

County of Humboldt • Department of Public Works
1106 Second Street • Eureka • CA • 95501 • (707) 445-7377



NOTICE TO BIDDERS
SPECIAL PROVISIONS
PROPOSAL AND CONTRACT

FOR

STORM DAMAGE REPAIR TO ALDERPOINT ROAD (F6B165)
PM 7.90 & 8.15

PROJECT NO.: ER-32L0(292) & ER-32L0(293)
CONTRACT NO.: 217259 & 217260

55 WORKING DAYS

FOR USE WITH Standard Specifications dated 2025,
Standard Plans dated 2025, Prevailing Wage Rates,
Labor Surcharge and Equipment Rental Rates

BIDS OPEN: JUNE 16, 2026 AT 2:00 PM

County of Humboldt
Department of Public Works
1106 Second Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Note: To register as a plan-holder, prospective bidders must email a request to the Department of Public Works Contact Person. Failure to register as a plan-holder with the Department of Public Works may result in a nonresponsive bid.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS SPECIAL PROVISIONS PROPOSAL AND CONTRACT

FOR

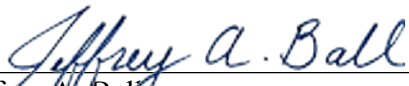
**STORM DAMAGE REPAIR TO ALDERPOINT ROAD
(F6B165) PM 7.90 & 8.15**

**PROJECT NO.: ER-32L0(292) & ER-32L0(293)
CONTRACT NO.: 217259 & 217260**

Prepared by

**County of Humboldt
Department of Public Works
1106 Second Street
Eureka, CA 95501**

Recommended:



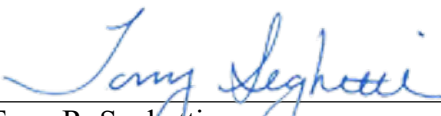
Jeffrey A. Ball
RCE 70631, Expires 6/30/2027

4-14-2026

Date



Approved:



Tony R. Seghetti
RCE 63174, Expires 09/30/2026

4-14-2026

Date



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2025 - STANDARD PLANS LIST

The standard plan sheets applicable to this Contract include those listed below. When applicable, revised standard plans (RSPs) listed below are included in the project plans.

ABBREVIATIONS, LINES, SYMBOLS, AND LEGEND

A3A	Abbreviations (Sheet 1 of 3)
A3B	Abbreviations (Sheet 2 of 3)
A3C	Abbreviations (Sheet 3 of 3)
A10A	Legend - Lines and Symbols (Sheet 1 of 5)
A10B	Legend - Lines and Symbols (Sheet 2 of 5)
A10C	Legend - Lines and Symbols (Sheet 3 of 5)
A10D	Legend - Lines and Symbols (Sheet 4 of 5)
A10E	Legend - Lines and Symbols (Sheet 5 of 5)

PAVEMENT MARKERS, TRAFFIC LINES, AND PAVEMENT MARKINGS

A20A	Pavement Markers and Traffic Lines - Typical Details
A20B	Pavement Markers and Traffic Lines - Typical Details

EXCAVATION AND BACKFILL

A62A	Excavation and Backfill - Miscellaneous Details
A62B	Limits of Payment for Excavation and Backfill - Bridge Surcharge and Wall
A62F	Excavation and Backfill - Metal and Plastic Culverts

PORTABLE CONCRETE BARRIER

A63A	Portable Concrete Barrier (Type 60K)
A63B	Portable Concrete Barrier (Type 60K)

OBJECT MARKERS, DELINEATORS, CHANNELIZERS, AND BARRICADES

A73A	Object Markers
A73B	Markers

SURVEYS

A74	Survey Monuments
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MIDWEST GUARDRAIL SYSTEM - STANDARD RAILING SECTIONS AND TRANSITION TO METAL BEAM GUARDRAIL

A77L2	Midwest Guardrail System - Standard Railing Section (Steel Post with Notched Wood or Notched Recycled Plastic Block)
A77L4	Midwest Guardrail System - Transition to Metal Beam Guardrail
A77M1	Midwest Guardrail System - Standard Hardware
A77N2	Midwest Guardrail System - Steel Post and Block Details
A77N3	Midwest Guardrail System - Typical Line Post Embedment and Hinge Point Offset Details

A77N4	Midwest Guardrail System - Typical Height Measurement, Dike Positioning, and Delineation Details
	MIDWEST GUARDRAIL SYSTEM - TYPICAL LAYOUTS FOR STRUCTURES
A77Q1	Midwest Guardrail System - Typical Layouts for Structure Approach
A77Q2	Midwest Guardrail System - Typical Layouts for Structure Approach and Between Structures
A77Q3	Midwest Guardrail System - Typical Layouts for Structure Approach
A77Q4	Midwest Guardrail System - Typical Layouts for Structure Departure
A77Q5	Midwest Guardrail System - Typical Layouts for Structure Departure
	MIDWEST GUARDRAIL SYSTEM - END ANCHORAGE AND RAIL TENSIONING ASSEMBLY
A77S1	Midwest Guardrail System - End Anchor Assembly (Type SFT-M)
A77S2	Midwest Guardrail System - Rail Tensioning Assembly
A77S3	Metal Railing Anchor Cable and Anchor Plate Details
A77T1	Metal Railing End Anchor Assembly (Type CA)
	GABIONS AND UNDERDRAINS
D102	Underdrains
	LANDSCAPE AND EROSION CONTROL
H51	Erosion Control Details - Fiber Roll and Compost Sock
H52	Rolled Erosion Control Product
	TEMPORARY CRASH CUSHIONS, RAILINGS AND TRAFFIC SCREEN
T3A	Temporary Railing (Type K)
T3B	Temporary Railing (Type K)
	TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEMS
T9	Traffic Control System Tables for Lane and Ramp Closures
T13A	Traffic Control System Two Lane Conventional Highways
T13B	Traffic Control System Two Lane Conventional Highways
	TEMPORARY WATER POLLUTION CONTROL
T51	Temporary Water Pollution Control Details (Temporary Silt Fence)
T53	Temporary Water Pollution Control Details (Temporary Cover)
T54	Temporary Water Pollution Control Details (Temporary Erosion Control Blanket)
T55	Temporary Water Pollution Control Details (Temporary Erosion Control Blanket)
T56	Temporary Water Pollution Control Details (Temporary Fiber Roll)
T57	Temporary Water Pollution Control Details (Temporary Check Dam)

ROADSIDE SIGNS

RS1

Roadside Signs - Typical Installation Details No. 1

RS2

Roadside Signs - Wood Post - Typical Installation Details No. 2



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals will be received by (and all bids should be mailed or delivered to) the

Department of Public Works
SEALED BID for (Project Name)
County of Humboldt
1106 Second Street
Eureka, California, 95501

until 2:00 PM, **TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2026**, at which time they will be publicly opened by the Department of Public Works of the County of Humboldt at a public meeting located at the parking lot of the building on 1106 Second Street, Eureka CA, for performing work as follows:

STORM DAMAGE REPAIR TO ALDERPOINT ROAD (F6B165) PM 7.90 & 8.15
PROJECT NO.: ER-32L0(292) & ER-32L0(293)
CONTRACT NO.: 217259 & 217260

Bids are required for the entire work as described herein:

The work to be done consists of traffic control systems, geosynthetic reinforced embankment, rock slope protection, underdrain installation, wire wall construction, guardrail installation, culvert, and erosion control items. Bidders are advised that the work must be completed within **55 working days**. The Engineer's Estimate for this work is: **\$1,191,000**.

Plans, Special Provisions and Proposal Forms may be viewed at the Humboldt County Department of Public Works, 1106 Second Street, Eureka, California, 95501, at area plan centers and on the County's website at: <http://humboldt.gov/Bids.aspx>.

To receive electronic bid documents and to **register as a plan-holder**, prospective bidders must email a request to the Department of Public Works at PWEngineering@co.humboldt.ca.us or call the Department of Public Works at (707) 445-7377. Failure to register as a plan-holder with the Department of Public Works may result in a nonresponsive bid.

Printed copies of the contract documents may be obtained by prospective Bidders upon ADVANCE payment of a non-refundable printing and service charge in the amount of \$17.00. All checks shall be made payable to COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT and should be mailed along with the request for Plans to the Humboldt County Department of Public Works, 1106 Second Street, Eureka, California, 95501.

To submit questions regarding the plans and special provisions or request a copy of the latest plan holders list, email the request to PWEngineering@co.humboldt.ca.us or contact the Department of Public Works at (707) 445-7377.

Plans and Special Provisions reference the Caltrans Standard Specifications and Standard Plans dated 2025. Provisions that reference federal-aid contracts are applicable.

The successful Bidder shall furnish a Payment Bond and a Performance Bond.

The Contractor shall possess a **CLASS "A"** Contractors License at the time this contract is awarded.

No pre-bid meeting is scheduled for this project.

This contract is subject to state contract nondiscrimination and compliance requirements pursuant to Government Code, Section 12990.

The County of Humboldt is suspending Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) contract goals on federally funded construction projects. This action is taken pursuant to the Interim Final Rule (IFR) issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation on October 3, 2025, which amends 49 CFR Part 26.

Effective immediately, no DBE participation goals will be applied to any solicitation or contract advertised during the IFR's effective period. This includes the suspension of DBE goal setting, commitments, compliance monitoring, and reporting activities.

The suspension will remain in effect until DBE participation goals are required by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

For this contract, the number of trainees or apprentices for the Federal training program is **0**.

Inquiries or questions based on alleged patent ambiguity of the plans, specifications or estimate must be communicated as a bidder inquiry prior to bid opening. Any such inquiries or questions, submitted after bid opening, will not be treated as a bid protest.

Pursuant to Section 1773 of the Labor Code, the general prevailing wage rates in the county, or counties, in which the work is to be done have been determined by the Director of the California Department of Industrial Relations. These wages are set forth in the General Prevailing Wage Rates for this project, available at County of Humboldt, 1106 2nd Street, Eureka, CA. 95501 and available from the California Department of Industrial Relations' Internet web site at <http://www.dir.ca.gov/DLSR/PWD>. The Federal minimum wage rates for this project as predetermined by the United States Secretary of Labor are available on the web home page of the Department of Labor at <https://sam.gov/content/wage-determinations> and copies may be examined at the offices described above where project plans, special provisions, and proposal forms may be seen. Addenda to modify the Federal minimum wage rates, if necessary, will be issued to planholders that have purchased bid documents from the Department of Public Works at 1106 Second Street, Eureka, California, 95501. Future effective general prevailing wage rates which have been predetermined and are on file with the California Department of Industrial Relations are referenced but not printed in the general prevailing wage rates.

Attention is directed to the Federal minimum wage rate requirements of the Department of Labor. If there is a difference between the minimum wage rates predetermined by the Secretary of Labor and the general prevailing wage rates determined by the Director of the California Department of Industrial Relations for

similar classifications of labor, the Contractor and subcontractors shall pay not less than the higher wage rate. The Department will not accept lower State wage rates not specifically included in the Federal minimum wage determinations. This includes "helper" (or other classifications based on hours of experience) or any other classification not appearing in the Federal wage determinations. Where Federal wage determinations do not contain the State wage rate determination otherwise available for use by the Contractor and subcontractors, the Contractor and subcontractors shall pay not less than the Federal minimum wage rate which most closely approximates the duties of the employees in question.

This project is subject to the "Buy America" provisions of the Surface Transportation Act of 1982, as amended by the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) Sections 1041(a) and 1048(a), and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) provides a toll-free hotline to report bid rigging activities. Use the hotline to report bid rigging, bidder collusion, and other fraudulent activities. The hotline number is (800) 424-9071. The service is available 24 hours 7 days a week and is confidential and anonymous. The hotline is part of the DOT's effort to identify and investigate highway construction contract fraud and abuse and is operated under the direction of the DOT Inspector General.

TRACY DAMICO

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

County of Humboldt, State of California

DATED: _____



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

SPECIAL PROVISIONS
FOR

**STORM DAMAGE REPAIR TO ALDERPOINT ROAD (F6B165) PM 7.90 & 8.15
PROJECT NO.: ER-32L0(292) & ER-32L0(293)
CONTRACT NO.: 217259 & 217260**

DIVISION I GENERAL PROVISIONS

1 GENERAL

Add to section 1-1.01:

The work embraced herein shall be done in accordance with the **STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS dated 2025**, and the **STANDARD PLANS dated 2025**, and revisions thereto, of the State of California, Department of Transportation insofar as the same may apply and in accordance with the following special provisions. In case of conflict between the Standard Specifications and these special provisions, the special provisions shall take precedence over and be used in lieu of such conflicting portions.

Replace the following definitions in section 1-1.07B with:

DEPARTMENT, DIRECTOR: Humboldt County Department of Public Works.

ENGINEER: The Director of Public Works of Humboldt County or his authorized agent working within the scope of his authority.

STATE: County of Humboldt, a political subdivision of the State of California.

Add to section 1-1.07B:

LABORATORY: Materials and Testing Laboratory of the Humboldt County Department of Public Works.

^^

2 BIDDING

Add to section 2-1.06A:

Plans, Special Provisions (not including documents included by reference) and Proposal Forms may be viewed by prospective Bidders at the Humboldt County Department of Public Works, 1106 Second Street, Eureka, California.

Plans, Special Provisions and Supplemental Project Information may be viewed on the County of Humboldt web site: <http://humboldt.gov/Bids.aspx>. Current Standard Specifications are available for review at the Department of Public Works, 1106 Second Street, Eureka, California or on Caltrans web page of the Office Engineer/ Engineering. (<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/ccs-standard-plans-and-standard-specifications>)

Note that Plans, Special Provisions, and Proposal Forms posted on the County's web site may be used to submit a bid, however prospective bidders must register as a plan-holder. Failure to register as a plan-holder with the Department of Public Works may result in a nonresponsive bid.

To **register as a plan-holder**, prospective bidder may email a request to the following project contact: Department of Public Works at PWEngineering@co.humboldt.ca.us or the engineering division (707) 445-7377.

Add between the 1st and 2nd paragraphs of section 2-1.06B: (2024 Caltrans SSP)

The Department makes the following supplemental project information available:

Supplemental Project Information

Means	Description
Available for inspection at the Public Works Office: 1106 2 nd Street Eureka, CA 95501 Telephone No.: (707)445-7377 And available for inspection at: http://humboldt.gov/Bids.aspx	Geotech Memorandum for Alderpoint Road PM 7.90 & 8.15 dated October 26, 2020 by Crawford and Associates

Add to section 2-1.06C:

All bid proposals and materials submitted in response to this Notice to Bidders shall become the County's property and are subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act, California Government Code Sections 6250, et seq. All bid proposals submitted in response hereto, are considered public information, except for specifically identified trade secrets, which will be handled according to any and all applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations. Any portion of a bid proposal that is deemed to be a trade secret by the bidder shall be clearly marked "PROPRIETARY INFORMATION" at the top of the page in at least one-half inch (1/2") letters. Specifically identified proprietary information will not be released, if

the bidder agrees to indemnify and defend the County in any action brought to disclose such information. By submitting a bid proposal in response to this Notice to Bidders, the bidder agrees that the County's failure to contact the bidder prior to the release of any proprietary information contained therein will not be a basis for liability by the County or any employee thereof. Items considered public information will be available for review after the bid opening.

Delete section 2-1.20

Delete section 2-1.33B(2)(b)

Add to section 2-1.43:

BID OPENING

The County publicly opens and reads bids at the time and place shown on the Notice to Bidders.

Add to section 2-1.50:

BID RIGGING

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) provides a toll-free hotline to report bid rigging activities. Use the hotline to report bid rigging, bidder collusion, and other fraudulent activities. The hotline number is (800) 424-9071. The service is available 24 hours 7 days a week and is confidential and anonymous. The hotline is part of the DOT's effort to identify and investigate highway construction contract fraud and abuse and is operated under the direction of the DOT Inspector General.

^^

3 CONTRACT AWARD AND EXECUTION

Replace the 1st paragraph in section 3-1.04 with:

Bid Protest. Any bid protest must be in writing and must be received by the Department Director at 1106 Second Street, Eureka, CA, 95501 (Fax: (707) 445-7409), before 5:00 p.m. no later than three (3) working days following bid opening (the "Bid Protest Deadline") and must comply with the following requirements:

1. Only a bidder who has actually submitted a Bid Proposal is eligible to submit a bid protest against another bidder. Subcontractors are not eligible to submit bid protests. A bidder may not rely on the bid protest submitted by another bidder, but must timely pursue its own protest.
2. The bid protest must contain a complete statement of the basis for the protest and all supporting documentation. Material submitted after the Bid Protest Deadline will not be considered. The protest must refer to the specific portion or portions of the Contract Documents upon which the protest is based. The protest must include the name, address and telephone number of the person representing the protesting bidder if different from the protesting bidder.

3. A copy of the protest and all supporting documents must also be transmitted by fax or by e-mail, by or before the Bid Protest Deadline, to the protested bidder and any other bidder who has a reasonable prospect of receiving an award depending upon the outcome of the protest.
4. The protested bidder may submit a written response to the protest, provided the response is received by the Department Director before 5:00 p.m., within two (2) working days after the Bid Protest Deadline or after receipt of the bid protest, whichever is sooner (the “Response Deadline”). The response must include all supporting documentation. Material submitted after the Response Deadline will not be considered. The response must include the name, address and telephone number of the person representing the protested bidder if different from the protested bidder.
5. The procedure and time limits set forth in this section are mandatory and are the bidder’s sole and exclusive remedy in the event of bid protest. The bidder’s failure to comply with these procedures shall constitute a waiver of any right to further pursue a bid protest, including filing a Government Code Claim or initiation of legal proceedings. Any addenda or bulletins issued during the time of bidding, or forming a part of the documents issued to the Bidder for the preparation of his bid, shall be covered in the bid, and shall become a part of the Agreement.

Any addenda or bulletins issued during the time of bidding, or forming a part of the documents issued to the Bidder for the preparation of his bid, shall be covered in the bid, and shall become a part of the Agreement.

No person, firm or corporation shall be allowed to make or file, or be interested in, more than one bid for the same work, unless alternate bids are called for. A person, firm, or corporation who has submitted a subproposal to a Bidder, or who has quoted prices on materials to a Bidder, is not thereby disqualified from submitting a subproposal or quoting prices to other Bidders.

Replace the 2nd paragraph in section 3-1.04 with:

CONTRACT AWARD

If the County awards the contract, the award is made to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder.

Replace section 3-1.05:

The successful Bidder, simultaneously with the execution of the Agreement, will be required to furnish a **Payment Bond** in an amount equal to **one hundred (100%) percent** of the contract price, and a faithful **Performance Bond** in an amount equal to at least **one hundred (100%) percent** of the contract price; said Bonds shall be secured from a surety company satisfactory to the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors. The Payment Bond shall comply with Section 3248 of the Civil Code of the State of California. The Payment Bond and the faithful Performance Bond shall each be in a form which is satisfactory to the County Counsel of the County of Humboldt. A copy of an acceptable format is attached to the Agreement forms included in the proposal section of these specifications.

Replace section 3-1.06 with:

CONTRACTOR LICENSE

The Contractor must be properly licensed as a contractor from contract award through Contract acceptance (Public Contract Code § 10164).

Replace section 3-1.07 with

- I. THIS CONTRACT/AGREEMENT SHALL NOT BE EXECUTED BY COUNTY and the CONTRACTOR is not entitled to any rights, unless certificates of insurance, or other sufficient proof that the following provisions have been complied with, and such certificate(s) are filed with the Clerk of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors.
- II. Without limiting Contractor's indemnification provided herein, Contractor shall and shall require any of its subcontractors to take out and maintain, throughout the period of this Agreement, the following policies of insurance placed with insurers with a current A.M. Bests rating of no less than A:VII or its equivalent against injury/death to persons or damage to property which may arise from or in connection with the activities hereunder of Contractor, its agents, employees or subcontractors:
 - A. Comprehensive or Commercial General Liability Insurance at least as broad as Insurance Services Office Commercial General Liability coverage (occurrence from CG 0001), in an amount of \$2,000,000 per occurrence. If work involves explosive, underground or collapse risks, XCU must be included. If a general aggregate limit is used, either the general aggregate limit shall apply separately to this project or the general aggregate shall be twice the required occurrence limit. Said policy shall contain, or be endorsed with, the following provisions:
 - (1) The County, its officers, employees and agents, are covered as additional insured for liability arising out of the operations performed by or on behalf of Contractor. The coverage shall contain no special limitations on the scope of protection afforded to the County, its officers, agents, and employees.
 - (2) The policy shall not be canceled or materially reduced in coverage without thirty (30) days prior written notice (10 days for non-payment of the premium) to County by certified mail.
 - (3) The inclusion of more than one insured shall not operate to impair the rights of one insured against another insured, and the coverage afforded shall apply as though separate policies had been issued to each insured, but the inclusion of more than one insured shall not operate to increase the limits of the insurer's liability.
 - (4) For claims related to this project, the Contractor's insurance is primary coverage to the County, and any insurance or self-insurance programs maintained by the County are excess to Contractor's insurance and will not be called upon to contribute with it.
 - (5) Any failure to comply with reporting or other provisions of the parties, including breach of warranties, shall not affect coverage provided to County, its officers, employees, and agents.
 - B. Automobile liability insurance with coverage at least as broad as Insurance Services Office form CA 0001 06092, Code 1 (any auto), for vehicles used in the performance of this Agreement with minimum coverage of not less than \$1,000,000 per accident combined single limit (CSL). Such policy shall contain or be endorsed with the provision that coverage shall not be canceled or materially reduced in coverage without thirty (30) days prior written notice (10 days for non-payment of premium) to County by certified mail.
 - C. Workers' Compensation insurance meeting statutory limits of the California Labor Code which policy shall contain or be endorsed to contain a waiver of subrogation against County, its

officers, agents, and employees and provide for thirty (30) days prior written notice in the event of cancellation.

- D. Contractor shall furnish County with certificates and original endorsements effecting the required coverage prior to execution of this Agreement by County. The endorsements shall be on forms as approved by the County's Risk Manager or County Counsel. Any deductible or self-insured retention over \$100,000 shall be disclosed to and approved by County. If Contractor does not keep all required policies in full force and effect, County may, in addition to other remedies under this Agreement, take out the necessary insurance, and Contractor agrees to pay the cost of said insurance.

The County may elect to treat a failure to maintain the requisite insurances as a breach of contract/agreement and terminate the contract/agreement as provided herein.

- III. Contractor shall indemnify and hold harmless County and its Board, officers, officials, employees, and volunteers from and against all claims, damages, losses, and expenses including attorney fees arising out of the performance of the work described herein, caused in whole or in part by any negligent act or omission by the contractor, any subcontractor, anyone directly or indirectly employed by any of them or anyone for whose acts any of them may be liable, except where caused by the active negligence, sole negligence, or willful misconduct of the County.

^^

4 SCOPE OF WORK

Add to section 4-1.06:

CHANGED CONDITIONS

A. Differing Site Conditions

1. During the progress of the work, if subsurface or latent physical conditions are encountered at the site differing materially from those indicated in the contract or if unknown physical conditions of an unusual nature, differing materially from those ordinarily encountered and generally recognized as inherent in the work provided for in the contract, are encountered at the site, the party discovering such conditions shall promptly notify the other party in writing of the specific differing conditions before the site is disturbed and before the affected work is performed.
2. Upon written notification, the engineer will investigate the conditions, and if it is determined that the conditions materially differ and cause an increase or decrease in the cost or time required for the performance of any work under the contract, an adjustment, excluding anticipated profits, will be made and the contract modified in writing accordingly. The engineer will notify the contractor of the determination whether or not an adjustment of the contract is warranted.
3. No contract adjustment which results in a benefit to the contractor will be allowed unless the contractor has provided the required written notice.

4. No contract adjustment will be allowed under this clause for any effects caused on unchanged work.

B. Suspensions of Work Ordered by the Engineer

1. If the performance of all or any portion of the work is suspended or delayed by the engineer in writing for an unreasonable period of time (not originally anticipated, customary, or inherent to the construction industry) and the contractor believes that additional compensation and/or contract time is due as a result of such suspension or delay, the contractor shall submit to the engineer in writing a request for adjustment within 7 calendar days of receipt of the notice to resume work. The request shall set forth the reasons and support for such adjustment.
2. Upon receipt, the engineer will evaluate the contractor's request. If the engineer agrees that the cost and/or time required for the performance of the contract has increased as a result of such suspension and the suspension was caused by conditions beyond the control of and not the fault of the contractor, its suppliers, or subcontractors at any approved tier, and not caused by weather, the engineer will make an adjustment (excluding profit) and modify the contract in writing accordingly. The contractor will be notified of the engineer's determination whether or not an adjustment of the contract is warranted.
3. No contract adjustment will be allowed unless the contractor has submitted the request for adjustment within the time prescribed.
4. No contract adjustment will be allowed under this clause to the extent that performance would have been suspended or delayed by any other cause, or for which an adjustment is provided or excluded under any other term or condition of this contract.

