grade Separation in Madera County, Hanford Viaduct in Kings County and Merced Avenue Grade Separation in Kern County.

Check out the full video here:

<https://youtu.be/ZXgY5fQq3ew>



Interested in doing business with High-Speed Rail?

Visit www.ConnectHSR.com



SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION

AS OF MAY 31, 2022

721 Certified Small Businesses working on the high-speed rail program statewide

229 Certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises

82 Certified Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA:
252 Certified Small Businesses

CENTRAL VALLEY:
205 Certified Small Businesses

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA:
233 Certified Small Businesses

OUTSIDE OF CALIFORNIA:
23 Certified Small Businesses