C. Significant Changes in the Character of Work

1. The engineer reserves the right to make, in writing, at any time during the work, such changes in quantities and such alterations in the work as are necessary to satisfactorily complete the project. Such changes in quantities and alterations shall not invalidate the contract nor release the surety, and the contractor agrees to perform the work as altered.
2. If the alterations or changes in quantities significantly change the character of the work under the contract, whether such alterations or changes are in themselves significant changes to the character of the work or by affecting other work cause such other work to become significantly different in character, an adjustment, excluding anticipated profit, will be made to the contract. The basis for the adjustment shall be agreed upon prior to the performance of the work. If a basis cannot be agreed upon, then an adjustment will be made either for or against the contractor in such amount as the engineer may determine to be fair and equitable.
3. If the alterations or changes in quantities do not significantly change the character of the work to be performed under the contract, the altered work will be paid for as provided elsewhere in the contract.
4. The term "significant change" shall be construed to apply only to the following circumstances:
 - When the character of the work as altered differs materially in kind or nature from that involved or included in the original proposed construction; or
 - When a major item of work, as defined elsewhere in the contract, is increased in excess of 125 percent or decreased below 75 percent of the original contract quantity. Any allowance for an increase in quantity shall apply only to that portion in excess of 125 percent of original contract item quantity, or in case of a decrease below 75 percent, to the actual amount of work performed.

^^

5 CONTROL OF WORK

Delete section 5-1.13B

Replace section 5-1.13E with: (2024 Caltrans SSP)

5-1.13E Prompt Payment

Section 5-1.13E applies to all contracts.

Pay your subcontractors within 7 days of receipt of each progress payment under Pub Cont Code §§ 10262 and 10262.5. Pay duly authorized motor carriers of property in dump trucks for transportation charges under Bus & Prof Code § 7108.6. Pay other entities, such as material suppliers, within 30 days of receipt of each progress payment.

Each month, after the 15th and prior to 20th, submit the following payment information through the Department's prompt payment monitoring system at <https://caltrans.dbesystem.com>:

1. Subcontractor's or entity's business name
2. Description of work performed
 - 2.1. Bid item numbers or change order numbers
 - 2.2. Written narrative of work performed
3. Value of work performed
4. Amount paid to subcontractor or entity
5. Withhold amount, if applicable
6. Explanation of withhold reasoning, if applicable

Your subcontractors and other entities may validate payments received using the prompt payment monitoring system.

If a subcontractor's or other entity's work is in dispute, provide a written withhold notification to the subcontractor or entity and the Engineer no later than 7 days after receipt of the corresponding progress payment that includes the following:

1. Value of the disputed work
2. Amount of the withhold being taken
3. Bid item numbers or change order numbers associated with the disputed work
4. Explanation of the deficiencies of the disputed work and how the corresponding value was calculated
5. Corrective actions to be taken for release of withheld amount

The Department may request additional documentation from you to evaluate whether you applied the withhold in good faith. Submit requested documents within 10 days of receipt of request.

The Department may withhold the same amount of your withhold from a future progress pay estimate if the Department determines any of the following has occurred:

I am aware local material from a noncommercial source or a source not regulated under CA jurisdiction must be sampled and analyzed for pH and lead and may require sampling and analysis under section 6-1.03B(3) for other constituents of concern based on the land use history. I am aware that local material sources must not contain ADL at concentrations greater than 80 mg/kg total lead or equal to or greater than 5 mg/L soluble lead as determined by the Waste Extraction Test (WET) Procedures, 22 CA Code of Regs § 66261.24(a)(2) App II. I am aware that a maximum quantity of material may be excavated at the site based on the minimum number of samples taken before excavating at the site under section 6-1.03B(3).

2. Land use history of the local material location and surrounding property
3. Sampling protocol
4. Number of samples per volume of local material
5. QA and QC requirements and procedures
6. Qualifications of sampling personnel
7. Stockpile history
8. Name and address of the analytical laboratory that will perform the chemical analyses
9. Analyses that will be performed for lead and pH
10. Other analyses that will be performed for possible hazardous constituents based on:
 - 10.1. Source property history
 - 10.2. Land use adjacent to source property
 - 10.3. Constituents of concern in the ground water basin where the job site is located

The plan must be sealed and signed by an engineer who is registered as a civil engineer in the State or a professional geologist licensed as a professional geologist by the State.

If the plan requires revisions, the Engineer provides comments. Submit a revised plan within 7 days of receiving comments. Allow 7 days for the review.

6-1.03B(3) Analytical Test Results

At least 15 days before placing local material, submit analytical test results for each local material obtained from a noncommercial source or a source not regulated under CA jurisdiction. The analytical test results must include:

1. Certification signed by an engineer who is registered as a civil engineer in the State or a professional geologist licensed as a professional geologist by the State stating:

The analytical testing described in the local material plan has been performed. I performed a statistical analysis of the test results using the US EPA's ProUCL software with the applicable 95 percent upper confidence limit. I certify that the material from the local material source is suitable for unrestricted use at the job site, it has a pH above 5.0, does not contain soluble lead in concentrations equal to or greater than 5mg/l as determined by the Waste Extraction Test (WET) Procedures, 22 CA Code of Regs § 66261.24(a)(2) App II, does not contain lead in concentrations above 80 mg/kg total lead, is free from all other contaminants identified in the local material plan, and will comply with the job site's basin plan and water quality objectives of the RWQCB.

2. Chain of custody of samples
3. Analytical results no older than 1 year
4. Statistical analysis of the data using US EPA's ProUCL software with a 95 percent upper confidence limit

5. Comparison of sample results to hazardous waste concentration thresholds and the RWQCB's basin plan requirements and water quality objectives for the job site location

6-1.03B(4) Sample and Analysis

Sample and analyze local material from a (1) noncommercial source or (2) source not regulated under CA jurisdiction:

1. Before bringing the local material to the job site
2. As described in the local material plan
3. Under US EPA Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste, Physical/Chemical Methods (SW-846)

The sample collection must be designed to generate a data set representative of the entire volume of proposed local material.

Before excavating at the (1) noncommercial material source or (2) a source not regulated under CA jurisdiction, collect the minimum number of samples and perform the minimum number of analytical tests for the corresponding maximum volume of local material as shown in the following table:

Minimum Number of Samples and Analytical Tests for Local Material

Maximum volume of imported borrow (cu yd)	Minimum number of samples and analytical tests
< 5,000	8
5,000–10,000	12 for the first 5,000 cu yd plus 1 for each additional 1,000 cu yd or portion thereof
10,000–20,000	17 for the first 10,000 cu yd plus 1 for each additional 2,500 cu yd or portion thereof
20,000–40,000	21 for the first 20,000 cu yd plus 1 for each additional 5,000 cu yd or portion thereof
40,000–80,000	25 for the first 40,000 cu yd plus 1 for each additional 10,000 cu yd or portion thereof
> 80,000	29 for the first 80,000 cu yd plus 1 for each additional 20,000 cu yd or portion thereof

Do not collect composite samples or mix individual samples to form a composite sample.

Analyze the samples using the US EPA's ProUCL software with a 95 percent upper confidence limit. All chemical analysis must be performed by a laboratory certified by the SWRCB's Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP).

The analytical test results must demonstrate that the local material:

1. Is not a hazardous waste
2. Has a pH above 5.0
3. Has an average total lead concentration, based upon the 95 percent upper confidence limit, at or below 80 mg/kg
4. Is free of possible contaminants identified in the local material plan
5. Complies with the RWQCB's basin plan for the job site location
6. Complies with the RWQCB's water quality objectives for the job site location

6-1.03C Local Material Management

Do not place local material until authorized.

If the Engineer determines the appearance, odor, or texture of any delivered local material suggests possible contamination, sample and analyze the material. The sampling and analysis is change order work unless (1) hazardous waste is discovered or (2) the analytical test results indicate the material does not comply with section 6-1.03B(3).

Dispose of noncompliant local material at an appropriately permitted CA Class I, CA Class II or CA ClassIII facility. You are the generator of noncompliant local material.

Replace the 4th paragraph in section 6-2.01 with:

QUALITY ASSURANCE

The County uses a Quality Assurance Program (QAP) to ensure a material is produced to comply with the Contract.

The County may examine the records and reports of tests the prime contractor performs if they are available at the job site. Schedule work to allow time for QAP.

^^

7 LEGAL RELATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PUBLIC

^^

8 PROSECUTION AND PROGRESS

Replace section 8-1.04B, paragraph 1&2:

BEGINNING OF WORK

The Contractor shall begin work within fifteen calendar days after the contract has been executed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Humboldt, provided he has received a written "Notice to Proceed" from the Engineer in accordance with Section 4 of the contract Agreement.

Replace section 8-1.05, paragraph 2:

TIME OF COMPLETION

Said work shall be diligently prosecuted to completion before the expiration of:

55 WORKING DAYS

Tabulation of working days shall begin on the fifteenth calendar day after execution of the contract by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Humboldt. If said fifteenth calendar day falls on a Saturday,

Sunday, or legal Holiday, then the first working day for beginning tabulation will be the first working day prior to said Saturday, Sunday or Holiday.

Replace section 8-1.10A, paragraph 1:

The County of Humboldt specifies liquidated damages (Pub. Cont. Code § 10226). Liquidated damages, if any, accrue starting on the 1st day after the expiration of the working days through the day of Contract acceptance

Neither the Contract, nor any moneys due or to become due under the Contract, may be assigned by the Contractor without the prior consent of the Contractor's surety or sureties, unless such surety or sureties have waived their right to notice of assignment. The performance of the Contract may not be assigned without prior written consent of the County of Humboldt.

Add to section 8-1.10A:

LIQUIDATED DAMAGES

The Contractor shall pay to the County of Humboldt the sum of **\$4,200** per day, for each and every calendar days' delay in finishing the work in excess of the number of working days prescribed above.

^^

9 PAYMENT

Replace section 9-1.17B:

After Contract acceptance by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Humboldt, the Department pays you based on the Engineer-prepared estimate that includes retention, withholds and the balance due after deduction of previous payments.

Replace sections 9-1.17(D) through 9-1.22, with the following:

FINAL PAYMENT AND CLAIMS

9-1.17D Final Payment and Claims

9-1.17D(1)

Sections 9-1.17D through 9-1.22 of the Standard Specifications shall be replaced with the following provisions as required by California Public Contract Code Section 9204 .

9-1.17D(2)

For purposes of this section:

1. "Claim" means a separate demand by a contractor sent by registered mail or certified mail with return receipt requested, for one or more of the following:
 - 1.1 A time extension, including, without limitation, for relief from damages or penalties for delay assessed by a public entity under a contract for a public works project.

1.2 Payment by the public entity of money or damages arising from work done by, or on behalf of, the contractor pursuant to the contract for a public works project and payment for which is not otherwise expressly provided or to which the claimant is not otherwise entitled.

1.3 Payment of an amount that is disputed by the public entity.

2. “Contractor” means any type of contractor within the meaning of Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 3 of the California Business and Professions Code who has entered into a direct contract with a public entity for a public works project.

3. “Public entity” means, without limitation, except as provided herein, a state agency, department, office, division, bureau, board, or commission, the California State University, the University of California, a city, including a charter city, county, including a charter county, city and county, including a charter city and county, district, special district, public authority, political subdivision, public corporation, or nonprofit transit corporation wholly owned by a public agency and formed to carry out the purposes of the public agency. However, the term “public entity” shall not include any of the following:

3.1 The Department of Water Resources as to any project under the jurisdiction of that department.

3.2 The Department of Transportation as to any project under the jurisdiction of that department.

3.3 The Department of Parks and Recreation as to any project under the jurisdiction of that department.

3.4 The Department of Correction and Rehabilitation with respect to any project under its jurisdiction pursuant to Chapter 11 (commencing with section 7000) of Title 7 of Part 3 of the California Penal Code.

3.5 The Military Department as to any project under the jurisdiction of that department.

3.6 The Department of General Services as to all other projects.

3.7 The High-Speed Rail Authority.

4. “Public works project” means the erection, construction, alteration, repair, or improvement of any public structure, building, road, or other public improvement of any kind.

5. “subcontractor” means any type of contractor within the meaning of Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 3 of the California Business and Professions Code who either is in direct contract with a contractor or is a lower tier subcontractor.

9-1.17D(3)(a)

Upon receipt of a claim pursuant to this section, the public entity to which the claim applies shall conduct a reasonable review of the claim and, within a period not to exceed 45 days, shall provide the claimant a written statement identifying what portion of the claim is disputed and what portion is undisputed. Upon receipt of a claim, a public entity and a contractor may, by mutual agreement, extend the time period provided in this subdivision.

9-1.17D(3)(b)

The claimant shall furnish reasonable documentation to support the claim.

9-1.17D(3)(c)

If the public entity needs approval from its governing body to provide the claimant a written statement identifying the disputed portion and the undisputed portion of the claim, and the governing body does not meet within the 45 days or within the mutually agreed to extension of time following receipt of a claim sent by registered mail or certified mail, return receipt requested, the public entity shall have up to three days following the next duly publicly noticed meeting of the governing body after the 45-day period, or extension, expires to provide the claimant a written statement identifying the disputed portion and the undisputed portion.

9-1.17D(3)(d)

Any payment due on an undisputed portion of the claim shall be processed and made within 60 days after the public entity issues its written statement. If the public entity fails to issue a written statement, paragraph (3) shall apply.

9-1.17D(4)(a)

If the claimant disputes the public entity's written response, or if the public entity fails to respond to a claim issued pursuant to this section within the time prescribed, the claimant may demand in writing an informal conference to meet and confer for settlement of the issues in dispute. Upon receipt of a demand in writing sent by registered mail or certified mail, return receipt requested, the public entity shall schedule a meet and confer conference within 30 days for settlement of the dispute.

9-1.17D(4)(b)

Within 10 business days following the conclusion of the meet and confer conference, if the claim or any portion of the claim remains in dispute, the public entity shall provide the claimant a written statement identifying the portion of the claim that remains in dispute and the portion that is undisputed. Any payment due on an undisputed portion of the claim shall be processed and made within 60 days after the public entity issues its written statement. Any disputed portion of the claim, as identified by the contractor in writing, shall be submitted to nonbinding mediation, with the public entity and the claimant sharing the associated costs equally. The public entity and claimant shall mutually agree to a mediator within 10 business days after the disputed portion of the claim has been identified in writing. If the parties cannot agree upon a mediator, each party shall select a mediator and those mediators shall select a qualified neutral third party to mediate with regard to the disputed portion of the claim. Each party shall bear the fees and costs charged by its respective mediator in connection with the selection of the neutral mediator. If mediation is unsuccessful, the parts of the claim remaining in dispute shall be subject to applicable procedures outside this section.

9-1.17D(4)(c)

For purposes of this section, mediation includes any nonbinding process, including, but not limited to, neutral evaluation or a dispute review board, in which an independent third party or board assists the parties in dispute resolution through negotiation or by issuance of an evaluation. Any mediation utilized shall conform to the timeframes in this section.

9-1.17D(4)(d)

Unless otherwise agreed to by the public entity and the contractor in writing, the mediation conducted pursuant to this section shall excuse any further obligation under Section 20104.4 to mediate after litigation has been commenced.

9-1.17D(4)(e)

Replace section 12-3.22 with:

12-3.22 TEMPORARY CRASH CUSHIONS

12-3.22A General

12-3.22A(1) Summary

Section 12-3.22 includes specifications for installing, repairing, replacing, maintaining, and removing temporary crash cushions.

Temporary crash cushion includes everything needed to attach it to the barrier, wall, or other system as shown and as approved by the manufacturer.

12-3.22A(2) Definitions

Not Used

12-3.22A(3) Submittals

At least 10 days before installation, submit as informational submittal for each temporary crash cushion model:

1. Certificate of compliance
2. Two copies of the following:
 - 2.1. Manufacturer's installation and maintenance manual
 - 2.2. Department approved manufacturer's drawings from the Department's Division of Safety Programs website
3. Record of training provided by manufacturer for each person installing the temporary crash cushion

12-3.22A(4) Quality Assurance

12-3.22A(4)(a) General

Not Used

12-3.22A(4)(b) Quality Control

Temporary crash cushion must be installed under the manufacturer's instructions by personnel trained by the manufacturer.

Keep a copy of the manufacturer's drawings, and installation and maintenance manual for each temporary crash cushion model at the job site during installation.

12-3.22B Materials

12-3.22B(1) General

Temporary crash cushion must:

1. Be on the Authorized Materials List for highway safety features
2. Comply with MASH:
 - 2.1. Test Level 3 (TL-3) for a posted speed limit 45 mph or greater
 - 2.2. Test Level 2 (TL-2) for a posted speed limit less than 45 mph

Water-filled temporary crash cushion must:

1. Include all components required for attachment to temporary barrier or protected obstacle
2. Comply with the manufacturer's drawings shown on the Department's Division of Safety Programs website

12-3.22B(2) Temporary Crash Cushions TL-3

Temporary crash cushion TL-3 must:

1. Comply with MASH TL-3
2. Be the following:
 - 2.1. Water-filled temporary crash cushion gating, non-redirective system

12-3.22B(3) Temporary Crash Cushions TL-2

Temporary crash cushion TL-2 must:

1. Comply with MASH TL-2
2. Be the following:
 - 2.1. Water-filled temporary crash cushion gating, non-redirective system

12-3.22C Construction

12-3.22C(1) General

When activities expose traffic to fixed obstacles, protect traffic from the obstacles with temporary crash cushions.

You may use NCHRP Report 350 compliant temporary crash cushions before December 31, 2026.

Install temporary crash cushions under the manufacturer's instructions before:

1. Starting activities requiring the crash cushions.
2. Opening to traffic lanes adjacent to the protected obstacles.

Temporary crash cushions must not impede the flow of traffic or encroach on the traveled way.

Attach a Type R or Type P marker panel to the front of temporary crash cushions if the closest point to the traveled way is within 12 feet of the traveled way. Fasten marker panels firmly to crash cushions with commercial quality hardware or by other authorized methods.

Maintain temporary crash cushions in place at each location, including when work is not in progress. Keep the area behind the temporary crash cushions clear of obstructions.

Repair damaged temporary crash cushions immediately. Remove and replace temporary crash cushions damaged beyond repair. Repair and replacement of temporary crash cushions damaged by traffic is change order work.

12-3.22C(2) Water-Filled Temporary Crash Cushions

Place temporary crash cushions and a minimum 20 feet of temporary barrier at a parallel 2-foot offset from edge of traveled way.

Install temporary crash cushions adjacent to a:

1. Barrier at an offset distance 1 to 2 feet or 7 feet or greater from the barrier
2. Dike or curb at an offset distance 0 to 4 feet or 7-1/2 feet or greater from the dike or curb

12-3.22D Payment

The payment quantity does not include:

1. Temporary crash cushions placed for public safety
2. Modules placed in excess of the number described

Add to the end of section 12-4.02C(3)(a):

If work vehicles or equipment are parked on the shoulder within 6 feet of a traffic lane, close the shoulder area with fluorescent-orange traffic cones or portable delineators. Place the cones or delineators on a taper in advance of the parked vehicles or equipment and along the edge of the traveled way at 25-foot intervals to a point not less than 25 feet past the last vehicle or piece of equipment. Use at least 9 cones or delineators for the taper. Place advance warning signs as specified in section 12-4.02C(8).

Keep a minimum of 1 traffic lane at least 10 feet wide open for traffic, **except the full width of the traveled way must be open when construction operations are not active or an approved traffic control plan is in place.**

Add to the end of the 1st paragraph of section 12-4.02C(7)(a):

except you may use a moving closure during traffic striping and pavement marker placement using a bituminous adhesive. Do not use a moving lane closure when grinding for recessed striping and recessed markers.

Add to the end of section 12-4.02C(7)(a):

After placing components of a stationary traffic control system, you may place the impact attenuator vehicle in advance of the work area or at another authorized location to protect traffic and workers.

Add to the end of section 12-4.02C(7)(b):

Concurrent stationary closures in the same direction of travel must be spaced no closer than 5 miles apart. Closure spacing is the distance between the last cone of the upstream closure and the temporary sign W20-1 of the downstream closure. The number of lanes open in the upstream closures must be less than or equal to the number of lanes open in the downstream closures. For multiple closures in each direction of travel, pick up the downstream closures first.

For a stationary one-way-reversing traffic-control lane closure, you may stop traffic in 1 direction for periods not to exceed 15 minutes. After each stoppage, all accumulated traffic for that direction must pass through the work zone before another stoppage is made.

The maximum length of a single stationary one-way-reversing traffic-control lane closure is 1 mile between flaggers.

For traffic under one-way-reversing traffic control on unpaved areas, the cones shown along the centerline are not required.

You may use a pilot car to control traffic. If a pilot car is used to control traffic, the cones shown along the centerline are not required. Pilot cars must have cellular or radio contact with other pilot cars and personnel in the work zone. The maximum speed of the pilot cars conveying or controlling traffic through the traffic control zone is 25 mph. Pilot cars must only use traffic lanes open to traffic.

^^

13 WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

Insert into section 13-1.01:

Preliminary calculations by the Engineer indicate that the project's disturbed soil area is 0.58 acres (PM 7.90) & 0.77 acres (PM 8.15) including stockpile and/or Contractor's staging area.

Manage work activities in a way that reduces the discharge of pollutants to surface waters, groundwater and separate municipal storm sewer systems.

^^

14 ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Add to the 1st paragraph of section 14-6.03A:

This project is within or near habitat for the regulated species shown in the following table:

Regulated Species

1. Northern Spotted Owl
2. Migratory Birds

Add to section 14-6.03B:

Contractor shall notify the County two weeks prior to start of clearing and grubbing activities.

The bird nesting season is from February 1st through August 31st. If vegetation removal or ground disturbance cannot be confined to work during the non-breeding season, the County will have a qualified biologist conduct preconstruction surveys within the vicinity of the impact area, to check for nesting activity of native birds and to evaluate the site for presence of raptors and special-status bird species. The biologist will conduct a preconstruction survey within the seven-day period prior to vegetation removal and ground-disturbing activities. If ground disturbance and vegetation removal work lapses for seven days or longer during the breeding season, a supplemental avian survey will be required before project work is reinitiated.

If an active nest is found, the biologist will determine the extent of an appropriate construction free buffer zone to be established around the nest and/or operational restrictions in consultation with CDFW. Buffer zones will be delineated with flagging and maintained until the nests have fledged or nesting activity has ceased.

^^

DIVISION III EARTHWORK AND LANDSCAPE

19 EARTHWORK

Add to the end of section 19-2.01A:

Roadway excavation includes removing any existing asphalt.

Add to the end of section 19-3.01A:

Structure excavation includes removing any existing asphalt.

Add to section 19-6.02B:

Use primary geosynthetic reinforcement shown in the following table:

Geosynthetic reinforcement type	Color marking
PR1400	Red

Add to section 19-6.02B:

Use secondary geosynthetic reinforcement shown in the following table:

Geosynthetic reinforcement type
SR1200

Add to the end of section 19-9.01:

Restore gravel turnouts following the specifications for shoulder backing.

Add to the end of section 19-9.04:

The quantity for shoulder backing does not include the quantity for restoring gravel turnouts. The Department does not pay for restoring gravel turnouts.

^^

21 EROSION CONTROL

Add to Section 21-2.02F:

Seed shall consist of the following native species or equivalent approved by Engineer:

<u>Botanical Name (Common Name)</u>	<u>Percentage Purity (minimum)</u>	<u>Percentage Germination (minimum)</u>	<u>Lbs. Per Acre</u>
Bromus Carinatus (California Brome)	95	95	35
Vulpia microstachys (Small Fescue or Three Weeks Fescue)	98	85	6
Trifolium wildenovii (Tomcat Clover)	98	80	4
Hordeum vulgare (Barley) or Triticum aestivum (Wheat)	95	90	80

Seed shall be mixed on the project site in the presence of the Engineer.

Straw shall be verified weed free and applied at 2 ton/acre.

Install fiber rolls in accordance with Section 21-2.02P and 21-2.03P

Add after the 1st sentence in the 1st paragraph of section 21-2.02P:

Straw must be certified weed free from the harvest site by the local County Agricultural Commission or the Department of Food and Agriculture.

^^

DIVISION IV SUBBASES AND BASES

26 AGGREGATE BASES

Add to section 26-1.02B:

The aggregate shall have at least 50% crushed particles with at least one fractured face.

^^

DIVISION V SURFACINGS AND PAVEMENTS

39 ASPHALT CONCRETE

Replace Reserved in section 39-2.02B(3) with:

The grade of asphalt binder for Type A HMA must be PG 64-16.

The aggregate gradation for Type A HMA must be 1/2 inch.

For Type A HMA using RAP substitution of greater than 15 percent of the aggregate blend, the virgin binder grade must comply with the PG binder grade specified above with 6 degrees C reduction in the upper and lower temperature classification.

For Type A HMA using RAP substitution of 15 percent or less of the aggregate blend, the grade of the virgin binder must comply with the PG binder grade specified above.

Add to the beginning of section 39-2.02C:

Use a material transfer vehicle when placing Type A HMA if:

1. Quantity of HMA to be paved is greater than 1,000 tons.
2. Any of the following exists:
 - 2.1. Paving is allowed and the ambient air temperature is below 70 degrees F.
 - 2.2. Time from discharge to truck at the HMA plant until transfer to the paver's hopper is 90 minutes or greater.

Replace Table in Section 39-2.02B(2) with:

Type A HMA Mix Design Requirements

Quality characteristic	Test method	Requirement
Air voids content (%)	AASHTO T 269 ^a	$N_{\text{initial}} > 8.0$ $N_{\text{design}} = 4.0 (\pm 2.0\%)$ $(N_{\text{design}} = 5.0 \text{ for 1-inch aggregate})$ $N_{\text{max}} > 2.0$
Gyrations compaction (no. of gyrations)	AASHTO T 312	$N_{\text{initial}} = 8$ $N_{\text{design}} = 85.0$ $N_{\text{max}} = 130$
Voids in mineral aggregate (min, %) ^b Gradation: No. 4 3/8-inch 1/2-inch 3/4-inch 1-inch with NMA = 1-inch with NMA = 3/4-inch	MS-2 Asphalt Mixture Volumetrics	16.5–19.5 15.5–18.5 14.5–17.5 13.5–16.5 13.5–16.5 14.5–17.5
Dust proportion	MS-2 Asphalt Mixture Volumetrics	0.6–1.3
Hamburg wheel track (min number of passes at 0.55-inch rut depth) Binder grade: PG 58 PG 64 PG 70 PG 76 or higher	AASHTO T 324 (Modified) ^c	10,000 15,000 20,000 25,000

^aCalculate the air voids content of each specimen using AASHTO T 275, Method A, to determine bulk specific gravity. Use AASHTO T 209, Method A, to determine theoretical maximum specific gravity. Use a digital manometer and pycnometer when performing AASHTO T 209.

^bMeasure bulk specific gravity using AASHTO T 275, Method A.

^cTest plant-produced Type A HMA.

Replace Table in Section 39-2.02B(4)(a) with:

Aggregate Quality

Quality characteristic	Test method	Requirement
Percent of crushed particles:	AASHTO T 335	
Coarse aggregate (min, %)		
One-fractured face		90
Two-fractured faces		85
Fine aggregate (min, %)		
(Passing No. 4 sieve and retained on No. 8 sieve.)		
One-fractured face		70
Los Angeles Rattler (max, %)	AASHTO T 96	
Loss at 100 Rev.		12
Loss at 500 Rev.		40
Sand equivalent (min) ^a	AASHTO T 176	47
Flat and elongated particles (max, % by weight at 5:1)	ASTM D4791	10
Fine aggregate angularity (min, %) ^b	AASHTO T 304, Method A	45

^aThe reported value must be the average of 3 tests from a single sample. Use of a sand reading indicator is required as shown in AASHTO T 176, Figure 1. Sections 4.7, "Manual Shaker," 7.1.2, "Alternate Method No. 2," and 8.4.3, "Hand Method," do not apply. Prepare the stock solution as specified in section 4.8.1, "Stock solution with formaldehyde," except omit the addition of formaldehyde.

^bThe Engineer waives this specification if the Type A HMA contains 10 percent or less of nonmanufactured sand by weight of total aggregate, except if your JMF fails verification. Manufactured sand is fine aggregate produced by crushing rock or gravel.

DIVISION VI STRUCTURES

47 EARTH RETAINING SYSTEMS

Add to section 47-2.01A:

You may use an alternative earth retaining system for the mechanically stabilized embankment shown on the plans. The alternative system must comply with section 47-6.

The approved type of Earth Retaining Structure as shown on the plans is:

Welded Wire Wall – as manufactured by the Hilfiker Company, Eureka, or approved equal.

All work and materials shall conform to the manufacturer's specifications and instructions and as directed by the Engineer. Existing in-place select material may be used for structure backfill.

Add to section 47-2.02C:

Structure backfill shall exhibit an angle of internal friction of not less than 34 degrees, as determined by the standard direct shear test ASTM D-3080-72 (AASHTO T-236), utilizing a sample of the material compacted to 90% percent of ASTM D-1557-92. Contractor shall provide representative sample of proposed material for testing by the County. No testing is required for backfill where 80 percent of the material is greater than ¾ inch (19 mm).

Add to section 47-2.04:

Mechanically stabilized embankment will be measured and paid for by the square foot face area of the as-constructed wall. The price paid per square foot includes full compensation for most work and materials required, but not including structure excavation, structure backfill, pervious backfill, subdrainage items, and the embankment above or outside the wall structure.

Add to section 47-6.01A:

The alternative earth retaining system must be one of the systems shown in the following table:

Proprietary earth retaining system	Web site/e-mail	Address	Telephone no.
Welded Wire Wall (Steel mesh soil reinforcement with welded wire mesh facing)	http://www.hilfiker.com	HILFIKER RETAINING WALLS 1902 HILFIKER LN EUREKA CA 95503-5711	(707) 443-5093 (800) 762-8962
Reinforced Earth – 5 ft cruciform (Steel strap soil reinforcement with 5 ft cruciform concrete face panels)	http://www.reinforcedearth.com	THE REINFORCED EARTH COMPANY 1660 HOTEL CIR N STE 304 SAN DIEGO CA 92108-2803	(619) 688-2400
Reinforced Earth – 5 ft square (Steel strap soil reinforcement with 5 ft square concrete face panels)	http://www.reinforcedearth.com	THE REINFORCED EARTH COMPANY 1660 HOTEL CIR N STE 304 SAN DIEGO CA 92108-2803	(619) 688-2400
Retained Earth (Steel mesh soil reinforcement with 5 ft square concrete face panels)	http://www.reinforcedearth.com	THE REINFORCED EARTH COMPANY 1660 HOTEL CIR N STE 304 SAN DIEGO CA 92108-2803	(619) 688-2400

MSE Plus – 5 ft square (Steel mesh soil reinforcement with 5 ft square concrete face panels)	http://www.mseplus.com	SSL 4740 SCOTTS VALLEY DR STE E 209 SCOTTS VALLEY CA 95066-4240	(831) 430- 9300
MSE Plus – 5 by 6 ft (Steel mesh soil reinforcement with 5 ft high by 6 ft wide concrete face panels)	http://www.mseplus.com	SSL 4740 SCOTTS VALLEY DR STE E 209 SCOTTS VALLEY CA 95066-4240	(831) 430- 9300
Criblock (Concrete cribs)		RETAINING WALLS COMPANY 1525 GRAND AVE SAN MARCOS CA 92083	(760) 471- 2500
Port-O-Wall Precast Concrete Retaining Wall System (Full height precast panels on footing)	http://www.port-o-wall.com	PORT-O-WALL SYSTEMS, LLC 19201 SONOMA HWY PMB 182 SONOMA CA 95476	(707) 938- 4516
ARES – 9 by 5 ft (Geogrid soil reinforcement with 9 ft wide by 5 ft high concrete face panels)	http://www.tensarcorp.com	TENSAR INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION 2500 NORTHWIND PKWY STE 500 ALPHARETTA GA 30009-2247	(770) 344- 2000
Landmark Reinforced Soil Wall System (Geogrid soil reinforcement with modular concrete block facing at a 4 degree batter)	dsandri@anchorwall.com	ANCHOR WALL SYSTEMS INC 2525 COSTERO MAGESTUOSO SAN CLEMENTE CA 92673-6424	(949) 363- 6663
KeySystem 1 (Steel wire grid soil reinforcement with a modular concrete block facing.)	http://www.keystonewalls.com	KEYSTONE RETAINING WALL SYSTEMS 4444 W 78TH ST MINNEAPOLIS MN 55435-5406	(952) 897- 1040
Verdura Segmental Retaining Wall System (Geogrid soil reinforcement with modular concrete block facing at a 14 degree finished slope face.)	http://www.soilretention.com	SOIL RETENTION PRODUCTS 2501 STATE ST CARLSBAD CA 92008-1624	(800) 346- 7995

71-6.03D Payment

If backfilling inside the culvert or pipeline is required, payment for backfilling inside the culverts or pipelines is included in the payment for abandon culvert or abandon pipeline. Payment for backfilling outside the culvert or pipeline is included in the payment for abandon culvert or abandon pipeline.

^^

DIVISION VIII MISCELLANEOUS CONSTRUCTION

72 SLOPE PROTECTION

Add to the end of section 72-2.04:

Payment for RSP includes excavation and RSP fabric. The Department pays the quantity shown on the plans.

^^

DIVISION XI MATERIALS

96 GEOSYNTHETICS

Add to section 96-1.02B:

Filter fabric for underdrains and drainage blankets must be Class C.

^^

PROPOSAL
TO
THE COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
FOR

STORM DAMAGE REPAIR TO ALDERPOINT ROAD (F6B165) PM 7.90 & 8.15
PROJECT NO.: ER-32L0(292) & ER-32L0(293)
CONTRACT NO.: 217259 & 217260

Name of Bidder: _____
(Name must be exactly as it appears [or will appear] on Contractor's license)

Business Address: _____

Telephone No.: _____

Place of Residence: _____

The work for which this proposal is submitted is for construction in accordance with the special provisions (including the payment of not less than the State general prevailing wage rates or Federal minimum wage rates), the project plans described above, including any addenda thereto, the contract annexed hereto and also in accordance with the California Department of Transportation Standard Plans dated 2025, the Standard Specifications dated 2025, and the Labor Surcharge and Equipment Rental Rates in effect at the time the work is performed.

Bids are to be submitted for the entire work. The amount of the bid for comparison purposes will be the total of all items of the base bid.

The bidder shall set forth for each unit basis item of work a unit price and a total for the item, and for each lump sum item a total for the item, all in clearly legible figures in the respective spaces provided for that purpose. In the case of unit basis items, the amount set forth under the "Item Total" column shall be the product of the unit price bid and the estimated quantity for the item.

In case of discrepancy between the unit price and the total set forth for a unit basis item, the unit price shall prevail, except as provided in (a) or (b), as follows:

- (a) If the amount set forth as a unit price is unreadable or otherwise unclear, or is omitted, or is the same as the amount as the entry in the item total column, then the amount set forth in the item total column for the item shall prevail and shall be divided by the estimated quantity for the item and the price thus obtained shall be the unit price;

- (b) (Decimal Errors) If the product of the entered unit price and the estimated quantity is exactly off by a factor of ten, one hundred, etc., or one-tenth, or one-hundredth, etc. from the entered total, the discrepancy will be resolved by using the entered unit price or item total, whichever most closely approximates percentagewise the unit price or item total in the County of Humboldt's Final Estimate of cost.

If both the unit price and the item total are unreadable or otherwise unclear, or are omitted, the bid may be deemed irregular. Likewise if the item total for a lump sum item is unreadable or otherwise unclear, or is omitted, the bid may be deemed irregular unless the project being bid has only a single item and a clear, readable total bid is provided.

Symbols such as commas and dollar signs will be ignored and have no mathematical significance in establishing any unit price or item total or lump sums. Written unit prices, item totals and lump sums will be interpreted according to the number of digits and, if applicable, decimal placement. Cents symbols also have no significance in establishing any unit price or item total since all figures are assumed to be expressed in dollars and/or decimal fractions of a dollar. Bids on lump sum items shall be item totals only; if any unit price for a lump sum item is included in a bid and it differs from the item total, the items total shall prevail.

The foregoing provisions for the resolution of specific irregularities cannot be so comprehensive as to cover every omission, inconsistency, error or other irregularity which may occur in a bid. Any situation not specifically provided for will be determined in the discretion of the County of Humboldt, and that discretion will be exercised in the manner deemed by the County of Humboldt to best protect the public interest in the prompt and economical completion of the work. The decision of the County of Humboldt respecting the amount of a bid, or the existence or treatment of an irregularity in a bid, shall be final.

All bid proposals and materials submitted in response to this Notice to Bidders shall become the County of Humboldt's property and are subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act, California Government Code Sections 6250, et seq. All bid proposals submitted in response hereto, are considered public information, except for specifically identified trade secrets, which will be handled according to any and all applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations. Any portion of a bid proposal that is deemed to be a trade secret by the bidder shall be clearly marked "PROPRIETARY INFORMATION" at the top of the page in at least one-half inch (1/2") letters. Specifically identified proprietary information will not be released, if the bidder agrees to indemnify and defend the County of Humboldt in any action brought to disclose such information. By submitting a bid proposal in response to this Notice to Bidders, the bidder agrees that the County of Humboldt's failure to contact the bidder prior to the release of any proprietary information contained therein will not be a basis for liability by the County of Humboldt or any employee thereof. Items considered public information will be available for review after the bid opening.

If this proposal shall be accepted and the undersigned shall fail to enter into the contract and furnish the 2 bonds in the sums required by the State Contract Act, with surety satisfactory to the County of Humboldt, within 8 days, not including Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays, after the bidder has received notice from the County of Humboldt that the contract has been awarded, the County of Humboldt may, at its option, determine that the bidder has abandoned the contract, and thereupon this proposal and the acceptance thereof shall be null and void and the forfeiture of the security accompanying this proposal shall operate and the same shall be the property of the County of Humboldt.

The undersigned, as bidder, declares that the only persons or parties interested in this proposal as principals are those named herein; that this proposal is made without collusion with any other person, firm, or

corporation; that he has carefully examined the location of the proposed work, the annexed proposed form of contract, and the plans therein referred to; and he proposes, and agrees if this proposal is accepted, that he will contract with the County of Humboldt, in the form of the copy of the contract annexed hereto, to provide all necessary machinery, tools, apparatus and other means of construction, and to do all the work and furnish all the materials specified in the contract, in the manner and time therein prescribed, and according to the requirements of the Engineer as therein set forth, and that he will take in full payment therefor the following prices, to wit:

BID FORM (EXHIBIT A) PAGE 1 OF 2
STORM DAMAGE REPAIR TO ALDERPOINT ROAD
(F6B165) PM 7.90 & 8.15
PROJECT NO.: ER-32L0(292) & ER-32L0(293)
CONTRACT NO.: 217259 & 217260

ITEM NO.	ITEM CODE	ITEM DESCRIPTION	UNIT	QTY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
1	120091	CONSTRUCTION AREA SIGNS (EA)	EA	17		
2	120100	TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM	LS	1		
3	120206	PORTABLE SIGNAL SYSTEMS (EA)	EA	1		
4	129000	TEMPORARY RAILING (TYPE K)	LF	460		
5	129105	TEMPORARY CRASH CUSHION TL-2	EA	4		
6	130100	JOB SITE MANAGEMENT	LS	1		
7	130201	WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM	LS	1		
8	130610	TEMPORARY CHECK DAM	LF	320		
9	170103	CLEARING AND GRUBBING (LS)	LS	1		
10	190101	ROADWAY EXCAVATION	CY	4,375		
11	190186	SHOULDER BACKING (CY)	CY	17		
12	192061	F STRUCTURE EXCAVATION (WIRE WALL)	CY	1,232		
13	193040	F STRUCTURE BACKFILL (WIRE WALL)	CY	883		
14	198010	IMPORTED BORROW (CY)	CY	883		
15	198050	EMBANKMENT	CY	2,962		
16	198231	GEOSYNTHETIC REINFORCEMENT, PR1400	SQYD	1,090		
17	198241	SECONDARY GEOSYNTHETIC REINFORCEMENT, SR1200	SQYD	176		
18	210212	DRY SEED (SQFT)	SQFT	18,696		
19	210270	ROLLED EROSION CONTROL PRODUCT (NETTING)	SQFT	14,549		
20	210350	FIBER ROLLS	LF	2,169		
21	210420	STRAW	SQFT	1,590		
22	260203	CLASS 2 AGGREGATE BASE (CY)	CY	590		
23	390132	HOT MIX ASPHALT (TYPE A)	TON	297		
24	477020	F MECHANICALLY STABILIZED EMBANKMENT	SQFT	2,848		
25	665018A	18" CORRUGATED ALUMINIZED STEEL PIPE (.109" THICK)	LF	52		
26	680902	6" PERFORATED PLASTIC PIPE UNDERDRAIN	LF	354		
27	680903	6" NON-PERFORATED PLASTIC PIPE UNDERDRAIN	LF	208		

BID FORM (EXHIBIT A) PAGE 2 OF 2
STORM DAMAGE REPAIR TO ALDERPOINT ROAD
(F6B165) PM 7.90 & 8.15
PROJECT NO.: ER-32L0(292) & ER-32L0(293)
CONTRACT NO.: 217259 & 217260

28	682022	F	CLASS 1 PERMEABLE MATERIAL (BLANKET)	CY	924		
29	710100		ABANDON CULVERT (EA)	EA	1		
30	723080		ROCK SLOPE PROTECTION (60 LB, CLASS II, METHOD B) (CY)	CY	7		
31	723095		ROCK SLOPE PROTECTION (20 LB, CLASS I, METHOD B) (CY)	CY	35		
32	810190		GUARD RAILING DELINEATOR	EA	7		
33	832018		MIDWEST GUARDRAIL SYSTEM (8' STEEL POST)	LF	200		
34	839584		ALTERNATIVE IN-LINE TERMINAL SYSTEM	EA	1		
35	839585		ALTERNATIVE FLARED TERMINAL SYSTEM	EA	1		
36	840656		PAINT TRAFFIC STRIPE (2-COAT)	LF	1,254		
37	999990		MOBILIZATION	LS	1		

NOTE: ITEM CODE LETTER DESIGNATION; S=SPECIALITY ITEM, F=FINAL PAY QUANTITY

BID TOTAL

(Bidder's Signature)

(Title)

PROPOSAL SIGNATURE PAGE

Accompanying this proposal is _____

*(NOTICE: INSERT THE WORDS "CASH (\$___)", "CASHIER'S CHECK",
"CERTIFIED CHECK", OR "BIDDERS'S BOND", AS THE CASE MAY BE.)*

in the amount of at least **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the total bid.

The names of all persons interested in the foregoing proposal as Principals are as follows:

(NOTE: If a Bidder or other interested person is a Corporation, state the legal name of the corporation, also names of the president, secretary, treasurer, and manager thereof; if a Co-partnership, state the true name of the firm, also state the names of all individual copartners composing the firm; if the Bidder or other interested person is an Individual, state the first and last names in full.)

Licensed in accordance with an act providing for the registration of Contractors,

LICENSE NO. _____ **Classification(s)** _____

Note: It is optional to provide your contractor's license number at this time. You are not required to provide your contractor's license number until the time that the contract is to be awarded.

ADDENDA

This Proposal is submitted with respect to the changes to the contract included in addenda number/s

(Fill in addenda numbers if addenda have received and insert, in this Proposal any Engineer's Estimate sheets that were received as part of the addenda.)

By my signature on this proposal I certify, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California, that the foregoing questionnaire and statements of Public Contract Code Sections 10162, 10232 and 10285.1 are true and correct and that the bidder has complied with the requirements of Section 8103 of the Fair Employment and Housing Commission Regulations (Chapter 5, Title 2 of the California Administrative Code). By my signature on this proposal I further certify, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California and the United States of America, that the Noncollusion Affidavit required by Title 23 United States Code, Section 112, and Public Contract Code Section 7106; and the Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 29 Debarment and Suspension Certification are true and correct.

Date: _____



Signature and Title of Bidder

Bidder's Business Address _____

Place of Business _____

Place of Residence _____

BIDDER'S BOND
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

STORM DAMAGE REPAIR TO ALDERPOINT ROAD (F6B165) PM 7.90 & 8.15
PROJECT NO.: ER-32L0(292) & ER-32L0(293)
CONTRACT NO.: 217259 & 217260

for which bids are to be opened on **TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2026**, at 2:00 PM, at the Department of Public Works, 1106 Second Street, Eureka 95501, California.

Know all men by these presents: That we _____, as

PRINCIPAL, and _____,

as **SURETY**, are held and firmly bound unto the County of Humboldt in the penal sum of **TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE BID** of the **PRINCIPAL** named above, submitted by said **PRINCIPAL** to the County of Humboldt for the work described above, for the payment of which sum is lawful money of the United States, well and truly to be made, to the Director of the Department to which said bid was submitted, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, administrators and successors, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents. In no case shall the liability of the **SURETY** hereunder exceed the sum of:

\$ _____

THE CONDITION OF THIS OBLIGATION IS SUCH, that whereas the **PRINCIPAL** has submitted the above mentioned bid to the County of Humboldt, as aforesaid, for the construction as specifically described above,

NOW, THEREFORE, if the aforesaid **PRINCIPAL** is awarded the contract, and within the time and manner required under the Specifications, after the prescribed forms are presented to him for signature, enters into a written contract, in the prescribed form, in accordance with the bid, and files two bonds with the Department, one to guarantee faithful performance and the other to guarantee payment for labor and materials, as required by law, then this obligation shall be null and void; otherwise, it shall be and remain in full force and virtue.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and seals on this

_____ day of _____, 20____.

_____(seal)

_____(seal)

PRINCIPAL

_____(seal)

_____(seal)

SURETY

Address: _____

Note: Signatures of those executing for **SURETY** must be properly acknowledged.

CONTRACTOR'S CERTIFICATE REGARDING WORKER'S COMPENSATION

Labor Code Section 3700.

"Every employer except the State and all political subdivisions or institutions thereof, shall secure the payment of compensation in one or more of the foregoing ways:

- A. By being insured against liability to pay compensation by one or more insurers duly authorized to write compensation insurance in this State.
- B. By securing from the Director of Industrial Relations a certificate of consent of self-insure, which may be given upon furnishing proof satisfactory to the Director of Industrial Relations of ability to self-insure and to pay any compensation that may become due to his employees."

I am aware of the provisions of Section 3700 of the Labor Code which requires every employer to be insured against liability for worker's compensation or to undertake self-insurance in accordance with the provisions of that code, and that I will comply with such provisions before commencing the performance of the work of this contract.

Sign

Here

(In accordance with Article 5 [commencing at Section 1860], Chapter 1 , Part 7 , Division 2 , of the Labor Code, the above certificate must be signed and filed with the awarding body prior to commencing any work under this contract.)

PUBLIC CONTRACT CODE SECTION 10285.1 STATEMENT

In conformance with Public Contract Code Section 10285.1 (Chapter 376, Stats. 1985), the bidder hereby declares under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the bidder has ____, has not ____ been convicted within the preceding three years of any offenses referred to in that section, including any charge of fraud, bribery, collusion, conspiracy, or any other act in violation of any state or Federal antitrust law in connection with the bidding upon, award of, or performance of, any public works contract, as defined in Public Contract Code Section 1101, with any public entity, as defined in Public Contract Code Section 1100, including the Regents of the University of California or the Trustees of the California State University. The term "bidder" is understood to include any partner, member, officer, director, responsible managing officer, or responsible managing employee thereof, as referred to in Section 10285.1.

Note: The bidder must place a check mark after "has" or "has not" in one of the blank spaces provided. The above Statement is part of the Proposal. Signing this Proposal on the signature portion thereof shall also constitute signature of this Statement. Bidders are cautioned that making a false certification may subject the certifier to criminal prosecution.

PUBLIC CONTRACT CODE SECTION 10162 QUESTIONNAIRE

In conformance with Public Contract Code Section 10162, the Bidder shall complete, under penalty of perjury, the following questionnaire:

Has the bidder, any officer of the bidder, or any employee of the bidder who has a proprietary interest in the bidder, ever been disqualified, removed, or otherwise prevented from bidding on, or completing a federal, state, or local government project because of a violation of law or a safety regulation?

YES ☐ NO ☐

If the answer is yes, explain the circumstances in the following space.

PUBLIC CONTRACT CODE SECTION 10232 STATEMENT

In conformance with Public Contract Code Section 10232, the Contractor, hereby states under penalty of perjury, that no more than one final unappealable finding of contempt of court by a federal court has been issued against the Contractor within the immediately preceding two-year period because of the Contractor's failure to comply with an order of a federal court which orders the Contractor to comply with an order of the National Labor Relations Board.

Note: The above Statement and Questionnaire are part of the Proposal. Signing this Proposal on the signature portion thereof shall also constitute signature of this Statement and Questionnaire. Bidders are cautioned that making a false certification may subject the certifier to criminal prosecution.

DEBARMENT AND SUSPENSION CERTIFICATION

TITLE 49, CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, PART 29

The bidder, under penalty of perjury, certifies that, except as noted below, he/she or any other person associated therewith in the capacity of owner, partner, director, officer, manager:

- is not currently under suspension, debarment, voluntary exclusion, or determination of ineligibility by any Federal agency;
- has not been suspended, debarred, voluntarily excluded or determined ineligible by any Federal agency within the past 3 years;
- does not have a proposed debarment pending; and
- has not been indicted, convicted, or had a civil judgement rendered against it by a court of competent jurisdiction in any matter involving fraud or official misconduct within the past 3 years.

If there are any exceptions to this certification, insert the exceptions in the following space.

Exceptions will not necessarily result in denial of award, but will be considered in determining bidder responsibility. For any exception noted above, indicate below to whom it applies, initiating agency, and dates of action.

Notes: Providing false information may result in criminal prosecution or administrative sanctions. The above certification is part of the Proposal. Signing this Proposal on the signature portion thereof shall also constitute signature of this Certification.

(THE BIDDER'S EXECUTION ON THE SIGNATURE PORTION OF THIS PROPOSAL SHALL ALSO CONSTITUTE AN ENDORSEMENT AND EXECUTION OF THOSE CERTIFICATIONS WHICH ARE A PART OF THIS PROPOSAL)

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY CERTIFICATION

The bidder _____, proposed subcontractor _____, hereby certifies that he has _____, has not _____, participated in a previous contract or subcontract subject to the equal opportunity clauses, as required by Executive Orders 10925, 11114, or 11246, and that, where required, he has filed with the Joint Reporting Committee, the Director of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance, a Federal Government contracting or administering agency, or the former President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity, all reports due under the applicable filing requirements.

Note: The above certification is required by the Equal Employment Opportunity Regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1.7(b) (1)), and must be submitted by bidders and proposed subcontractors only in connection with contracts and subcontracts which are subject to the equal opportunity clause. Contracts and subcontracts which are exempt from the equal opportunity clause are set forth in 41 CFR 60-1.5. (Generally only contracts or subcontracts of \$10,000 or under are exempt.)

Currently, Standard Form 100 (EEO-1) is the only report required by the Executive Orders or their implementing regulations.

Proposed prime contractors and subcontractors who have participated in a previous contract or subcontract subject to the Executive Orders and have not filed the required reports should note that 41 CFR 60-1.7(b) (1) prevents the award of contracts and subcontracts unless such contractor submits a report covering the delinquent period or such other period specified by the Federal Highway Administration or by the Director, Office of Federal Contract Compliance, U.S. Department of Labor.

NONCOLLUSION AFFIDAVIT
(Title 23 United States Code Section 112 and
Public Contract Code Section 7106)

To the COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

In conformance with Title 23 United States Code Section 112 and Public Contract Code 7106 the bidder declares that the bid is not made in the interest of, or on behalf of, any undisclosed person, partnership, company, association, organization, or corporation; that the bid is genuine and not collusive or sham; that the bidder has not directly or indirectly induced or solicited any other bidder to put in a false or sham bid, and has not directly or indirectly colluded, conspired, connived, or agreed with any bidder or anyone else to put in a sham bid, or that anyone shall refrain from bidding; that the bidder has not in any manner, directly or indirectly, sought by agreement, communication, or conference with anyone to fix the bid price of the bidder or any other bidder, or to fix any overhead, profit, or cost element of the bid price, or of that of any other bidder, or to secure any advantage against the public body awarding the contract of anyone interested in the proposed contract; that all statements contained in the bid are true; and, further, that the bidder has not, directly or indirectly, submitted his or her bid price or any breakdown thereof, or the contents thereof, or divulged information or data relative thereto, or paid, and will not pay, any fee to any corporation, partnership, company association, organization, bid depository, or to any member or agent thereof to effectuate a collusive or sham bid.

Note: The above Noncollusion Affidavit is part of the Proposal. Signing this Proposal on the signature portion thereof shall also constitute signature of this Noncollusion Affidavit.

Bidders are cautioned that making a false certification may subject the certifier to criminal prosecution.

NONLOBBYING CERTIFICATION FOR FEDERAL-AID CONTRACTS

The prospective participant certifies, by signing and submitting this bid or proposal, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

- (1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any Federal agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
- (2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any Federal agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in conformance with its instructions.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by Section 1352, Title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

The prospective participant also agrees by submitting his or her bid or proposal that he or she shall require that the language of this certification be included in all lower tier subcontracts, which exceed \$100,000 and that all such subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES

Complete this form to disclose lobbying activities pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1352

1. Type of Federal Action:

- ☐ a. contract
b. grant
c. cooperative agreement
d. loan
e. loan guarantee
f. loan insurance

2. Status of Federal Action:

- ☐ a. bid/offer/application
b. initial award
c. post-award

3. Report Type:

- ☐ a. initial
b. material change

For Material Change Only:

year _____ quarter _____
date of last report _____

4. Name and Address of Reporting Entity

- ☐ Prime ☐ Subawardee
Tier _____, if known

5. If Reporting Entity in No. 4 is Subawardee, Enter Name and Address of Prime:

Congressional District, if known

6. Federal Department/Agency:

Congressional District, if known

7. Federal Program Name/Description:

CFDA Number, if applicable _____

8. Federal Action Number, if known:

9. Award Amount, if known:

10. a. Name and Address of Lobby Entity (If individual, last name, first name, MI)

b. Individuals Performing Services (including address if different from No. 10a) (last name, first name, MI)

(attach Continuation Sheet(s) if necessary)

11. Amount of Payment (check all that apply)

\$ _____ ☐ actual ☐ planned

12. Form of Payment (check all that apply):

- ☐ a. cash
☐ b. in-kind; specify: nature _____
value _____

13. Type of Payment (check all that apply)

- ☐ a. retainer
☐ b. one-time fee
☐ c. commission
☐ d. contingent fee
☐ e. deferred
☐ f. other, specify _____

14. Brief Description of Services Performed or to be performed and Date(s) of Service, including officer(s), employee(s), or member(s) contacted, for Payment Indicated in Item 11:

(attach Continuation Sheet(s) if necessary)

15. Continuation Sheet(s) attached: Yes ☐ No ☐

16. Information requested through this form is authorized by Title 31 U.S.C. Section 1352. This disclosure of lobbying reliance was placed by the tier above when his transaction was made or entered into. This disclosure is required pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1352. This information will be reported to Congress semiannually and will be available for public inspection. Any person who fails to file the required disclosure shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Title: _____

Telephone No.: _____ Date: _____

Federal Use Only:

Authorized for Local Reproduction
Standard Form - LLL

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETION OF SF-LLL, DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES

This disclosure form shall be completed by the reporting entity, whether subawardee or prime Federal recipient, at the initiation or receipt of covered Federal action or a material change to previous filing pursuant to title 31 U.S.C. section 1352. The filing of a form is required for such payment or agreement to make payment to lobbying entity for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress an officer or employee of Congress or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with a covered Federal action. Attach a continuation sheet for additional information if the space on the form is inadequate. Complete all items that apply for both the initial filing and material change report. Refer to the implementing guidance published by the Office of Management and Budget for additional information.

1. Identify the type of covered Federal action for which lobbying activity is and/or has been secured to influence, the outcome of a covered Federal action.
2. Identify the status of the covered Federal action.
3. Identify the appropriate classification of this report. If this is a follow-up report caused by a material change to the information previously reported, enter the year and quarter in which the change occurred. Enter the date of the last, previously submitted report by this reporting entity for this covered Federal action.
4. Enter the full name, address, city, state and zip code of the reporting entity. Include Congressional District if known. Check the appropriate classification of the reporting entity that designates if it is or expects to be a prime or subaward recipient. Identify the tier of the subawardee, e.g., the first subawardee of the prime is the first tier. Subawards include but are not limited to subcontracts, subgrants and contract awards under grants.
5. If the organization filing the report in Item 4 checks "Subawardee" then enter the full name, address, city, state and zip code of the prime Federal recipient. Include Congressional District, if known.
6. Enter the name of the Federal agency making the award or loan commitment. Include at least one organization level below agency name, if known. For example, Department of Transportation, United States Coast Guard.
7. Enter the Federal program name or description for the covered Federal action (item 1). If known, enter the full Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number for grants, cooperative agreements, loans, and loan commitments.
8. Enter the most appropriate Federal identifying number available for the Federal action identification in item 1 (e.g., Request for Proposal (RFP) number, Invitation for Bid (IFB) number, grant announcement number, the contract grant. or loan award number, the application/proposal control number assigned by the Federal agency). Include prefixes, e.g., "RFP-DE-90-001."
9. For a covered Federal action where there has been an award or loan commitment by the Federal agency, enter the Federal amount of the award/loan commitments for the prime entity identified in item 4 or 5.
10. (a) Enter the full name, address, city, state and zip code of the lobbying entity engaged by the reporting entity identified in item 4 to influence the covered Federal action.
(b) Enter the full names of the individual(s) performing services and include full address if different from 10 (a). Enter Last Name, First Name and Middle Initial (MI).
11. Enter the amount of compensation paid or reasonably expected to be paid by the reporting entity (item 4) to the lobbying entity (item 10). Indicate whether the payment has been made (actual) or will be made (planned). Check all boxes that apply. If this is a material change report, enter the cumulative amount of payment made or planned to be made.
12. Check the appropriate box(es). Check all boxes that apply. If payment is made through an in-kind contribution, specify the nature and value of the in-kind payment.
13. Check the appropriate box(es). Check all boxes that apply. If other, specify nature.
14. Provide a specific and detailed description of the services that the lobbyist has performed or will be expected to perform and the date(s) of any services rendered. Include all preparatory and related activity not just time spent in actual contact with Federal officials. Identify the Federal officer(s) or employee(s) contacted or the officer(s) employee(s) or Member(s) of Congress that were contacted.
15. Check whether or not a continuation sheet(s) is attached.
16. The certifying official shall sign and date the form, print his/her name title and telephone number.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instruction, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0046), Washington, D.C. 20503.

DOT DES-OE-0102.14 (NEW 09/2023)

CONTRACT NO.	BIDDING FIRM
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☐ Check here if all fleets used to perform work are not subject to 13 CCR § 2449 *et seq.* Submit the blank form as part of the bid.

[illegible]

LIST OF SUBCONTRACTORS
STORM DAMAGE REPAIR TO ALDERPOINT ROAD (F6B165) PM 7.90 & 8.15
PROJECT NO.: ER-32L0(292) & ER-32L0(293)
CONTRACT NO.: 217259 & 217260

The Bidder must list the name and address, Contractor license number; and description of portion of work subcontracted to each subcontractor to whom the Bidder proposes to subcontract portions of the work, as required by the provisions of the Standard Specifications and the Special Provisions.

Business Name and Location	California Contractor License Number	Contractor Division of Industrial Relations Registration Number	Description of Portion of Work	Bid Items Numbers	Percentage of Bid Item Subcontracted

(THE BIDDER'S EXECUTION ON THE SIGNATURE PORTION OF THIS PROPOSAL CONSTITUTES AN
ENDORSEMENT AND EXECUTION OF THOSE CERTIFICATIONS WHICH ARE A PART OF THIS PROPOSAL)

AGREEMENT

This is an AGREEMENT made and entered into this _____ day
of _____, 20_____, by and between the County of Humboldt, a
political subdivision of the State of California (hereinafter referred to as COUNTY)
and _____,
a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of _____;
a partnership consisting of _____
_____;
an individual doing business as _____
_____ in the State of California,
hereinafter referred to as "CONTRACTOR".

Section 1 - SCOPE OF WORK

Contractor shall furnish all Labor, Tools and Materials and perform all the work for the:

STORM DAMAGE REPAIR TO ALDERPOINT ROAD (F6B165) PM 7.90 & 8.15
PROJECT NO.: ER-32L0(292) & ER-32L0(293)
CONTRACT NO.: 217259 & 217260

in accordance with the contract documents referred to in Section 3 of this Agreement.

Section 2 - CONTRACT PRICE

County shall pay, and Contractor shall accept Contractor's Bid Prices, as shown on EXHIBIT "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof, as full compensation for furnishing all materials and for doing all the work contemplated and embraced in this Agreement; also for all loss or damage, arising out of the work aforesaid, or from the actions of the elements, or from any unforeseen difficulties or obstructions which may arise or be encountered in the prosecution of the work until its acceptance by County, and for all risks of every description connected with the work; also for all expenses incurred by or in consequence of the suspension or discontinuance of the work and for well and faithfully completing the work, and the whole thereof, in the manner and according to the Plans and Specifications, and the requirements of the Engineer.

Section 3 - CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

The complete contract between the parties hereto shall consist of the following, hereinafter referred to as the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS:

- Notice to Bidders
- Plans and Drawings
- Bid Form
- Bidder's Bond
- Supplemental Project Information
- Performance Bond
- Payment Bond
- This Agreement
- Special Provisions
- Supplemental Project Information

And, as published by the Department of Transportation, State of California, except as modified by the Special Provisions:

- Standard Plans - dated 2025
- Standard Specifications - dated 2025
- Equipment Rental Rates in effect at the time the work is performed

And, as published by the California Department of Industrial Relations, and the California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency:

- General Prevailing Wage Rates
- Labor and Surcharge Rates

And any addenda to any of the above documents, all of which are on file in the office of the Director of Public Works of the County of Humboldt. Each of said CONTRACT DOCUMENTS is incorporated and made a part of this Agreement by the reference contained in this Section.

All rights and obligations of the County and the Contractor are fully set forth and described in the Contract Documents. All of the above named documents are intended to be complimentary, so that any work called for in one, and mentioned in the other is to be performed and executed the same as if mentioned in all said documents.

Section 4 - BEGINNING OF WORK

Following receipt and full execution and approval of the Contract Documents, and posting of the requisite Bonds as called for therein, the COUNTY will issue a "Notice to Proceed". Under no circumstances shall the CONTRACTOR enter upon the site of work until receipt of the "Notice to Proceed", or unless so authorized in writing by the COUNTY.

Section 5 - TIME OF COMPLETION

The work called for in this Agreement shall be commenced within fifteen (15) days of receipt of Notice to Proceed by COUNTY and shall be fully completed within a period of 55 working days beginning on the fifteenth calendar day after the date of said approval of contract.

Section 6 - PREVAILING WAGE

Copies of the prevailing wage rates of per diem wages are on file in the Humboldt County Public Works office at 1106 Second Street, Eureka, California and are available to any interested person on request.

Section 7 - WORKERS' COMPENSATION

By my signature hereunder, as CONTRACTOR, I certify that I am aware of the provisions of Section 3700 of the Labor Code which requires every employer to be insured against liability for Workers' Compensation or to undertake self insurance in accordance with the provisions of that code, and I will comply with such provisions before commencing the performance of the work of this contract.

Section 8 - COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

The Contractor agrees to comply with all local, state, and federal laws and regulations, including but not limited to the Americans With Disabilities Act. The Contractor further agrees to comply with any applicable federal, state or local licensing standards, any applicable accrediting standards, and any other applicable standards or criteria established locally or by the state or federal governments.

This agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California.

Section 9 - NOTICES

All notices shall be in writing and delivered in person or transmitted by mail. Notices required to be given to the COUNTY shall be addressed as follows:

Humboldt County Department of Public Works
1106 Second Street, Eureka, California, 95501

Notices required to be given to CONTRACTOR shall be addressed as follows:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The parties hereto have entered into this Agreement as of the date first above set forth.

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

(SEAL) BY _____
Chair, Board of Supervisors
of the County of Humboldt,
State of California

ATTEST:

TRACY DAMICO
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
of the County of Humboldt,
State of California

BY _____
Clerk of the Board

CONTRACTOR

BY _____

TITLE _____

BY _____

TITLE _____

(Two Signatures Required For Corporation)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

BY _____
Deputy County Counsel

INSURANCE CERTIFICATES REVIEWED
AND APPROVED:

BY _____
Risk Management

PAYMENT BOND

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

THAT WHEREAS, the County of Humboldt, by its order made _____, 20____, has awarded to _____ hereinafter designated as the "Principal," a contract for the work described as follows:

STORM DAMAGE REPAIR TO ALDERPOINT ROAD (F6B165) PM 7.90 & 8.15

NOW, THEREFORE, we the Principal and _____, Surety, are held and firmly bound unto the County of Humboldt in the penal sum of _____ Dollars (\$ _____), lawful money of the United States of America for the payment of which sum well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents.

THE CONDITION OF THIS OBLIGATION IS SUCH that if said Principal, his or its subcontractors, heirs, executors, administrators, successors, or assigns, shall fail to pay any of the persons named in Section 3181 of the Civil Code, or amounts due under the Unemployment Insurance Code, with respect to work or labor performed by claimant, or for any amounts required to be deducted, withheld, and paid over to the Franchise Tax Board from the wages of employees of the Contractor and his subcontractors pursuant to Section 18806 of the Revenue and Taxation Code with respect to such work and labor as required by Sections 3247 et seq. of the Civil Code of California, then said Surety will pay for the same, in or to an amount not exceeding the amount hereinafter set forth, and also will pay in case suit is brought upon this bond, such reasonable attorney's fees, as shall be fixed by the court, awarded and taxed as in the above-mentioned statutes provided.

AND, the said Surety, for value received, hereby stipulates and agrees that no change, extension of time, alteration or addition to the terms of the contract or to the work to be performed thereunder or the specifications accompanying the same shall in any way affect its obligations on this bond, and it does hereby waive notice of any such change, extension of time, alteration or addition to the terms of the contract, or to the work, or to the specifications.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this instrument has been duly executed by Principal and Surety above named, on the _____ day of _____, 20____.

PRINCIPAL

BY _____

SURETY

BY _____

Attorney-in-fact

PERFORMANCE BOND

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Bond No. _____

WHEREAS, the County of Humboldt, acting by and through the Department of Public Works, has awarded to Contractor _____, hereafter designated as the “Contractor”, a contract for the work described as follows:

STORM DAMAGE REPAIR TO ALDERPOINT ROAD (F6B165) PM 7.90 & 8.15

AND WHEREAS, the Contractor is required to furnish a bond in connection with said contract, guaranteeing the faithful performance thereof:

NOW, THEREFORE, we the undersigned Contractor and Surety are held firmly bound to the County of Humboldt in the sum of \$ _____ dollars (\$ _____), to be paid to said County or its certain attorney, its successors and assigns: for which payment, well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators, successors or assigns, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents.

THE CONDITION OF THIS OBLIGATION IS SUCH,

That if the above bound Contractor, its heirs, executors, administrators, successors or assigns, shall in all things stand to and abide by, and well and truly keep and perform the covenants, conditions and agreements in the foregoing contract and any alteration thereof made as therein provided, on his or their part to be kept and performed at the time and in the manner therein specified, and in all respects according to their intent and meaning, and shall indemnify and save harmless the County of Humboldt, its officers and agents, as therein stipulated, then this obligation shall become and be null and void; otherwise it shall be and remain in full force and virtue.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, We have hereunto set our hands and seals on this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Correspondence or claim relating to this bond should be sent to the surety at the following address:

Contractor

Name of Surety (SEAL)

By: Attorney-in-Fact

NOTE: Signatures of those executing for the surety must be properly acknowledged.

CERTIFICATE OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

State of California, City / County of _____ SS

On this _____ day of _____ in the year 20____ before me _____, a

Notary public in and for the City / County of _____, personally appeared
_____, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to this

Attorney-in-fact
instrument and known to me to be the attorney-in-fact of _____ and acknowledge to
me that he/she subscribed the name of the said company thereto as surety, and his/her own name as attorney-in-
fact.

(SEAL)

NOTARY PUBLIC

EXHIBIT 12-G: REQUIRED FEDERAL-AID CONTRACT LANGUAGE
(For Local Assistance Construction Projects)

The following language must be incorporated into all Local Assistance Federal-aid construction contracts.
The following language, with minor edits, was taken from the Code of Federal Regulations.

MAINTAIN RECORDS AND SUBMIT REPORTS DOCUMENTING YOUR PERFORMANCE UNDER THIS SECTION

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1. DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES (DBE)

A. Nondiscrimination Statement

The contractor, subrecipient or subcontractor will never exclude any person from participation in, deny any person the benefits of, or otherwise discriminate against anyone in connection with the award and performance of any contract covered by 49 CFR 26 on the basis of race, color, sex, or national origin.

B. Contract Assurance

Under 49 CFR 26.13(b): The contractor, subrecipient or subcontractor shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the performance of this contract. The contractor shall carry out applicable requirements of 49 CFR 26 in the award and administration of federal-aid contracts. Failure by the contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach of this contract, which may result in the termination of this contract or such other remedy as the recipient deems appropriate, which may include, but is not limited to:

- (1)Withholding monthly progress payments;
- (2)Assessing sanctions;
- (3)Liquidated damages; and/or
- (4)Disqualifying the contractor from future bidding as non-responsible.

C. Prompt Payment of Withheld Funds to Subcontractors

The Agency may hold retainage from the prime contractor and shall make prompt and regular incremental acceptances of portions, as determined by the Agency, of the contract work, and pay retainage to the prime contractor based on these acceptances. The Agency shall designate one of the methods below in the contract to ensure prompt and full payment of any retainage kept by the prime contractor or subcontractor to a subcontractor. The Agency shall include either Method 1, Method 2, or Method 3 below and delete the other two.

Method 1: No retainage will be held by the Agency from progress payments due to the prime contractor. Prime contractors and subcontractors are prohibited from holding retainage from subcontractors. Any delay or postponement of payment may take place only for good cause and with the Agency's prior written approval. Any violation of these provisions shall subject the violating contractor or subcontractor to the penalties, sanctions, and other remedies specified in Section 7108.5 of the California Business and Professions Code and Section 10262 of the California Public Contract Code. This requirement shall not be construed to limit or impair any contractual, administrative or judicial remedies, otherwise available to the contractor or subcontractor in the event of a dispute involving late payment or nonpayment by the contractor, deficient subcontractor performance and/or noncompliance by a subcontractor. This clause applies to both DBE and non-DBE subcontractors.

Method 2: No retainage will be held by the Agency from progress payments due to the prime contractor. Any retainage kept by the prime contractor or by a subcontractor must be paid in full to the earning subcontractor within seven (7) days after the subcontractor's work is satisfactorily completed. Any delay or postponement of payment may take place only for good cause and with the Agency's prior written approval. Any violation of these provisions shall subject the violating contractor or subcontractor to the penalties, sanctions, and remedies specified in Section 7108.5 of the California Business and Professions Code and Section 10262 of the California Public Contract Code. This requirement shall not be construed to limit or impair any contractual, administrative or judicial remedies, otherwise available to the contractor or subcontractor in the event of a dispute involving late payment or nonpayment by the contractor, deficient subcontractor performance and/or noncompliance by a subcontractor. This clause applies to both DBE and non-DBE subcontractors.

Method 3: The Agency shall hold retainage from the prime contractor and shall make prompt and regular incremental acceptances of portions, as determined by the Agency of the contract work and pay retainage to the prime contractor based on these acceptances. The prime contractor or subcontractor shall return all monies withheld in retention from all subcontractors within seven (7) days after receiving payment for work satisfactorily completed and accepted including incremental acceptances of portions of the contract work by the Agency. Any delay or postponement of payment may take place only for good cause and with the Agency's prior written approval. Any violation of these provisions shall subject the violating prime contractor or subcontractor to the penalties, sanctions, and other remedies specified in Section 7108.5 of the California Business and Professions Code and Section 10262 of the California Public Contract Code.

This requirement shall not be construed to limit or impair any contractual, administrative or judicial remedies otherwise available to the contractor or subcontractor in the event of a dispute involving late payment or nonpayment by the contractor; deficient subcontractor performance and/or noncompliance by a subcontractor. This clause applies to both DBE and non-DBE subcontractors.

Any violation of these provisions of Prompt Progress Payment and Prompt Payment of Withheld Funds to Subcontractors shall subject the violating prime contractor or subcontractor to the penalties, sanctions and other remedies specified therein. These requirements shall not be construed to limit or impair any contractual, administrative, or judicial remedies otherwise available to the prime contractor or subcontractor in the event of a dispute involving late payment or nonpayment by the prime contractor, deficient subcontract performance, or noncompliance by a subcontractor.

2. BID OPENING

The Agency publicly opens and reads bids at the time and place shown on the Notice to Contractors.

3. BID RIGGING

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) provides a toll-free hotline to report bid rigging activities. Use the hotline to report bid rigging, bidder collusion, and other fraudulent activities. The hotline number is (800) 424-9071. The service is available 24 hours 7 days a week and is confidential and anonymous. The hotline is part of the DOT's effort to identify and investigate highway construction contract fraud and abuse and is operated under the direction of the DOT Inspector General.

4. CONTRACT AWARD

If the Agency awards the contract, the award is made to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder.

5. CONTRACTOR LICENSE

The Contractor must be properly licensed as a contractor from contract award through Contract acceptance (23 CFR 635.110).

6. CHANGED CONDITIONS

A. Differing Site Conditions

1. During the progress of the work, if subsurface or latent physical conditions are encountered at the site differing materially from those indicated in the contract or if unknown physical conditions of an unusual nature, differing materially from those ordinarily encountered and generally recognized as inherent in the work provided for in the contract, are encountered at the site, the party discovering such conditions shall promptly notify the other party in writing of the specific differing conditions before the site is disturbed and before the affected work is performed.
2. Upon written notification, the engineer will investigate the conditions, and if it is determined that the conditions materially differ and cause an increase or decrease in the cost or time required for the performance of any work under the contract, an adjustment, excluding anticipated profits, will be made and the contract modified in writing accordingly. The engineer will notify the contractor of the determination whether or not an adjustment of the contract is warranted.
3. No contract adjustment which results in a benefit to the contractor will be allowed unless the contractor has provided the required written notice.
4. No contract adjustment will be allowed under this clause for any effects caused on unchanged work. *[This provision may be omitted by the Local Agency, at their option.]*

B. Suspensions of Work Ordered by the Engineer

1. If the performance of all or any portion of the work is suspended or delayed by the engineer in writing for an unreasonable period of time (not originally anticipated, customary, or inherent to the construction industry) and the contractor believes that additional compensation and/or contract time is due as a result of such suspension or delay, the contractor shall submit to the engineer in writing a request for adjustment within 7 calendar days of receipt of the notice to resume work. The request shall set forth the reasons and support for such adjustment.
2. Upon receipt, the engineer will evaluate the contractor's request. If the engineer agrees that the cost and/or time required for the performance of the contract has increased as a result of such suspension and the suspension was caused by conditions beyond the control of and not the fault of the contractor, its

suppliers, or subcontractors at any approved tier, and not caused by weather, the engineer will make an adjustment (excluding profit) and modify the contract in writing accordingly. The contractor will be notified of the engineer's determination whether or not an adjustment of the contract is warranted.

3. No contract adjustment will be allowed unless the contractor has submitted the request for adjustment within the time prescribed.
4. No contract adjustment will be allowed under this clause to the extent that performance would have been suspended or delayed by any other cause, or for which an adjustment is provided or excluded under any other term or condition of this contract.

C. Significant Changes in the Character of Work

1. The engineer reserves the right to make, in writing, at any time during the work, such changes in quantities and such alterations in the work as are necessary to satisfactorily complete the project. Such changes in quantities and alterations shall not invalidate the contract nor release the surety, and the contractor agrees to perform the work as altered.
2. If the alterations or changes in quantities significantly change the character of the work under the contract, whether such alterations or changes are in themselves significant changes to the character of the work or by affecting other work cause such other work to become significantly different in character, an adjustment, excluding anticipated profit, will be made to the contract. The basis for the adjustment shall be agreed upon prior to the performance of the work. If a basis cannot be agreed upon, then an adjustment will be made either for or against the contractor in such amount as the engineer may determine to be fair and equitable.
3. If the alterations or changes in quantities do not significantly change the character of the work to be performed under the contract, the altered work will be paid for as provided elsewhere in the contract.
4. The term "significant change" shall be construed to apply only to the following circumstances:
 - When the character of the work as altered differs materially in kind or nature from that involved or included in the original proposed construction; or
 - When a major item of work, as defined elsewhere in the contract, is increased in excess of 125 percent or decreased below 75 percent of the original contract quantity. Any allowance for an increase in quantity shall apply only to that portion in excess of 125 percent of original contract item quantity, or in case of a decrease below 75 percent, to the actual amount of work performed.

7. BEGINNING OF WORK, TIME OF COMPLETION AND LIQUIDATED DAMAGES

The Contractor shall begin work within 15 calendar days after the issuance of the Notice to Proceed.

This work shall be diligently prosecuted to completion before the expiration of _____ WORKING DAYS beginning on the fifteenth calendar day after the date shown on the Notice to Proceed.

The Contractor shall pay to the City/County _____ the sum of \$ _____ per day, for each and every calendar days' delay in finishing the work in excess of the number of working days prescribed above.

8. BUY AMERICA

[Include the Buy America provisions below when required by LAPM Chapter 12]

Buy America Requirements apply to iron or steel, manufactured products, and construction materials permanently incorporated into the project.

Buy America requirements do not apply to the following:

1. Tools and construction equipment used in performing the work
2. Temporary work that is not incorporated into the finished project

An article, materials, or supply to be permanently incorporated in the project should only be classified into one of the following categories:

1. Iron or steel products
2. Manufactured products
3. Construction materials

4. Excluded materials

Excluded materials means cement and cementitious materials; aggregates such as stone, sand, or gravel; or aggregate binding agents or additives.

Iron or Steel Products

All iron or steel products permanently incorporated into the project must be melted and manufactured in the United States except:

1. Foreign pig iron and processed, pelletized, and reduced iron ore may be used in the domestic production of the steel and iron materials [60 Fed Reg 15478 (03/24/1995)];
2. If the total combined cost of the materials produced outside the United States does not exceed the greater of 0.1 percent of the total contract amount or \$2,500, materials produced outside the United States may be used if authorized.

Iron or steel products are defined as articles, materials, or supplies that consist wholly or predominantly of iron or steel or a combination of both.

For a product to be considered to consist predominantly of iron or steel, or a combination of both means the cost of the iron or steel content of the product exceeds 50 percent of the total cost of all its components. The cost of iron or steel is the cost of the iron or steel mill products (such as bar, billet, slab, wire, plate, or sheet), castings, or forgings utilized in the manufacture of the product and a good faith estimate of the cost of iron or steel components.

Furnish iron or steel products to be incorporated into the work with certificates of compliance and certified mill test reports. Mill test reports must indicate where the iron or steel were melted and manufactured. All melting and manufacturing processes for these materials, including an application of a coating, must occur in the United States. Coating includes all processes that protect or enhance the value of the material to which the coating is applied.

[Delete the paragraph below if not applicable]

The following iron or steel products have received an approved Buy America waiver for this project and are therefore not subject to Buy America requirements:

1. _____
2. _____

Manufactured Products

All manufactured products permanently incorporated into the project must be manufactured in the United States.

Manufactured products are defined as articles, materials, or supplies that have been:

1. Processed into a specific form and shape; or
2. Combined with other articles, materials, or supplies to create a product with different properties than the individual articles, materials, or supplies.

Manufacturer, in the case of manufactured products, means the entity that performs the final manufacturing process by bringing individual elements together that produces a manufactured product.

If an item is classified as an iron or steel product, a construction material, or an excluded material, then it is not a manufactured product. However, an article, material, or supply classified as a manufactured product may include components that are iron or steel products, construction materials, or excluded materials.

Iron or steel used in precast concrete manufactured products or Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) must meet the requirements of Iron or Steel Products regardless of the amount used.

Iron and steel used in other manufactured products must meet the requirements of section Iron or Steel Products if the cost of steel and iron components is 50 percent or more of the total cost of the manufactured product

Furnish manufactured products to be permanently incorporated into the work with certificates of compliance with each project delivery. The manufacturer's certificate of compliance must identify where the manufacturing occurred and attest specifically to Buy America compliance.

[Delete the paragraph below if not applicable]

The following manufactured products have received an approved Buy America waiver for this project and are therefore not subject to Buy America requirements:

1. _____
2. _____

Construction Materials

Construction materials permanently incorporated into the project must be manufactured as defined in 2 CFR 184.6 in the United States.

Buy America requirements apply to the following construction materials that are or consist primarily of:

1. Non-ferrous metals
2. Plastic and polymer-based products such as:
 - 2.1 Polyvinylchloride
 - 2.2 Composite Building Materials
3. Glass
4. Fiber optic cable (including drop cable)
5. Optical fiber
6. Lumber
7. Engineered wood
8. Drywall

Minor additions of articles, materials, supplies, or binding agents to these construction materials do not change the categorization of the construction material.

Furnish construction materials to be incorporated into the work with certificates of compliance with each project delivery. The manufacturer's certificate of compliance must identify where the construction material was manufactured and attest specifically to Buy America compliance.

[Delete the paragraph below if not applicable]

The following construction materials have received an approved Buy America waiver for this project and are therefore not subject to Buy America requirements:

1. _____
2. _____

Buy America Waiver for De Minimis Cost for Manufactured Products and Construction Materials

A De Minimis Cost Waiver can waive the application of FHWA's Buy America requirements for manufactured products and construction materials under a single project when the total value of non-compliant manufactured products and construction materials is no more than the lesser of \$1,000,000 or 5 percent of the total applicable material costs for the project.

The percent threshold is calculated based on the following formula:

$$X = NC / TA$$

where:

X = percent threshold

NC = total value of non-compliant manufactured products and construction material

TA = total applicable project costs (iron or steel products, manufactured products, and construction materials; does not include excluded materials)

This threshold is based on the actual cost of the iron or steel products, manufactured products, and construction materials, not the anticipated cost of those materials. Compliant and non-compliant Agency Furnished Materials for the project must be accounted for in a De Minimis Cost Waiver Worksheet calculation, if provided by the Local Agency.

Provide copies of invoices for the actual costs of materials including transportation to the project site.

In applying a De Minimum Cost Waiver, total cost of non-compliant construction materials and manufactured products does not include the cost of any products subject to a separate Buy America waiver.

If De Minimis Cost Waiver Worksheet calculation for materials subject to Buy America is not submitted, the Local Agency may:

1. Withhold from the next progress payment
2. Reject your request for a De Minimis Costs waiver for non-compliant construction materials or manufactured products

9. QUALITY ASSURANCE

The Local Agency uses a Quality Assurance Program (QAP) to ensure a material is produced to comply with the Contract. The Local Agency may examine the records and reports of tests the prime contractor performs if they are available at the job site. Schedule work to allow time for QAP.

10. PROMPT PAYMENT

A. FROM THE AGENCY TO THE CONTRACTORS

The Local Agency shall make all project progress payment within 30 days after receipt of an undisputed and properly submitted payment request from the Contractor on a construction contract. If the Local Agency fails to pay promptly, the Local Agency shall pay interest to the Contractor, which accrues at the rate of 10 percent per annum on the principal amount of a money judgment remaining unsatisfied and pro-rated as necessary. Upon receipt of the payment request, the Local Agency shall act in accordance with both of the following:

1. The Local Agency shall review each payment request as soon as feasible after receipt to verify it is a proper payment request.
2. The Local Agency must return any payment request deemed improper by the Local Agency to the Contractor as soon as feasible, but not later than seven (7) days, after receipt. A request returned pursuant to this paragraph shall include documentation setting forth in writing the reasons why it is an improper payment request.

B. SUBMITTAL OF EXHIBIT 9-P

In accordance with California Business and Professions Code section 7108.5, the prime contractor or subcontractor shall pay to any subcontractor, not later than seven days after receipt of each progress payment, unless otherwise agreed to in writing, the respective amounts allowed the contractor on account of the work performed by the subcontractors, to the extent of each subcontractor's interest therein. In the event that there is a good faith dispute over all or any portion of the amount due on a progress payment from the prime contractor or subcontractor to a subcontractor, the prime contractor or subcontractor may withhold no more than 150 percent of the disputed amount. Any violation of this requirement shall constitute a cause for disciplinary action and shall subject the licensee to a penalty, payable to the subcontractor, of 2 percent of the amount due per month for every month that payment is not made.

In any action for the collection of funds wrongfully withheld, the prevailing party shall be entitled to his or her attorney's fees and costs. The sanctions authorized under this requirement shall be separate from, and in addition to, all other remedies, either civil, administrative, or criminal.

The Contractor must submit Exhibit 9-P to the Local Agency administering the contract by the 15th of the month following the month of any payment(s). If the Contractor does not make any payments to subcontractors, supplier(s) and/or manufacturers they must report "no payments were made to subs this month" and write this visibly and legibly on Exhibit 9-P.

11. FORM FHWA-1273 REQUIRED CONTRACT PROVISIONS FEDERAL-AID CONTRACTS

[Form FHWA-1273 must be physically inserted into the contract without modification, excluding ATTACHMENT A - EMPLOYMENT AND MATERIALS PREFERENCE FOR APPALACHIAN DEVELOPMENT HIGHWAY SYSTEM OR APPALACHIAN LOCAL ACCESS ROAD CONTRACTS.]

*[The current version of Form FHWA-1273 is accessible at FHWA's website:
<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/programadmin/contracts/1273/1273.pdf>]*

12. FEMALE AND MINORITY GOALS

To comply with Section II, "Nondiscrimination," of "Required Contract Provisions Federal-Aid Construction Contracts," the following are for female and minority utilization goals for Federal-aid construction contracts and subcontracts that exceed \$10,000:

The nationwide goal for female utilization is 6.9 percent.

The goals for minority utilization (45 Fed Reg 65984 (10/3/1980)) are as follows:

MINORITY UTILIZATION GOALS

	Economic Area	Goal (Percent)
174	Redding CA: Non-SMSA (Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area) Counties: CA Lassen; CA Modoc; CA Plumas; CA Shasta; CA Siskiyou; CA Tehama	6.8
175	Eureka, CA Non-SMSA Counties: CA Del Norte; CA Humboldt; CA Trinity	6.6
176	San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA: SMSA Counties: 7120 Salinas-Seaside-Monterey, CA	28.9
	CA Monterey	25.6
	7360 San Francisco-Oakland	
	CA Alameda; CA Contra Costa; CA Marin; CA San Francisco; CA San Mateo	
	7400 San Jose, CA	19.6
	CA Santa Clara, CA	
	7485 Santa Cruz, CA	14.9
	CA Santa Cruz	
	7500 Santa Rosa	9.1
	CA Sonoma	
	8720 Vallejo-Fairfield-Napa, CA	17.1
	CA Napa; CA Solano	
	Non-SMSA Counties: CA Lake; CA Mendocino; CA San Benito	23.2

177	Sacramento, CA: SMSA Counties: 6920 Sacramento, CA CA Placer; CA Sacramento; CA Yolo Non-SMSA Counties CA Butte; CA Colusa; CA El Dorado; CA Glenn; CA Nevada; CA Sierra; CA Sutter; CA Yuba	16.1 14.3
178	Stockton-Modesto, CA: SMSA Counties: 5170 Modesto, CA CA Stanislaus 8120 Stockton, CA CA San Joaquin Non-SMSA Counties CA Alpine; CA Amador; CA Calaveras; CA Mariposa; CA Merced; CA Tuolumne	12.3 24.3 19.8
179	Fresno-Bakersfield, CA SMSA Counties: 0680 Bakersfield, CA CA Kern 2840 Fresno, CA CA Fresno Non-SMSA Counties: CA Kings; CA Madera; CA Tulare	19.1 26.1 23.6
180	Los Angeles, CA: SMSA Counties: 0360 Anaheim-Santa Ana-Garden Grove, CA CA Orange 4480 Los Angeles-Long Beach, CA CA Los Angeles 6000 Oxnard-Simi Valley-Ventura, CA CA Ventura 6780 Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA CA Riverside; CA San Bernardino 7480 Santa Barbara-Santa Maria-Lompoc, CA CA Santa Barbara Non-SMSA Counties CA Inyo; CA Mono; CA San Luis Obispo	11.9 28.3 21.5 19.0 19.7 24.6
181	San Diego, CA: SMSA Counties 7320 San Diego, CA CA San Diego Non-SMSA Counties CA Imperial	16.9 18.2

For the last full week of July during which work is performed under the contract, the prime contractor and each non material-supplier subcontractor with a subcontract of \$10,000 or more must complete Form FHWA PR-1391 (Appendix C to 23 CFR 230). Submit the forms by August 15.

13. TITLE VI ASSURANCES

[The U.S. Department of Transportation Order No.1050.2A requires all federal-aid Department of Transportation contracts between an agency and a contractor to contain Appendix A and E.

Note: Appendix B only requires inclusion if the contract impacts deeds effecting or recording the transfer of real property, structures, or improvements thereon, or granting interest therein. Appendices C and D only require inclusion if the contract impacts deeds, licenses, leases, permits, or similar instruments entered into by the recipient.]

APPENDIX A

During the performance of this Agreement, the contractor, for itself, its assignees and successors in interest (hereinafter collectively referred to as CONTRACTOR) agrees as follows:

Compliance with Regulations: CONTRACTOR shall comply with the regulations relative to nondiscrimination in federally assisted programs of the Department of Transportation, Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 21, as they may be amended from time to time, (hereinafter referred to as the REGULATIONS), which are herein incorporated by reference and made a part of this agreement.

- A. Nondiscrimination: CONTRACTOR, with regard to the work performed by it during the AGREEMENT, shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age, or disability in the selection and retention of sub-applicants, including procurements of materials and leases of equipment. CONTRACTOR shall not participate either directly or indirectly in the discrimination prohibited by Section 21.5 of the Regulations, including employment practices when the agreement covers a program set forth in Appendix B of the Regulations.
- B. Solicitations for Sub-agreements, Including Procurements of Materials and Equipment: In all solicitations either by competitive bidding or negotiation made by CONTRACTOR for work to be performed under a Sub-agreement, including procurements of materials or leases of equipment, each potential sub-applicant or supplier shall be notified by CONTRACTOR of the CONTRACTOR'S obligations under this Agreement and the Regulations relative to nondiscrimination on the grounds of race, color, or national origin.
- C. Information and Reports: CONTRACTOR shall provide all information and reports required by the Regulations, or directives issued pursuant thereto, and shall permit access to its books, records, accounts, other sources of information, and its facilities as may be determined by the recipient or FHWA to be pertinent to ascertain compliance with such Regulations or directives. Where any information required of CONTRACTOR is in the exclusive possession of another who fails or refuses to furnish this information, CONTRACTOR shall so certify to the recipient or FHWA as appropriate, and shall set forth what efforts CONTRACTOR has made to obtain the information.
- D. Sanctions for Noncompliance: In the event of CONTRACTOR's noncompliance with the nondiscrimination provisions of this agreement, the recipient shall impose such agreement sanctions as it or the FHWA may determine to be appropriate, including, but not limited to:
 - 1. withholding of payments to CONTRACTOR under the Agreement within a reasonable period of time, not to exceed 90 days; and/or
 - 2. cancellation, termination or suspension of the Agreement, in whole or in part.
- E. Incorporation of Provisions: CONTRACTOR shall include the provisions of paragraphs (1) through (6) in every sub-agreement, including procurements of materials and leases of equipment, unless exempt by the Regulations, or directives issued pursuant thereto.

CONTRACTOR shall take such action with respect to any sub-agreement or procurement as the recipient or FHWA may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for noncompliance, provided, however, that, in the event CONTRACTOR becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a sub-applicant or supplier as a result of such direction, CONTRACTOR may request the recipient enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the State, and, in addition, CONTRACTOR may request the United States to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the United States.

APPENDIX B**CLAUSES FOR DEEDS TRANSFERRING UNITED STATES PROPERTY**

The following clauses will be included in deeds effecting or recording the transfer of real property, structures, or improvements thereon, or granting interest therein from the United States pursuant to the provisions of Assurance 4:

NOW THEREFORE, the U.S. Department of Transportation as authorized by law and upon the condition that the recipient will accept title to the lands and maintain the project constructed thereon in accordance with Title 23 U.S.C., the regulations for the administration of the preceding statute, and the policies and procedures prescribed by the FHWA of the U.S. Department of Transportation in accordance and in compliance with all requirements imposed by Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, U.S. Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, Non-discrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the U.S. Department of Transportation pertaining to and effectuating the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252; 42 U.S.C. § 2000d to 2000d-4), does hereby remise, release, quitclaim and convey unto the recipient all the right, title and interest of the U.S. Department of Transportation in and to said lands described in Exhibit A attached hereto and made a part hereof.

(HABENDUM CLAUSE)

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said lands and interests therein unto the recipient and its successors forever, subject, however, to the covenants, conditions, restrictions and reservations herein contained as follows, which will remain in effect for the period during which the real property or structures are used for a purpose for which Federal financial assistance is extended or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits and will be binding on the recipient, its successors and assigns. The recipient, in consideration of the conveyance of said lands and interest in lands, does hereby covenant and agree as a covenant running with the land for itself, its successors and assigns, that (1) no person will on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination with regard to any facility located wholly or in part on, over, or under such lands hereby conveyed [,] [and]* (2) that the recipient will use the lands and interests in lands and interest in lands so conveyed, in compliance with all requirements imposed by or pursuant to Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, U.S. Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, Non-discrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and as said Regulations and Acts may be amended[, and (3) that in the event of breach of any of the above-mentioned non-discrimination conditions, the Department will have a right to enter or re-enter said lands and facilities on said lands, and that above described land and facilities will thereon revert to and vest in and become the absolute property of the U.S. Department of Transportation and its assigns as such interest existed prior to this instruction].*

(*Reverter clause and related language to be used only when it is determined that such a clause is necessary in order to make clear the purpose of Title VI.)

APPENDIX C**CLAUSES FOR TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY ACQUIRED OR IMPROVED UNDER THE ACTIVITY, FACILITY, OR PROGRAM**

The following clauses will be included in deeds, licenses, leases, permits, or similar instruments entered into by the recipient pursuant to the provisions of Assurance 7(a):

- A. The (grantee, lessee, permittee, etc. as appropriate) for himself/herself, his/her heirs, personal representatives, successors in interest, and assigns, as a part of the consideration hereof, does hereby covenant and agree [in the case of deeds and leases add "as a covenant running with the land"] that:
1. In the event facilities are constructed, maintained, or otherwise operated on the property described in this (deed, license, lease, permit, etc.) for a purpose for which a U.S. Department of Transportation activity, facility, or program is extended or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits, the (grantee, licensee, lessee, permittee, etc.) will maintain and operate such facilities and services in compliance with all requirements imposed by the Acts and Regulations (as may be amended) such that no person on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, will be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the use of said facilities.

- B. With respect to licenses, leases, permits, etc., in the event of breach of any of the above Non-discrimination covenants, the recipient will have the right to terminate the (lease, license, permit, etc.) and to enter, re-enter, and repossess said lands and facilities thereon, and hold the same as if the (lease, license, permit, etc.) had never been made or issued.*
- C. With respect to a deed, in the event of breach of any of the above Non-discrimination covenants, the recipient will have the right to enter or re-enter the lands and facilities thereon, and the above described lands and facilities will there upon revert to and vest in and become the absolute property of the recipient and its assigns.*

(*Reverter clause and related language to be used only when it is determined that such a clause is necessary to make clear the purpose of Title VI.)

APPENDIX D

CLAUSES FOR CONSTRUCTION/USE/ACCESS TO REAL PROPERTY ACQUIRED UNDER THE ACTIVITY, FACILITY OR PROGRAM

The following clauses will be included in deeds, licenses, permits, or similar instruments/agreements entered into by the recipient pursuant to the provisions of Assurance 7(b):

- A. The (grantee, licensee, permittee, etc., as appropriate) for himself/herself, his/her heirs, personal representatives, successors in interest, and assigns, as a part of the consideration hereof, does hereby covenant and agree (in the case of deeds and leases add, "as a covenant running with the land") that (1) no person on the ground of race, color, or national origin, will be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the use of said facilities, (2) that in the construction of any improvements on, over, or under such land, and the furnishings of services thereon, no person on the ground of race, color, or national origin, will be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits or, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination, (3) that the (grantee, licensee, lessee, permittee, etc.) will use the premises in compliance with all other requirements imposed by or pursuant to the Acts and Regulations, as amended, set forth in this Assurance.
- B. With respect to (licenses, leases, permits, etc.) in the event of breach of any of the above of the above Non-discrimination covenants, the recipient will have the right to terminate the (license, permits, etc., as appropriate) and to enter or re-enter and repossess said land and the facilities thereon, and hold the same as if said (license, permit, etc., as appropriate) had never been made or issued.*
- C. With respect to deeds, in the event of breach of any of the above Non-discrimination covenants, the recipient will there upon revert to and vest in and become the absolute property of the recipient and its assigns.

(*Reverter clause and related language to be used only when it is determined that such a clause is necessary to make clear the purpose of Title VI.)

APPENDIX E

During the performance of this contract, the contractor, for itself, its assignees, and successors in interest (hereinafter referred to as the “contractor”) agrees to comply with the following non-discrimination statutes and authorities, including, but not limited to:

Pertinent Non-Discrimination Authorities:

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq., 78 stat. 252), prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin); and 49 CFR Part 21.
- The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, (42 U.S.C. § 4601), (prohibits unfair treatment of persons displaced or whose property has been acquired because of Federal or Federal-aid programs and projects);
- Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973, (23 U.S.C. § 324 et seq.), prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex;
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, (29 U.S.C. § 794 et seq.), as amended, (prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability); and 49 CR Part 27;
- The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, (42 U.S.C. § 6101 et seq.), prohibits discrimination on the basis of age);
- Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982, (49 U.S.C. § 471, Section 47123), as amended, (prohibits discrimination based on race, creed, color, national origin, or sex);
- The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, (PL 100-209), (Broadened the scope, coverage and applicability of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, The Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, by expanding the definition of the terms “programs or activities” to include all of the programs or activities of the Federal-aid recipients, sub-recipients and contractors, whether such programs or activities are Federally funded or not);
- Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which prohibit discrimination of the basis of disability in the operation of public entities, public and private transportation systems, places of public accommodation, and certain testing entities (42 U.S.C. §§ 12131 – 12189) as implemented by Department of Transportation regulations 49 C.F.R. parts 37 and 38;
- The Federal Aviation Administration’s Non-discrimination statute (49 U.S.C. § 47123) (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, and sex);
- Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, which ensures discrimination against minority populations by discouraging programs, policies, and activities with disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations;
- Executive Order 13166, Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency, and resulting agency guidance, national origin discrimination includes discrimination because of limited English proficiency (LEP). To ensure compliance with Title VI, you must take reasonable steps to ensure that LEP persons have meaningful access to your programs (70 Fed. Reg. at 74087 to 74100);
- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, which prohibits you from discriminating because of sex in education programs or activities (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq).

Federal Trainee Program Special Provisions
*[to be used when applicable]***14. FEDERAL TRAINEE PROGRAM**

For the Federal training program, the number of trainees or apprentices is_____.

This section applies if a number of trainees or apprentices is shown on the Notice of Bidders.

As part of the prime contractor's equal opportunity affirmative action program, provide on-the-job training to develop full journeymen in the types of trades or job classifications involved.

The prime contractor has primary responsibility for meeting this training requirement.

If the prime contractor subcontracts a contract part, they shall determine how many trainees or apprentices are to be trained by the subcontractor. Include these training requirements in each subcontract.

Where feasible, 25 percent of apprentices or trainees in each occupation must be in their 1st year of apprenticeship or training.

Distribute the number of apprentices or trainees among the work classifications on the basis of the prime contractor's needs and the availability of journeymen in the various classifications within a reasonable recruitment area.

Before starting work, the prime contractor shall submit to the City/County of_____ :

1. Number of apprentices or trainees to be trained for each classification
2. Training program to be used
3. Training starting date for each classification

The prime contractor shall obtain the City/County of _____ approval for this submitted information before the prime contractor starts work. The City/County of _____ credits the prime contractor for each apprentice or trainee the prime contractor employs on the job who is currently enrolled or becomes enrolled in an approved program.

The primary objective of this section is to train and upgrade minorities and women toward journeyman status. The prime contractor shall make every effort to enroll minority and women apprentices or trainees, such as conducting systematic and direct recruitment through public and private sources likely to yield minority and women apprentices or trainees, to the extent they are available within a reasonable recruitment area and show that they have made the efforts. In making these efforts, the prime contractor shall not discriminate against any applicant for training.

The prime contractor shall not employ as an apprentice or trainee an employee:

1. In any classification in which the employee has successfully completed a training course leading to journeyman status or in which the employee has been employed as a journeyman
2. Who is not registered in a program approved by the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training

The prime contractor shall ask the employee if the employee has successfully completed a training course leading to journeyman status or has been employed as a journeyman. The prime contractor's records must show the employee's answers to the questions.

In the training program, the prime contractor shall establish the minimum length and training type for each classification. The City/County of _____ and FHWA approves a program if one of the following is met:

1. It is calculated to:
 - Meet the equal employment opportunity responsibilities
 - Qualify the average apprentice or trainee for journeyman status in the classification involved by the end of the training period
2. It is registered with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, and it is administered in a way consistent with the equal employment responsibilities of Federal-aid highway construction contracts

The prime contractor shall obtain the State's approval for their training program before they start work involving the classification covered by the program.

The prime contractor shall provide training in the construction crafts, not in clerk-typist or secretarial-type positions. Training is allowed in lower-level management positions such as office engineers, estimators, and timekeepers if the training is oriented toward construction applications. Training is allowed in the laborer classification if significant and meaningful training is provided and approved by the division office. Off-site training is allowed if the training is an integral part of an approved training program and does not make up a significant part of the overall training.

The City/County of _____ reimburses the prime contractor 80 cents per hour of training given an employee on this contract under an approved training program:

1. For on-site training
2. For off-site training if the apprentice or trainee is currently employed on a Federal-aid project and prime contractor does at least one of the following:
 - a. Contribute to the cost of the training
 - b. Provide the instruction to the apprentice or trainee
 - c. Pay the apprentice's or trainee's wages during the off-site training period
3. If the prime contractor complies with this section.

Each apprentice or trainee must:

1. Begin training on the project as soon as feasible after the start of work involving the apprentice's or trainee's skill
2. Remain on the project as long as training opportunities exist in the apprentice's or trainee's work classification or until the apprentice or trainee has completed the training program

Furnish the apprentice or trainee a:

1. Copy of the training plan approved by the U.S. Department of Labor or a training plan for trainees approved by both Caltrans and FHWA
2. Certification showing the type and length of training satisfactorily completed

Maintain records and submit reports documenting contractor's performance under this section.

15. PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND VIDEO SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES

In response to significant national security concerns, the agency shall check the prohibited vendor list before making any telecommunications and video surveillance purchase because recipients and subrecipients of federal funds are prohibited from obligating or expending loan or grant funds to:

- Procure or obtain;
- Extend or renew a contract to procure or obtain; or
- Enter into a contract (or extend or renew a contract) to procure or obtain equipment, services, or systems that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system.

The prohibited vendors (and their subsidiaries or affiliates) are:

- Huawei Technologies Company;
- ZTE Corporation;
- Hytera Communications Corporation;
- Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company;

- Dahua Technology Company; and
- Subsidiaries or affiliates of the above-mentioned companies.

In implementing the prohibition, the agency administering loan, grant, or subsidy programs shall prioritize available funding and technical support to assist affected businesses, institutions and organizations as is reasonably necessary for those affected entities to transition from covered communications equipment and services, to procure replacement equipment and services, and to ensure that communications service to users and customers is sustained.

The contractors should furnish telecommunications and video surveillance equipment with a certificate of compliance. The certificate must state telecommunications and video surveillance equipment was not procured or obtained from manufacturers identified in the above list.

US DOT - SUSPENSION OF DBE PROGRAM
(Interim Final Rule (IFR), Effective October 3, 2025)

Rules and Regulations

Federal Register

Vol. 90, No. 190

Friday, October 3, 2025

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains regulatory documents having general applicability and legal effect, most of which are keyed to and codified in the Code of Federal Regulations, which is published under 50 titles pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 1510.

The Code of Federal Regulations is sold by the Superintendent of Documents.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 107

[Docket No. FAA-2025-0412]

Accepted Means of Compliance for Small Unmanned (sUA) Aircraft Category 2 and Category 3 Operations Over Human Beings; Aerial Vehicle Safety Solutions Inc. (AVSS)

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notification of availability.

SUMMARY: This document announces the acceptance of a means of compliance with FAA regulations for sUA Category 2 and Category 3 operations over human beings. The Administrator finds that AVSS's "Means of Compliance with §§ 107.120(a) and 107.130(a) for Small Unmanned Aircraft," revision 6, dated January 7, 2025, provides an acceptable means, but not the only means, of showing compliance with FAA regulations.

DATES: The means of compliance is accepted effective October 3, 2025.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

FAA Contact: Kimberly Luu, Cabin Safety Section, AIR-624, Technical Policy Branch, Policy and Standards Division, Aircraft Certification Service, Federal Aviation Administration, 2200 South 216th Street, Des Moines, Washington 98198; telephone and fax 206-231-3414; email Kimberly.H.Luu@faa.gov.

AVSS Contact: Josh Ogden, CEO, AVSS, 570 Queen Street, Suite 600, Fredericton, New Brunswick, E3B-6Z6, Canada, +1 (650) 741-1326; info@avss.co.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, part 107, subpart D, prescribes the

eligibility and operating requirements for civil sUA to operate over human beings in the United States. To be eligible for use, the sUA must meet the requirements of § 107.120(a) for Category 2 operations or § 107.130(a) for Category 3 operations. These sections require the sUA to be designed, produced, or modified such that it will not cause injury to a human being above a specified severity limit, does not contain any exposed rotating parts that would lacerate human skin, and does not contain any safety defects. Section 107.155 requires that means of compliance with § 107.120(a) or § 107.130(a) be established and FAA-accepted. Section 107.160 requires an applicant to declare that sUA for Category 2 or Category 3 operations meet an FAA-accepted means of compliance.

Means of Compliance Accepted

This notification of availability serves as a formal acceptance by the FAA of the AVSS's "Means of Compliance with §§ 107.120(a) and 107.130(a) for Small Unmanned Aircraft," revision 6, as an acceptable means of compliance, but not the only means of compliance with §§ 107.120(a) and 107.130(a). Applicants may also propose alternative means of compliance for FAA review and possible acceptance.

Revisions

Revisions to AVSS's "Means of Compliance (MOC) with §§ 107.120(a) and 107.130(a) for Small Unmanned Aircraft (sUA)," revision 6, will not be automatically accepted and will require further FAA acceptance for any revisions to be considered an accepted means of compliance.

Issued in Kansas City, Missouri, on September 30, 2025.

Patrick R. Mullen,

Manager, Technical Policy Branch, Policy and Standards Division, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 2025-19435 Filed 10-2-25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary of Transportation

49 CFR Parts 23 and 26

[Docket No. DOT-OST-2025-0897]

RIN 2105-AF33

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise in Airport Concessions Program Implementation Modifications

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary of Transportation (OST), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Interim final rule.

SUMMARY: This interim final rule (IFR) ensures that the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT or Department) operates its Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE) Programs (collectively, Programs) in a nondiscriminatory fashion—in line with law and the U.S. Constitution. The IFR removes race- and sex-based presumptions of social and economic disadvantage that violate the U.S. Constitution.

DATES: This IFR is effective October 3, 2025. Comments must be received on or before November 3, 2025. To the extent practicable, DOT will consider late-filed comments.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by the docket number DOT-OST-2025-0897 by any of the following methods:

- **Federal Rulemaking Portal:** <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

- **Mail:** U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

- **Hand Delivery:** U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Instructions: All submissions must include the agency name, docket name, and docket number DOT-OST-2025-0897 or Regulatory Identifier Number

(RIN) 2105-AF33 for this rulemaking. DOT solicits comments from the public to inform its rulemaking process. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to www.regulations.gov, as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL-14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at www.dot.gov/privacy.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> at any time or to U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Confidential Business Information: Confidential Business Information (CBI) is commercial or financial information that is both customarily and actually treated as private by its owner. Under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA; 5 U.S.C. 552), CBI is exempt from public disclosure. If your comments responsive to this IFR contain commercial or financial information that is customarily treated as private, that you actually treat as private, and that is relevant or responsive to this IFR, it is important that you clearly designate the submitted comments as CBI. Please mark each page of your submission containing CBI as "PROPIN." Submissions containing CBI should be sent to the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section below. Any commentary that OST receives that is not specifically designated as CBI will be placed in the public docket for this rulemaking.

Electronic Access and Filing

A copy of the IFR, all comments received, and all background material may be viewed online at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Electronic retrieval help and guidelines are available on the website. It is available 24 hours each day, 365 days each year. An electronic copy of this document may also be downloaded from the Office of the Federal Register's website at <http://www.ofr.gov> and the Government Publishing Office's website at <http://www.gpo.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peter Constantine, Office of the General Counsel, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590 at (202) 658-9870 or peter.constantine@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Introduction

Spanning nearly 40 years, the Department's DBE and ACDBE programs are small business initiatives intended to level the playing field for businesses seeking to participate in federally assisted contracts and in airport concessions. Rooted in a desire to give small businesses a fair shake in the process, the Programs must balance a desire to help the small business community with an overriding government obligation to serve the public. The government must undertake all these efforts consistent with law—including constitutional nondiscrimination requirements that establish the conditions for national harmony and unity. This IFR advances the administration's goals of nondiscrimination, fairness, and excellence in serving the American public.

Although the Programs aim to assist small businesses owned and controlled by "socially and economically disadvantaged individuals," Congress has mandated by statute that DOT treat certain individuals—women and members of certain racial and ethnic groups—as "presumed" to be disadvantaged.¹ Other individuals do not benefit from that statutory presumption. This means that two similarly situated small business owners may face different standards for entering the program, based solely on their race, ethnicity, or sex.

On September 23, 2024, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky determined that the DBE program's statutory race- and sex-based presumptions likely do not comply with the Constitution's promise of equal protection under the law.² The Court held that the Government may only use a racial classification to "further a compelling government interest" and may only use race in a "narrowly

tailored fashion." It held that although courts have identified a compelling government interest in "remediating specific, identified instance[s] of past discrimination that violated the constitution or a statute," the Government did not present evidence of such discrimination by DOT against each of the groups covered by the DBE program's presumptions. The Court held, moreover, that the presumptions were not narrowly tailored because Congress used an unexplained "scattershot" approach in identifying the covered groups, and because the presumptions had no "logical end point." The Court also held that the sex-based presumptions failed heightened scrutiny. Accordingly, the Court issued a preliminary injunction that prohibits DOT from mandating the use of presumptions with respect to contracts on which the two plaintiff entities bid. DOT has implemented the injunction by requiring funding recipients to remove DBE contract goals from any contracts on which the plaintiffs intend to bid.

On January 20, 2025, the President issued Executive Order 14151, *Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing*, which affirmed that "Americans deserve a government committed to serving every person with equal dignity and respect" and directed agencies to recommend actions to align their programs and activities with this policy. On January 21, 2025, the President issued Executive Order 14173, *Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity*, which ordered agencies to "terminate all discriminatory and illegal preferences, mandates, policies, programs, activities, guidance, regulations, enforcement actions, consent orders, and requirements."

On March 21, 2025, the Attorney General issued a memorandum to all Federal agencies on implementing these Executive Orders.³ The Attorney General noted that "federal policies that give preference to job applicants, employees, or contractors based on race or sex trigger heightened scrutiny under the Constitution's equal protection guarantees and can only survive in rare circumstances." The Attorney General directed all Federal agencies immediately to "[d]iscontinue any policies that establish numerical goals, targets, or quotas based on race or sex," and to "[r]emove any contracting or

¹ Congress has provided that: (1) "women shall be presumed to be socially and economically disadvantaged individuals"; and (2) the term "socially and economically disadvantaged individuals" should otherwise be given the meaning given by section 8(d) of the Small Business Act and its implementing regulations. See Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Public Law 117-58, 11101(e)(2) (B) (2021) (DBE program for highway and transit funding); 49 U.S.C. 47107(e)(1) (ACDBE program); 49 U.S.C. 47113(a)(2) (DBE program for airport funding). Section 8(d) of the Small Business Act and its implementing regulations create a rebuttable presumption that "Black Americans," "Hispanic Americans," "Native Americans," "Asian Pacific Americans," and "Subcontinent Asian Americans" are disadvantaged. See 15 U.S.C. 637(d)(3); 13 CFR 124.103(b)(1).

² *Mid-America Milling Co. v. U.S. Dep't of Transp.*, No. 3:23-cv-00072, 2024 WL 4267183 (Sept. 23, 2024).

³ Memorandum from the Attorney General for All Federal Agencies, *Implementation of Executive Orders 14151 and 14173: Eliminating Unlawful DEI Programs in Federal Operations* (March 21, 2025), available at <https://www.justice.gov/ag/media/1409556/di?inline>.

funding requirement or guidance that induces, requires, or encourages private parties to adopt discriminatory practices.”

On February 19, 2025, the President issued Executive Order 14219, *Ensuring Lawful Governance and Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Deregulatory Initiative*, which directed agencies to identify “unconstitutional regulations and regulations that raise serious constitutional difficulties,” and to target those regulations for repeal. On April 9, 2025, the President issued a memorandum directing that this effort should prioritize regulations that conflict with certain Supreme Court decisions, including *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. Harvard (SFFA)*.⁴

In accordance with the directives of the President and the Attorney General, DOT and the U.S. Department of Justice (“DOJ”) have evaluated the DBE and ACDBE programs. DOT and DOJ, consistent with the ruling of the District Court, have determined that the race- and sex-based presumptions of DOT’s DBE programs are unconstitutional. In *SFFA*, the Supreme Court held that race-based admissions programs at universities violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment—and, by corollary, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. In light of *SFFA*, multiple Federal courts have held unlawful the use of presumptions similar to those used in the DBE and ACDBE programs. In *Ultima Serv. Corp. v. U.S. Dep’t of Ag.*, the Eastern District of Tennessee held that a Small Business Act program violated the equal protection component of the Fifth Amendment’s Due Process Clause to the extent that it used the exact same type of race-based presumptions used by the DBE and ACDBE programs.⁵ And in *Nuziurd v. Minority Business Development Agency*, the Northern District of Texas held that a race-based statutory presumption of disadvantage was unconstitutional and that the U.S. Department of Commerce’s application of this statutory preference violated the equal protection principle of the Fifth Amendment.⁶ As with the presumptions at issue in *Ultima* and *Nuziurd*, there is not a strong basis in evidence that the race- and sex-based presumptions used by the DBE and ACDBE programs are necessary to support a compelling governmental interest, and the presumptions are not narrowly tailored.

The government has no compelling justification for engaging in overt race or sex discrimination in the awarding of contracts in the absence of clear and individualized evidence that the award is needed to redress the economic effects of actual previous discrimination suffered by the awardee. For these reasons, the presumptions must be disregarded, and the Department’s DBE and ACDBE programs must be administered in all other respects in accordance with the law and consistent with the U.S. Constitution.

On May 28, 2025, DOT (represented by DOJ), along with the plaintiffs in the litigation in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky, asked the Court to enter a Consent Order resolving a constitutional challenge to the DBE program.⁷ The motion is currently pending. In the proposed Consent Order, DOT stipulated and agreed that “the DBE program’s use of race- and sex-based presumptions of social and economic disadvantage . . . violates the equal protection component of the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.” The parties asked the Court to declare that “the use of DBE contract goals in a jurisdiction, where any DBE in that jurisdiction was determined to be eligible based on a race- or sex-based presumption, violates the equal protection component of the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment,” and to “hold and declare that [DOT] may not approve any Federal, State, or local DOT-funded projects with DBE contract goals where any DBE in that jurisdiction was determined to be eligible based on a race- or sex-based presumption.”

On June 25, 2025, the Solicitor General wrote to the Speaker of the House, consistent with 28 U.S.C. 530D, to advise the Speaker that DOJ had concluded that the DBE program’s presumptions violate the U.S. Constitution, that DOJ would no longer defend the presumptions in court, and that DOJ had taken that position in ongoing litigation.⁸ The Solicitor General noted that DOJ “had previously defended the DBE program’s race- and sex-based presumptions by pointing to societal discrimination against minority-owned businesses generally.” He stated, however, that “[c]onsistent with *SFFA*’s rejection of a similar justification in the university-admissions context, [DOJ] has determined that an interest in

remediating the effects of societal discrimination does not justify the use of race- and sex-based presumptions in the DBE program.” The Solicitor General also reported that DOJ has determined that “like the admissions programs at issue in *SFFA*, the DBE program relies on arbitrary, overbroad, and underinclusive racial categories and lacks any logical end point.” DOT agrees with and adopts the Solicitor General’s analysis.

In light of DOT and DOJ’s determination that the DBE program’s race- and sex-based presumptions are unconstitutional, DOT is issuing this IFR to remove the presumptions from the DBE program regulations set forth in 49 CFR part 26. Because the ACDBE presumptions are functionally identical and suffer the same constitutional infirmity, this IFR also removes the presumptions from the ACDBE regulations set forth in 49 CFR part 23. To ensure a level playing field between existing participants and new applicants, while also eliminating the effects of the unconstitutional presumptions and reliance in whole or in part on claims of disadvantage based on race or sex, this IFR requires each Unified Certification Program (UCP) to reevaluate any currently certified DBE or ACDBE, to recertify any DBE or ACDBE that meets the new certification standards, and to decertify any DBE or ACDBE that does not meet the new certification standards. The IFR includes certain requirements that apply during the pendency of this reevaluation process.

II. Revisions

Part 26

Subpart A—General

1. Objectives (§ 26.1)

The Department amends § 26.1 to clarify the proper objectives of the DBE program. The Department’s amendments replace references to the DBE program being “narrowly tailored” with an objective intended to ensure that the DBE program operates in a nondiscriminatory manner and without regard to race or sex, while maximizing efficiency of service. These amendments center the DBE program’s purpose of leveling the playing field for businesses owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals while providing excellent service to the American people.

2. Definitions (§ 26.5)

The Department changes the definition of “socially and economically disadvantaged individual” in § 26.5 to

⁴ 600 U.S. 181 (2023).

⁵ *Ultima Servs. Corp. v. U.S. Dep’t of Agric.*, 683 F. Supp. 3d 745 (E.D. Tenn. 2023).

⁶ *Nuziurd v. Minority Bus. Dev. Agency*, 721 F. Supp. 3d 431 (N.D. Tex. 2024).

⁷ Joint Motion for Entry of Consent Order, *Mid-America Milling Co. v. U.S. Dep’t of Transp.*, No. 3:23-cv-00072 (E.D. Ky. May 28, 2025).

⁸ Letter from Solicitor General D. John Sauer to Hon. Mike Johnson (June 25, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/oip/media/1404871/dl?inline>.

remove the race- and sex-based presumptions that DOT and DOJ and have found to violate the Fifth Amendment. Under the revised rule, any individual seeking to demonstrate that he or she is a "socially and economically disadvantaged individual" will be required to make the same individualized showing of disadvantage, regardless of the individual's race or sex.

In furtherance of these legal conclusions, the IFR also replaces the terms "race-neutral" and "race-conscious" in § 26.5 with "DBE-neutral" and "DBE-conscious" and modifies the definitions slightly for the same reasons.

3. Recordkeeping and Reporting (§ 26.11)

Similarly, the IFR eliminates the requirement in § 26.11(c)(2)(iv) for recipients to obtain bidders list information about the majority owner's race and sex for all DBEs and non-DBEs who bid as prime contractors and subcontractors on each of a recipient's federally assisted contracts, and then renumbers the requirements in current §§ 26.11(c)(v) through (c)(vii) as §§ 26.11(c)(iv) through (c)(vi).

The IFR also eliminates the requirement in § 26.11(e)(1) that recipients report and categorize the percentage of in-State and out-of-State DBE certifications by sex and ethnicity. The IFR also eliminates the requirements in §§ 26.11(e)(5) and (6) that recipients report the number of in-State and out-of-State applications for an "individualized" determination of social or economic disadvantage status, and the number of in-State and out-of-State applicants who made an individualized showing of social and economic disadvantaged status. This IFR requires all applicants to demonstrate social and economic disadvantage affirmatively to participate in the DBE program, which renders these reporting requirements unnecessary. The IFR further renumbers the reporting requirements in current §§ 26.11(e)(2) through (e)(4) as §§ 26.11(e)(1) through (e)(3).

Subpart B—Administrative Requirements for DBE Programs for Federally Assisted Contracting

4. Recipient Monitoring Responsibilities (§ 26.37)

For consistency, the IFR replaces the word "race-neutral" with "DBE-neutral" in § 26.37(b).

5. Fostering Small Business Participation (§ 26.39)

For consistency, the IFR replaces the word "race-neutral" with "DBE-neutral" in §§ 26.39(b)(1) and (5).

Subpart C—Goals, Good Faith Efforts, and Counting

6. Setting Goals (§ 26.45)

For consistency, the IFR replaces the phrase "race-neutral DBE program" with "DBE-neutral program" in § 26.45(a)(2).

For consistency, the IFR amends the second sentence of § 26.45(b) to replace the word "discrimination" with "social and economic disadvantage" so it will read as follows: "The goal must reflect your determination of the level of DBE participation you would expect absent the effects of social and economic disadvantage."

For consistency and to ensure recipients establish overall goals that include only DBEs who are ready, willing, and able to compete for and participate in DOT-assisted contracts, the Department amends § 26.45(c)(3) to clarify that any disparity studies utilized by recipients in setting their goals must provide a detailed capacity analysis, including the methodology used. The Department makes the same clarification regarding the use of disparity studies in § 26.45(d)(ii).

For consistency, the IFR amends § 26.45(f)(3) to remove references to race-neutral and race-conscious measures.

The IFR amends § 26.45(g)(1) to remove consultation requirements for minority and women's contractor groups, as well as the language related to posting proposed overall goals in minority-focused media.

The IFR amends § 26.45(h) by removing the existing language, as there will be no opportunity to create group-specific goals now that race and sex have been removed from the regulation. In its place, the IFR adds new language in § 26.45(h) to indicate that a recipient is not required to update its overall goal until its UCP completes the reevaluation process described in § 26.111.

7. Failing To Meet Overall Goals (§ 26.47)

For consistency, the IFR replaces the words "race-conscious" and "race-neutral" with "DBE-conscious" and "DBE-neutral" in § 26.47(c)(4) and § 26.47(d).

The IFR adds § 26.47(e) to provide that until a Unified Certification Program (UCP) completes the reevaluation process described in § 26.111, the compliance provisions of

§ 26.47 will not apply to any recipient covered by that UCP. This requirement ensures fairness to recipients during the transition period.

8. Means Used To Meet Overall Goals (§ 26.51)

For consistency, the IFR replaces the words "race-conscious" and "race-neutral" with "DBE-conscious" and "DBE-neutral" throughout § 26.51 and the corresponding examples.

The IFR adds § 26.51(h) to provide that until a UCP completes the reevaluation process described in § 26.111, a recipient covered by that UCP may not set any contract goals. This provision ensures that existing DBEs do not continue to receive any benefits as a result of their certification under the old standards.

9. Counting DBE Participation Toward Goals (§ 26.55)

The IFR adds § 26.55(i) to provide that until a UCP completes the reevaluation process described in § 26.111, a recipient covered by that UCP may not count any DBE participation toward DBE goals. This provision ensures that existing DBEs do not continue to receive any benefits as a result of their certification under the old standards.

Subpart D—Certification Standards

10. Burden of Proof (§ 26.61)

The IFR eliminates § 26.61(b)(2), which imposed a burden of proof on certifiers with respect to individuals subject to the race- and sex-based presumptions that the IFR eliminates.

11. Social and Economic Disadvantage (§ 26.67)

The IFR revises § 26.67 to implement the removal of unconstitutional race- and sex-based presumptions. The IFR requires all small business concerns to demonstrate social and economic disadvantage based on their own experiences and circumstances without reliance in whole or in part on race or sex.

Subpart F—Compliance and Enforcement

12. Reevaluation Process (§ 26.111)

This IFR adds § 26.111 to require each UCP to reevaluate any currently certified DBE, to recertify any DBE that meets the new certification standards, and to decertify any DBE that does not meet the new certification standards or fails to provide additional information required for submission under the new certification standards. The IFR provides that decertification procedures of 49 CFR 26.87 do not apply to any

decertification decisions under this process. The IFR requires each UCP to complete the reevaluation process as quickly as practicable following issuance of this IFR. The Department will work with each UCP to minimize the practical impact of this rule change during the pendency of the reevaluation process. This reevaluation process will ensure a level playing field between existing participants and new applicants, while also eliminating the effects of the unconstitutional presumptions and reliance on claims of disadvantage based in whole or in part on race or sex. This process does not replace or restrict the Department's ability to conduct a review or take action under Title VI or other applicable law regarding compliance with equal protection principles. A companion provision has been added to part 23 with respect to reevaluation of ACDBEs.

Part 23

Subpart A—General

13. Aligning Part 23 With Part 26 Objectives (§ 23.1)

The IFR amends the program objectives for the ACDBE program in § 23.1 that are similar to the amendments to the DBE program objectives in § 26.1.

14. Definitions (§ 23.3)

The IFR amends the definition of the phrase “socially and economically disadvantaged individual” in § 23.3 to conform to the definition of the phrase in § 26.5. In addition, the IFR replaces the terms “race-conscious” and “race-neutral” with “ACDBE-conscious” and “ACDBE-neutral” in § 23.3.

Subpart B—ACDBE Programs

15. Measures To Ensure Nondiscrimination Participation of ACDBEs (§ 23.25)

For consistency, the IFR replaces the words “race-neutral” and “race-conscious” with “DBE-neutral” and “DBE-conscious” in §§ 23.25(d) and (e).

The IFR adds § 23.25(h) to provide that until a UCP completes the reevaluation process described in § 23.81, a recipient covered by that UCP may not set concession-specific goals or use any of the other methods described in § 23.25(e). This provision ensures that existing ACDBEs do not continue to receive any benefits as a result of their certification under the old standards.

16. Fostering Small Business Participation (§ 23.26)

For consistency, the IFR replaces the words “race-neutral” with “DBE-neutral” in § 23.26(b)(1).

For consistency, the IFR replaces the words “minority and women owned” with “socially and economically disadvantaged” in § 23.26(d)(5).

For consistency, the IFR replaces the word “gender” with “sex” in § 23.26(e).

17. Reporting and Recordkeeping (§ 23.27)

The IFR eliminates the requirement in § 23.27(c)(2)(iv) for recipients to obtain information about the majority owner's race and sex for all ACDBEs and non-ACDBEs who seek to work on each of a recipient's concession opportunities, and then renumbers the requirements in current §§ 23.27(c)(v) through (c)(vii) as §§ 23.27(c)(iv) through (c)(vi). The IFR also eliminates the requirement in § 23.27(d)(1) that recipients report and categorize the percentage of in-State and out-of-State ACDBE certifications by sex and ethnicity. The IFR also eliminates the requirements in §§ 23.27(d)(5) and (6) that recipients report the number of in-State and out-of-State applications for “individualized” determinations of social or economic disadvantage status, and the number of in-State and out-of-State applicants who made an individualized showing of social and economic disadvantaged status. This IFR requires all applicants to demonstrate social and economic disadvantage affirmatively to participate in the ACDBE program, which renders these reporting requirements unnecessary. The IFR further renumbers the reporting requirements in current §§ 23.27(d)(2) through (d)(4) as §§ 23.27(d)(1) through (d)(3).

Subpart D—Goals, Good Faith Efforts, and Counting

18. Goal and Consultation Requirements (§§ 23.41, 23.43)

The IFR amends § 23.41(d) by removing the existing language, as there will be no opportunity to create group-specific goals now that race and sex have been removed from the regulation. In its place, the IFR adds new language to indicate that a recipient is not required to update its overall goal until its UCP completes the reevaluation process described in § 23.81.

The IFR amends § 23.43(b) to remove consultation requirements for minority and women's contractor groups, as well as the language related to posting proposed overall goals in minority-focused media.

19. Setting Goals (§ 23.51)

For consistency, the Department amends § 23.51(a) to replace the words “discrimination and its effects” with “social and economic disadvantage.” For consistency, the IFR replaces the

words “race-neutral” and “race-conscious” with “ACDBE-neutral” and “ACDBE-conscious” in §§ 23.51(f), (g), and (h), and in § 23.51(d)(5).

For consistency and to ensure recipients establish overall goals that include only DBEs who are ready, willing, and able to compete for and participate in DOT-assisted contracts, the Department amends § 23.51(c)(3) to clarify that any disparity studies utilized by recipients in setting their goals must provide a detailed capacity analysis, including the methodology used.

20. Counting ACDBE Participation During Transition Period (§§ 23.53, 23.55)

The IFR adds § 23.53(g) and § 23.55(m) to provide that until a UCP completes the reevaluation process described in § 23.81, recipients covered by that UCP, and car rental companies operating at airports covered by that UCP, may not count any ACDBE participation toward ACDBE goals. These provisions ensure that existing ACDBEs do not continue to receive any benefits as a result of their certification under the old standards.

21. Failing To Meet Overall Goals (§ 23.57)

For consistency, the IFR replaces the words “race-conscious” and “race-neutral” with “DBE-conscious” and “DBE-neutral” in § 23.57(b)(4) and § 23.57(c).

The IFR adds § 23.57(d) to provide that until a UCP completes the reevaluation process described in § 23.81, the compliance provisions of § 23.57 will not apply to any recipient covered by that UCP. This requirement ensures fairness to recipients during the transition period.

22. Reevaluation Process (§ 23.81)

This IFR adds § 23.81 to require each UCP to reevaluate any currently certified ACDBE, to recertify any ACDBE that meets the new certification standards, and to decertify any DBE that does not meet the new certification standards or fails to provide additional information required for submission under the new certification standards. The IFR provides that decertification procedures of 49 CFR 26.87 do not apply to any decertification decisions under this process. The IFR requires each UCP to complete the reevaluation process as quickly as practicable following issuance of this IFR. The Department will work with each UCP to minimize the practical impact of this rule change during the pendency of the reevaluation process. This reevaluation

process will ensure a level playing field between existing participants and new applicants, while also eliminating the effects of the unconstitutional presumptions and reliance on claims of disadvantage based in whole or in part on race or sex. This process does not replace or restrict the Department's ability to conduct a review or take action under Title VI or other applicable law regarding compliance with equal protection principles. A companion provision has been added to part 26 with respect to reevaluation of DBEs.

III. Public Proceedings

The Administrative Procedure Act generally requires agencies to provide the public with notice of proposed rulemaking and an opportunity to comment prior to publication of a substantive rule. However, 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) authorizes agencies to publish a final rule without first seeking public comment on a proposed rule "when the agency for good cause finds (and incorporates the finding and a brief statement of reasons therefor in the rules issued) that notice and public procedure thereon are impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest." DOT finds that providing advance notice and an opportunity to comment on these regulatory changes pertaining to the DBE and ACDBE programs would be impracticable, unnecessary, and contrary to the public interest. Consistent with the letter authored by the Solicitor General and discussed elsewhere in the preamble,⁹ DOT has determined that race- and sex-based presumptions of the DBE and ACDBE programs violate the U.S. Constitution. In the absence of this IFR, however, DOT's own regulations would continue to require funding recipients to apply those very same presumptions. Allowing this confusing and contradictory situation to continue during a notice-and-comment process would be impracticable and contrary to the public interest. Further, notice-and-comment is unnecessary where a regulatory action is required as a matter of law to ensure consistency with rulings of the United States Supreme Court. It is well-established that an agency is not required to continue to enforce a statutory provision that it has found to be unconstitutional.¹⁰ By the

same token, an agency is not required to subject the public to unconstitutional requirements. This IFR provides notice of the amendments to the regulations' provisions and invites the public to comment. DOT has determined, however, that it should not delay the effectiveness of the amendments and that it should act immediately to remedy the unconstitutional programs. For the foregoing reasons, the good cause exception in 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) also applies to DOT's decision to make this IFR effective upon publication.

IV. Regulatory Analyses and Notices

A. Executive Order: 12866 ("Regulatory Planning and Review"), Executive Order 13563 ("Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review"), and DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures

The IFR is a significant regulatory action under Executive Order 12866, "Regulatory Planning and Review," as supplemented by Executive Order 13563, "Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review." Accordingly, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has reviewed it under that Executive Order.

The IFR amends reporting and eligibility requirements for the Department's Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (ACDBE) program and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program. These programs are implemented and overseen by recipients of certain Department funds. The changes to the requirements would affect businesses participating in the programs, recipients of Department funds who oversee the programs, and the Department.

The IFR replaces the race- and sex-based presumptions previously embedded in these programs with a requirement for individualized demonstrations of social and economic disadvantage. The IFR also modifies terminology and data reporting requirements to align with constitutional principles while maintaining the programs' statutory objectives.

Need for Regulatory Revisions

The IFR is being issued pursuant to legal determinations by DOT and DOJ that the race- and sex-based presumptions previously embedded in these programs are unconstitutional. In addition to legal compliance, this action corrects a regulatory failure—namely,

reliance on presumptions that no longer withstand judicial scrutiny—by shifting to individualized determinations. The IFR aligns the programs with constitutional mandates.

Costs and Benefits

Costs

While DOT is unable to quantify all the economic costs and benefits of the IFR, the Department has identified both qualitative and quantitative impacts. Several provisions may lead to increased or decreased burdens for applicants, certifying agencies, and recipients related to transitional documentation requirements, the degree of technical rigor in disparity studies, and changes in program reporting. The magnitude of these costs and benefits would depend on the scope of the change; the likelihood of behavior adjustment; and potential legal, administrative, or programmatic effects.

Unquantified Costs

Key provisions of the IFR and their related cost impacts include:

- *Removal of race- and sex-based presumptions.* This provision eliminates presumptive eligibility based on race or sex and requires applicants to submit individualized evidence of social disadvantage, alongside the remaining required showing of economic disadvantage. Although the underlying economic disadvantage documentation (e.g., Personal Net Worth, income verification) was already a component of many applications, the shift to a required narrative or case-specific justification for all applications, as opposed to just those that did not meet the presumption of eligibility, may introduce additional procedural burdens and time costs on some applicants. This may increase the complexity of preparing applications and even potentially deter participation among some eligible small businesses, especially those with limited administrative capacity or legal support. This may also implicate reliance interests for businesses that were previously certified based on presumptive eligibility. However, many eligible small businesses will continue efforts at applying for certification and assume the additional burden to apply because of the benefits to being certified and the potential opportunity it brings outweighs the added burden of the application process. All eligible businesses may apply for and potentially obtain certification under the new certification process, which mitigates any impact on reliance interests. In addition, businesses'

⁹ Letter from Solicitor General D. John Sauer to Hon. Mike Johnson (June 25, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/oip/media/1404871/d?inline>.

¹⁰ See *In re Aiken County*, 725 F.3d 255, 259 (D.C. Cir. 2013) (Kavanaugh, J.) ("If the President has a constitutional objection to a statutory mandate or prohibition, the President may decline to follow the law unless and until a final Court order dictates otherwise. . . . [This] basic constitutional

principle [i] appl[ies] to the President and subordinate executive agencies."); Office of Legal Counsel Opinion, *Presidential Authority to Decline to Execute Unconstitutional Statutes*, 18 U.S. Op. Off. Legal Counsel 189 (1994).

reliance interests do not justify continuing to implement presumptions that DOT and DOJ have determined are unconstitutional.

• **Certification burden.** As the burden of production and persuasion shifts away from certifying officials to individual applicants, certifying agencies may experience increased numbers of intake inquiries and clarification requests as applicants navigate the new social disadvantage requirements, or face inconsistent application quality, especially during the transition period. This would require certifying agencies to spend time following up with applicants and guiding them through the application as they go through the re-certification process, which implicates certifying agencies' reliance interests. In the short-term, the increase in workload and support services on certifying agencies may temporarily elevate the demands on the recipients' staff demands or delay determinations, which could at least partially offset any cost savings from shifting this burden to applicants. However, in the long run, it is expected that after the initial review of each applicant, subsequent reviews of applicants will require minimal agency time and will not implicate agencies' reliance interests.

• **Reevaluation of all affected DBEs/ACDBEs.** DBE/ACDBE participants who have previously qualified based in whole or in part on their race or sex will incur additional costs to develop and provide the individualized narrative required by the IFR. In addition, all firms will temporarily lose certifications until the reevaluation process is complete, and some firms may lose the certifications that currently lead to opportunities for them to participate, potentially leading to a loss of business opportunities and implicating firms' reliance interests (though this would be offset by other firms who face increased access to the same opportunities). Additional administrative burdens will also fall on certifiers (UCPs) performing the reevaluations. This could also lead to delays in goal setting and program participation, resulting from the temporary pause in counting DBE participation while the reevaluation process is underway.

• **Clarified disparity study expectations.** The rule requires that disparity studies include detailed capacity analyses, which may necessitate additional economic modeling, data collection, and expert analysis beyond what is standard practice in many jurisdictions. These requirements could increase costs,

particularly for large or multi-jurisdictional studies. While such studies are episodic rather than annual, the enhanced methodology could impose non-trivial compliance costs when undertaken.

• **Elimination of race/sex reporting in bidder lists.** The removal of demographic fields from bidder list reporting will reduce the administrative burden of data entry for participants and recipients, though the cost impact would likely be negligible.

• **Terminology changes and redefinitions.** These changes update program language to reflect constitutional terminology but do not alter administrative procedures or eligibility. The impact is purely semantic and is not expected to have any material cost impacts.

Quantified Costs: Information Collection Burden (Paperwork Reduction Act)

In addition to the above qualitative costs, the Department has quantified a portion of the expected compliance burdens as part of its Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) package of the rule. These burdens represent the time and resources required to prepare, submit, and review program-related information.

Requirement	Estimated cost burden	Timing
Certification narratives (firms)	\$91.9 million	One-time.
UCP reevaluations	\$3.4 million	One-time.
Interstate certification	\$0.46 million	One-time.
Bidders' list reporting	\$1.24 million	Annual.
ACDBE annual report	\$0.58 million	Annual.
Goal setting (disparity studies)	\$0.46 million (annual cost)	Every three years.

These figures reflect fully loaded labor costs consistent with the Bureau of Labor Statistics data and DOT's standard methodology. One-time burdens primarily reflect transaction costs related to individualized certification requirements, while recurring burdens are associated with ongoing reporting and program administration. Overall, the IFR's primary quantified costs are transitional and one-time, totaling approximately \$95 million, with recurring annualized burdens of about \$1.8 million.

Benefits

With respect to benefits, the IFR will enhance constitutional compliance and reduce risks associated with constitutional litigation. It may also improve public trust by reinforcing fairness in eligibility determinations, which, although not easily quantifiable,

represent important benefits from improved program integrity.

B. Executive Order 14192 ("Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation")

This interim final rule is considered an E.O. 14219 deregulatory action because the unquantified cost-savings associated with constitutional compliance outweigh the quantified costs.

C. Executive Order 13132 ("Federalism")

This IFR has been analyzed in accordance with the principles and criteria contained in Executive Order 13132 ("Federalism"), and the rule satisfies the requirements of the Executive Order. While the rule may include provisions that impose substantial direct compliance costs on State and local governments, the Department has determined that

consultation with State and local governments prior to promulgation of the rule is not practicable given the urgent need to cure constitutional infirmities with the existing DBE and ACDBE regulations. These changes are required not by statute, but to ensure that the DBE and ACDBE programs do not violate the U.S. Constitution. We seek comment from State and local governments on these burdens during the comment period for this IFR.

D. Executive Order 13175 ("Consultation and Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments")

This rulemaking has been analyzed in accordance with the principles and criteria contained in Executive Order 13175 ("Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments"). Because this rulemaking does not significantly or uniquely affect the communities of the Indian Tribal

governments or impose substantial direct compliance costs on them, the funding and consultation requirements of Executive Order 13175 do not apply.

E. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-4) requires agencies to prepare a written assessment of the costs, benefits, and other effects of proposed or final rules that include a Federal mandate likely to result in expenditures by State, local, or tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, of more than \$100 million annually (adjusted annually for inflation with the base year of 1995). This rulemaking would not result in annual State expenditures exceeding the minimum threshold. The Department has determined that the requirements of the Title II of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 therefore do not apply to this rulemaking.

F. National Environmental Policy Act

The Department has analyzed the environmental impacts of this action pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and has determined that it is categorically excluded pursuant to DOT Order 5610.1D, available at <https://www.transportation.gov/mission/dots-procedures-considering-environmental-impacts>. Categorical exclusions are actions identified in an agency's NEPA implementing procedures that do not normally have a significant impact on the environment and therefore do not require either an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS). The purpose of this rulemaking is to amend the Department's DBE and ACDBE regulations. Section 9(f) of DOT Order 5610.1D states that a DOT Operating Administration can use the categorical exclusions developed by another Operating Administration. This action is covered by the categorical exclusion listed in the Federal Transit Administration's implementing procedures, "[p]lanning and administrative activities that do not involve or lead directly to construction, such as: . . . promulgation of rules, regulations, directives . . ." 23 CFR 771.118(c)(4). In analyzing the applicability of a categorical exclusion, the agency must also consider whether extraordinary circumstances are present that would warrant the preparation of an EA or EIS. The Department does not anticipate any environmental impacts, and there are no extraordinary circumstances present in connection with this rulemaking.

G. Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) of 1980 (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) requires agencies to evaluate the potential effects of their proposed and final rules on small businesses, small organizations, and small governmental jurisdictions. Whenever an agency is required by 5 U.S.C. 553, or any other law, to publish general notice of proposed rulemaking for any proposed rule, the agency must conduct and publish for public comment a regulatory flexibility analysis. Because the Department is not required to publish a proposed rulemaking for this action, an analysis under the RFA is not required.

H. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13, 49 U.S.C. 3501, 3507) requires Federal agencies to obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) before undertaking a new collection of information imposed on ten or more persons, or continuing a collection previously approved by OMB that is set to expire.

This IFR modifies existing collection instruments in both parts 23 and 26. The following is a description of the sections that contain new and modified information collection requirements, along with the estimated hours and cost to fulfill them.

For purposes of estimating the cost burden on recipients, the State government wage rate was taken from the Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS) estimate of median wages for employees in the category of "Eligibility Interviewer in Government Programs" (OEWS Designation 43-4061). For the purpose of calculating loaded wage rates, these burden estimates assume wages represent 61.9 percent of total compensation, which is consistent with similar loaded wage rate estimates identified by BLS and used by DOT for related purposes. Because wages represent 61.9 percent of total compensation, the appropriate cost multiplier is 1.62 (1/0.619). Accordingly, the wage rate (\$25.95) is multiplied by 1.62 to get a fully loaded hourly wage rate of \$42.04 to account for the cost of employer-provided benefits.

For purposes of estimating the cost burden on applicant and certified DBE/ACDBE firms, the wage rate was taken from the BLS estimate of median wages for individuals in the category of "Cross-industry, Private Ownership Only" (OEWS Designation 00-0001). Using the same loaded wage rate identified above, the wage rate for DBE/

ACDBE applicant firms (\$69.20) is multiplied by 1.62 to get a fully loaded hourly wage rate of \$112.10 to account for the cost of employer-provided benefits. The Department emphasizes that many of these hour and cost burdens are one-time burdens as a result of the change in the DBE certification eligibility requirements. After the initial transition to the new requirements, increases in annual burdens will be modest. For DOT recipients, reporting burdens are expected to decrease as a result of reduced DBE/ACDBE reporting requirements.

i. Reapplication Review for DBE/ACDBE Certification Based on Individualized Showing of Social Disadvantage

To satisfy the social and economic disadvantage (SED) requirement and ensure all determinations of disadvantage are not based in whole or in part on race or sex, an owner must provide the certifier a Personal Narrative (PN) that establishes the existence of disadvantage by a preponderance of the evidence based on individualized proof regarding specific instances of economic hardship, systemic barriers, and denied opportunities that impeded the owner's progress or success in education, employment, or business, including obtaining financing on terms available to similarly situated persons who did not face barriers in obtaining terms.

The PN must state how and to what extent the impediments caused the owner economic harm, including a full description of type and magnitude, and must establish the owner is economically disadvantaged in fact relative to similarly situated non-disadvantaged individuals.

The owner must attach to the PN a current personal net worth (PNW) statement and any other financial information the owner considers relevant. The total annual burden hours below were calculated based on the average of three stakeholder responses ranging from 240-2,000 hours. The total annual cost burden was calculated based on one stakeholder response of \$80,000.

In preparing this estimate, DOT estimated a 10 percent decrease in the number of currently certified firms who will submit documentation to maintain their DBE/ACDBE decertification status. DOT also assumed a 50 percent reduction in the total burden hours compared to the pre-existing estimated burden for completing the full Uniform Certification Application (UCA), as firms will be able to use many of their other existing certification documents for resubmission.

Respondents: Firms seeking to maintain their DBE/ACDBE certification.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 41,000.

Frequency: One time per respondent.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 820,000 (one-time burden).

Total Annual Cost Burden: \$91,922,000 (one-time burden).

ii. Unified Certification Program (UCP) Reevaluation of Applications for DBE/ACDBE Certification Based on Individualized Showing of Social Disadvantage

UCPs will need to reevaluate DBE/ACDBE applicant firms based on updated submission of application materials, including the PN and PNW statement. This estimate assumes an average burden of two hours to complete a review and make a disposition for each DBE/ACDBE certification application, including notifications to other jurisdictions.

Respondents: UCPs.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 53.

Frequency: One-time reevaluation of 41,000 applicant firms.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 82,000 (one-time burden).

Total Annual Cost Burden: \$3,447,280 (one-time cost).

iii. Maintaining and Updating Bidders' Lists

We estimate that recipients will experience a reduced burden to implement 49 CFR 26.11 as a result of eliminating the race- and sex-based reporting requirements for bidders' lists, in addition to eliminating the requirement to report data related to applications for and determinations of individualized social and economic disadvantage.

Respondents: FAA, FHWA, and FTA funding recipients.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,639.

Frequency: 3 times per year.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 29,502.

Total Annual Cost Burden: \$1,240,264.

iv. ACDBE Annual Report of Percentages of ACDBEs in Various Categories

We estimate that FAA airport recipients will experience a reduced burden to implement 49 CFR 26.11 as a result of eliminating the race- and sex-based reporting requirements for bidders' lists, in addition to eliminating the requirement to report data related to applications for and determinations of individualized social and economic disadvantage.

Respondents: State Departments of Transportation, District of Columbia, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 53.

Frequency: Once per year.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 13,780.

Total Annual Cost Burden: \$579,311.

v. Setting Overall Goals for DBE Participation in DOT-Assisted Contracts

The Department estimates a modest increase in burden for setting overall DBE goals as a result of the transition to the new DBE certification requirements and enhanced expectations related to disparity studies used in setting overall goals. These changes may result in increases in the amount of time for recipients to set goals based on the relative availability of certified DBEs.

Respondents: DOT funding recipients.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,639.

Frequency: Once every three years.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 10,927.

Total Annual Cost Burden: \$459,371.

vi. Providing Evidence of Certification to an Additional State When a Firm Certified in Its Home State Applies to Another State for Certification (Interstate Certification)

The Department estimates a one-time increase in the burden for firms to provide evidence of certification to an additional State when a firm certified in its home State applies to another State for certification.

Respondents: DBE/ACDBE firms applying for interstate certification.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 4,100.

Frequency: Once.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 4,100.

Total Annual Cost Burden: \$459,610 (one-time cost).

As noted in the Costs and Benefits section of this analysis, these burden hour and cost estimates have been incorporated into the Department's overall assessment of regulatory costs.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to a collection of information unless that collection displays a valid OMB control number.

I. Congressional Review Act

The Congressional Review Act, 5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*, generally provides that before a rule may take effect, the agency promulgating the rule must submit a rule report, which includes a copy of the rule, to each House of the Congress and to the Comptroller General of the United States. DOT will submit a report containing this rule and other required information to the U.S. Senate,

the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Comptroller General of the United States. This rule does not constitute a major rule as defined in 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

List of Subjects in 49 CFR Parts 23 and 26

Administrative practice and procedure, Airports, Civil rights, Government contracts, Grant programs—transportation, Mass transportation, Minority businesses, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Sean P. Duffy,

Secretary of Transportation.

For the reasons stated in the preamble, the Department of Transportation amends 49 CFR parts 23 and 26 as follows:

PART 23—PARTICIPATION OF DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE IN AIRPORT CONCESSIONS

■ 1. The authority for part 23 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 47107 and 47113; 42 U.S.C. 2000d; 49 U.S.C. 322; E.O. 12138, 44 FR 29637, 3 CFR, 1979 Comp., p. 393.

■ 2. Amend § 23.1 by revising paragraph (c) to read as follows:

§ 23.1 What are the objectives of this part?

* * * * *

(c) To ensure that the Department's ACDBE program operates in a nondiscriminatory manner and without regard to race or sex, while maximizing efficiency of service;

* * * * *

■ 3. Amend § 23.3 as follows:

■ a. Add definitions for ACDBE-conscious and ACDBE-neutral in alphabetical order;

■ b. Remove the definitions of Race-conscious and Race-neutral; and

■ c. Revise the definition of Socially and economically disadvantaged individual.

The additions and revisions read as follows:

§ 23.3 What do the terms used in this part mean?

ACDBE-conscious measure or program is one that is focused specifically on assisting only ACDBEs.

ACDBE-neutral measure or program is one that is, or can be, used to assist all small business concerns.

* * * * *

Socially and economically disadvantaged individual means any individual who is a citizen (or lawfully admitted permanent resident) of the United States and who a certifier finds to be socially and economically

disadvantaged on a case-by-case basis. A determination that an individual is socially and economically disadvantaged must not be based in whole or in part on race or sex. For that reason, applicants may qualify as socially and economically disadvantaged only if they can meet the relevant criteria described in § 26.67.

■ 4. Amend § 23.25 as follows:

- a. Revise the introductory text of paragraphs (d) and (e); and
- b. Add paragraph (h).

The revisions read as follows:

§ 23.25 What measures must recipients include in their ACDBE programs to ensure nondiscriminatory participation of ACDBEs in concessions?

(d) Your ACDBE program must include ACDBE-neutral measures that you will take. You must maximize the use of ACDBE-neutral measures, obtaining as much as possible of the ACDBE participation needed to meet overall goals through such measures. These are responsibilities that you directly undertake as a recipient, in addition to the efforts that concessionaires make, to obtain ACDBE participation. The following are examples of ACDBE-neutral measures you can implement:

(e) Your ACDBE program must also provide for the use of ACDBE-conscious measures when ACDBE-neutral measures, standing alone, are not projected to be sufficient to meet an overall goal. The following are examples of ACDBE-conscious measures you can implement:

(h) Effective October 3, 2025, you may not use any of the measures described in paragraph (e) of this section until the UCP that covers you has completed the reevaluation process described in § 23.81.

- 5. Amend § 23.26 by revising paragraphs (b) introductory text, (b)(1), (d)(5), and (e) to read as follows:

§ 23.26 Fostering small business participation.

(b) This element must be submitted to the FAA for approval as a part of your ACDBE program. As part of this program element, you may include, but are not limited to including, the following strategies:

(1) Establish an ACDBE-neutral small business set-aside for certain concession opportunities. Such a strategy would include the rationale for selecting small

business set-aside concession opportunities that may include consideration of size and availability of small businesses to operate the concession.

(5) You will take aggressive steps to encourage those socially and economically disadvantaged firms eligible for ACDBE certification to become certified; and

(c) A State, local, or other program, in which eligibility requires satisfaction of race, sex, or other criteria in addition to business size, may not be used to comply with the requirements of this part.

§ 23.27 [Amended]

- 6. Amend § 23.27 as follows:

- a. Remove paragraph (c)(2)(iv);
- b. Redesignate paragraphs (c)(2)(v), (c)(2)(vi), and (c)(2)(vii) as paragraphs (c)(2)(iv), (c)(2)(v), and (c)(2)(vi), respectively;
- c. Remove paragraph (d)(1);
- d. Redesignate subparagraphs (d)(2), (d)(3), and (d)(4) as paragraphs (d)(1), (d)(2), and (d)(3), respectively; and
- e. Remove paragraphs (d)(5) and (d)(6).

- 7. Amend § 23.41 by revising paragraph (d) to read as follows:

§ 23.41 What is the basic overall goal requirement for recipients?

(d) Effective October 3, 2025, you are not required to update your overall goals until the UCP that covers you has completed the reevaluation process described in § 23.81.

- 8. Amend § 23.43 by revising paragraph (b) to read as follows:

§ 23.43 What are the consultation requirements in the development of recipients' overall goals?

(b) Stakeholders with whom you must consult include, but are not limited to, business groups, community organizations, trade associations representing concessionaires currently located at the airport, as well as existing concessionaires themselves, and other officials or organizations that could be expected to have information concerning the availability of disadvantaged businesses and the recipient's efforts to increase participation of ACDBEs.

- 9. Amend § 23.45 by revising paragraphs (f), (g), and (h) to read as follows:

§ 23.45 What are the requirements for submitting overall goal information to the FAA?

(f) Your submission must include your projection of the portions of your overall goals you propose to meet through use of ACDBE-neutral and ACDBE-conscious means, respectively, and the basis for making this projection (see § 23.51(d)(5)).

(g) FAA may approve or disapprove the way you calculated your goal, including your ACDBE-neutral/ACDBE-conscious "split," as part of its review of your plan or goal submission. Except as provided in paragraph (h) of this section, the FAA does not approve or disapprove the goal itself (i.e., the number).

(h) If the FAA determines that your goals have not been correctly calculated or the justification is inadequate, the FAA may, after consulting with you, adjust your overall goal or ACDBE-neutral/ACDBE-conscious "split." The adjusted goal represents the FAA's determination of an appropriate overall goal for ACDBE participation in the recipient's concession program, based on relevant data and analysis. The adjusted goal is binding.

- 10. Amend § 23.51 as follows:

- a. Revise the introductory text of paragraph (a);
- b. Revise paragraph (a)(2);
- c. Revise paragraph (c)(3); and
- d. Revise paragraph (d)(5).

The revisions read as follows:

§ 23.51 How are a recipient's overall goals expressed and calculated?

(a) Your objective in setting a goal is to estimate the percentage of the base calculated under §§ 23.47 through 23.49 that would be performed by ACDBEs in the absence of social and economic disadvantage and its effects.

(2) In conducting this goal setting process, you are determining the extent, if any, to which the firms in your market area have been impacted by social and economic disadvantage in connection with concession opportunities or related business opportunities.

(3) Use data from a disparity study.

Use a percentage figure derived from data in a valid, applicable disparity study. Any disparity study utilized must

provide a detailed capacity analysis, including the methodology used.

* * *

(d) * * *

(5) Among the information you submit with your overall goal (see § 23.45(e)), you must include description of the methodology you used to establish the goal, including your base figure and the evidence with which it was calculated, as well as the adjustments you made to the base figure and the evidence relied on for the adjustments. You should also include a summary listing of the relevant available evidence in your jurisdiction and an explanation of how you used that evidence to adjust your base figure. You must also include your projection of the portions of the overall goal you expect to meet through ACDBE-neutral and ACDBE-conscious measures, respectively (see §§ 26.51(c) of this chapter).

* * *

■ 11. Amend § 23.53 by adding paragraph (g) to read as follows:

§ 23.53 How do car rental companies count ACDBE participation toward their goals?

* * *

(g) Effective October 3, 2025, you as a car rental company may not count any ACDBE participation toward the goal that an airport has set for you until the UCP covering that airport has completed the reevaluation process described in part 26, § 23.81

■ 12. Amend § 23.55 by adding paragraph (m) to read as follows:

§ 23.55 How do recipients count ACDBE participation toward goals for items other than car rentals?

* * *

(m) Effective October 3, 2025, you may not count any ACDBE participation toward ACDBE goals until the UCP covering you has completed the reevaluation process described in § 23.81.

■ 13. Amend § 23.57 as follows:

■ a. Revise paragraphs (b)(4) and (c); and

■ b. Add paragraph (d).

The revision and addition read as follows:

§ 23.57 What happens if a recipient falls short of meeting its overall goals?

* * *

(b) * * *

(4) The FAA may impose conditions on the recipient as part of its approval of the recipient's analysis and corrective actions including, but not limited to, modifications to your overall goal methodology, changes in your ACDBE-

neutral/ACDBE-conscious split, or the introduction of additional ACDBE-neutral or ACDBE-conscious measures.

* * *

(c) If information coming to the attention of FAA demonstrates that current trends make it unlikely that you, as an airport, will achieve ACDBE awards and commitments that would be necessary to allow you to meet your overall goal at the end of the fiscal year, FAA may require you to make further good faith efforts, such as modifying your ACDBE-conscious/ACDBE-neutral split or introducing additional ACDBE-neutral or ACDBE-conscious measures for the remainder of the fiscal year.

(d) Effective October 3, 2025, you are not subject to this section until the UCP that covers you has completed the reevaluation process described in § 23.81.

■ 14. Add § 23.81 to subpart E to read as follows:

§ 23.81 ACDBE reevaluation process.

(a) Effective October 3, 2025, each UCP must:

(1) Identify each currently certified ACDBE;

(2) Provide each firm identified pursuant to paragraph (a)(1) of this section with the opportunity to submit documentation demonstrating its ACDBE eligibility under the standards set forth in this part;

(3) Determine whether each firm identified pursuant to paragraph (a)(1) of this section meets the ACDBE eligibility standards set forth in this part; and

(4) Issue a written decision to each firm reevaluated pursuant to subparagraph (a)(3), indicating that it has either been recertified or is decertified.

(b) The provisions of § 26.87 of this chapter shall not apply to any action taken pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) Each UCP must reevaluate each firm identified pursuant to paragraph (a)(1) of this section as quickly as practicable and must promptly notify the Department when it has done so. The Department reserves the right to review a UCP's reevaluation process.

PART 26—PARTICIPATION BY DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES IN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

■ 15. The authority for part 26 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 23 U.S.C. 304 and 324; 42 U.S.C. 2000d, *et seq.*; 49 U.S.C. 47113, 47123; Sec. 1101(b), Pub. L. 114–94, 129 Stat. 1312,

1324 (23 U.S.C. 101 note); Sec. 150, Pub. L. 115–254, 132 Stat. 3215 (23 U.S.C. 101 note); Pub. L. 117–58, 135 Stat. 429 (23 U.S.C. 101 note).

■ 16. Amend § 26.1 by revising paragraph (c) to read as follows:

§ 26.1 What are the objectives of this part?

* * *

(c) To ensure that the Department's DBE program operates in a nondiscriminatory manner and without regard to race or sex, while maximizing efficiency of service;

* * *

■ 17. Amend § 26.5 as follows:

■ a. Add definitions for DBE-conscious

and DBE-neutral in alphabetical order;

■ b. Remove the definitions of Race-

conscious and Race-neutral; and

■ c. Revise the definition of Socially and economically disadvantaged individual.

The addition and revision read as follows:

§ 26.5 Definitions.

* * *

DBE-conscious measure or program is one that is focused specifically on assisting only DBEs.

DBE-neutral measure or program is one that is, or can be, used to assist all small businesses.

* * *

Socially and economically disadvantaged individual means any individual who is a citizen (or lawfully admitted permanent resident) of the United States and who a certifier finds to be socially and economically disadvantaged on a case-by-case basis. A determination that an individual is socially and economically disadvantaged must not be based in whole or in part on race or sex. For that reason, all applicants shall qualify as socially and economically disadvantaged if they can meet the relevant criteria described in § 26.67. Being born in a particular country does not, standing alone, mean that a person is necessarily socially and economically disadvantaged.

* * *

§ 26.11 [Amended]

■ 18. Amend § 26.11 as follows:

■ a. Remove paragraph (c)(2)(iv);

■ b. Redesignate paragraphs (c)(2)(v), (c)(2)(vi), and (c)(2)(vii) as subparagraphs (c)(2)(iv), (c)(2)(v), and (c)(2)(vi), respectively;

■ c. Remove paragraph (e)(1);

■ d. Redesignate paragraphs (e)(2), (e)(3), and (e)(4) as paragraphs (e)(1), (e)(2), and (e)(3), respectively; and

■ e. Remove paragraphs (e)(5) and (e)(6).

■ 19. Amend § 26.37 by revising paragraph (b) to read as follows:

§ 26.37 What are a recipient's responsibilities for monitoring?

(b) A recipient's DBE program must also include a monitoring and enforcement mechanism to ensure that work committed, or in the case of DBE-neutral participation, the work subcontracted, to all DBEs at contract award or subsequently is performed by the DBEs to which the work was committed or subcontracted to, and such work is counted according to the requirements of § 26.55. This mechanism must include a written verification that you have reviewed contracting records and monitored the work site to ensure the counting of each DBE's participation is consistent with its function on the contract. The monitoring to which this paragraph (b) refers may be conducted in conjunction with monitoring of contract performance for other purposes such as a commercially useful function review.

■ 20. Amend § 26.39 by revising paragraphs (b)(1) and (b)(5) to read as follows:

§ 26.39 Fostering small business participation.

(1) Establishing a DBE-neutral small business set-aside for prime contracts under a stated amount (e.g., \$1 million).

(5) To meet the portion of your overall goal you project to meet through DBE-neutral measures, ensuring that a reasonable number of prime contracts are of a size that small businesses, including DBEs, can reasonably perform.

■ 21. Amend § 26.45 as follows:

- a. Revise paragraph (a)(2);
- b. Revise paragraph (b);
- c. Revise paragraph (c)(3);
- d. Revise paragraph (d)(1)(ii);
- e. Revise paragraph (d)(3);
- f. Revise paragraph (f)(3);
- g. Revise paragraph (g)(1); and
- h. Revise paragraph (h);

The revisions read as follows:

§ 26.45 How do recipients set overall goals?

(2) If you are an FTA Tier II recipient who intends to operate a DBE-neutral program, or if you are an FAA recipient who reasonably anticipates awarding \$250,000 or less in FAA prime contract funds in a Federal fiscal year, you are not required to develop overall goals for FTA or FAA, respectively, for that Federal fiscal year.

(b) Your overall goal must be based on demonstrable evidence of the availability of ready, willing, and able DBEs relative to all businesses ready, willing, and able to participate on your DOT-assisted contracts (hereafter, the "relative availability of DBEs"). The goal must reflect your determination of the level of DBE participation you would expect absent the effects of social and economic disadvantage. You cannot simply rely on either the 10 percent national goal, your previous overall goal, or past DBE participation rates in your program without reference to the relative availability of DBEs in your market.

(3) Use data from a disparity study. Use a percentage figure derived from data in a valid, applicable disparity study. Any disparity study utilized must provide a detailed capacity analysis, including the methodology used.

(ii) Evidence from disparity studies conducted anywhere within your jurisdiction, to the extent it is not already accounted for in your base figure. To the extent that the disparity study provides a detailed capacity analysis, include the methodology used;

(3) If you attempt to make an adjustment to your base figure to account for the effects of an ongoing DBE program, the adjustment must be based on demonstrable evidence that is logically and directly related to the effect for which the adjustment is sought.

(3) You must include with your overall goal submission a description of the methodology you used to establish the goal, including your base figure and the evidence with which it was calculated, and the adjustments you made to the base figure and the evidence you relied on for the adjustments. You should also include a summary listing of the relevant available evidence in your jurisdiction and, where applicable, an explanation of why you did not use that evidence to adjust your base figure. You must also include your projection of the portions of the overall goal you expect to meet through DBE-neutral and DBE-conscious measures, respectively (see § 26.51(c)).

(g)(1) In establishing an overall goal, you must provide for consultation and publication. This includes:

(i) Consultation with general contractor groups, community organizations, and other officials or organizations that could be expected to have information concerning the availability of disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged businesses and your efforts to establish a level playing field for the participation of DBEs. The consultation must include a scheduled, direct, interactive exchange (e.g., a face-to-face meeting, video conference, teleconference) with as many interested stakeholders as possible focused on obtaining information relevant to the goal setting process, and it must occur before you are required to submit your methodology to the operating administration for review pursuant to paragraph (f) of this section. You must document in your goal submission the consultation process you engaged in. Notwithstanding paragraph (f)(4) of this section, you may not implement your proposed goal until you have complied with this requirement.

(ii) A published notice announcing your proposed overall goal before submission to the operating administration on August 1st. The notice must be posted on your official internet website and may be posted in any other sources (e.g., trade association publications). If the proposed goal changes following review by the operating administration, the revised goal must be posted on your official internet website.

(h) Effective October 3, 2025 you are not required to update your overall goals until the UCP that covers you has completed the reevaluation process described in § 26.111.

■ 22. Amend § 26.47 as follows:

- a. Revise paragraph (c)(4);
- b. Revise paragraph (d); and
- c. Add paragraph (e).

§ 26.47 Can recipients be penalized for failing to meet overall goals?

(4) FHWA, FTA, or FAA may impose conditions on the recipient as part of its approval of the recipient's analysis and corrective actions including, but not limited to, modifications to your overall goal methodology, changes in your DBE-conscious/DBE-neutral split, or the introduction of additional DBE-neutral or DBE-conscious measures.

(d) If, as recipient, your Uniform Report of DBE Awards or Commitments and Payments or other information coming to the attention of FTA, FHWA, or FAA, demonstrates that current

trends make it unlikely that you will achieve DBE awards and commitments that would be necessary to allow you to meet your overall goal at the end of the fiscal year, FHWA, FTA, or FAA, as applicable, may require you to make further good faith efforts, such as by modifying your DBE-conscious/DBE-neutral or introducing additional DBE-neutral or DBE-conscious measures for the remainder of the fiscal year.

(e) Effective October 3, 2025, you are not subject to this section until the UCP that covers you has completed the reevaluation process described in § 26.111.

■ 23. Amend § 26.51 as follows:

- a. Revise paragraph (a);
- b. Revise the introductory text to paragraph (b);
- c. Revise paragraph (c);
- d. Revise paragraph (d);
- e. Revise paragraph (e)(2);
- f. Revise paragraph (f);
- g. Revise paragraph (g); and
- h. Add paragraph (h).

The revisions read as follows:

§ 26.51 What means do recipients use to meet overall goals?

(a) You must meet the maximum feasible portion of your overall goal by using DBE-neutral means of facilitating DBE-neutral participation. DBE-neutral participation includes any time a DBE wins a prime contract through customary competitive procurement procedures or is awarded a subcontract on a prime contract that does not carry a DBE contract goal.

(b) DBE-neutral means include, but are not limited to, the following:

* * * * *

(c) Each time you submit your overall goal for review by the concerned operating administration, you must also submit your projection of the portion of the goal that you expect to meet through DBE-neutral means and your basis for that projection. This projection is subject to approval by the concerned operating administration, in conjunction with its review of your overall goal.

(d) You must establish contract goals to meet any portion of your overall goal you do not project being able to meet using DBE-neutral means.

* * * * *

(e) * * *

(2) You are not required to set a contract goal on every DOT-assisted contract. You are not required to set each contract goal at the same percentage level as the overall goal. The goal for a specific contract may be higher or lower than that percentage level of the overall goal, depending on such factors as the type of work

involved, the location of the work, and the availability of DBEs for the work of the particular contract. However, over the period covered by your overall goal, you must set contract goals so that they will cumulatively result in meeting any portion of your overall goal you do not project being able to meet through the use of DBE-neutral means.

* * * * *

(f) To ensure that your DBE program continues to be narrowly tailored to overcome the effects of social and economic disadvantage, you must adjust your use of contract goals as follows:

(1) If your approved projection under paragraph (c) of this section estimates that you can meet your entire overall goal for a given year through DBE-neutral means, you must implement your program without setting contract goals during that year, unless it becomes necessary in order to meet your overall goal.

Example 1 to paragraph (f)(1): Your overall goal for Year I is 12 percent. You estimate that you can obtain 12 percent or more DBE participation through DBE-neutral measures, without any use of contract goals. In this case, you do not set any contract goals for the contracts that will be performed in Year I. However, if part way through Year I, your DBE awards or commitments are not at a level that would permit you to achieve your overall goal for Year I, you could begin setting DBE-conscious contract goals during the remainder of the year as part of your obligation to implement your program in good faith.

(2) If, during any year in which you are using contract goals, you determine that you will exceed your overall goal, you must reduce or eliminate the use of contract goals to the extent necessary to ensure that the use of contract goals does not result in exceeding the overall goal. If you determine that you will fall short of your overall goal, then you must make appropriate modifications in your use of DBE-neutral or DBE-conscious measures to allow you to meet the overall goal.

Example 2 to paragraph (f)(2): In Year II, your overall goal is 12 percent. You have estimated that you can obtain 5 percent DBE participation through use of DBE-neutral measures. You therefore plan to obtain the remaining 7 percent participation through use of DBE goals. By September, you have already obtained 11 percent DBE participation for the year. For contracts let during the remainder of the year, you use contract goals only to the extent necessary to obtain an additional one percent DBE participation. However, if you determine in September that your

participation for the year is likely to be only 8 percent total, then you would increase your use of DBE-neutral or DBE-conscious means during the remainder of the year in order to achieve your overall goal.

(3) If the DBE participation you have obtained by DBE-neutral means alone meets or exceeds your overall goals for two consecutive years, you are not required to make a projection of the amount of your goal you can meet using such means in the next year. You do not set contract goals on any contracts in the next year. You continue using only DBE-neutral means to meet your overall goals unless and until you do not meet your overall goal for a year.

Example 3 to paragraph (f)(3): Your overall goal for Years I and Year II is 10 percent. The DBE participation you obtain through DBE-neutral measures alone is 10 percent or more in each year. (For this purpose, it does not matter whether you obtained additional DBE participation through using contract goals in these years.) In Year III and following years, you do not need to make a projection under paragraph (c) of this section of the portion of your overall goal you expect to meet using DBE-neutral means. You simply use DBE-neutral means to achieve your overall goals. However, if in Year VI your DBE participation falls short of your overall goal, then you must make a paragraph (c) of this section projection for Year VII and, if necessary, resume use of contract goals in that year.

(4) If you obtain DBE participation that exceeds your overall goal in two consecutive years using contract goals (i.e., not through DBE-neutral means alone), you must reduce your use of contract goals proportionately in the following year.

Example 4 to paragraph (f)(4): In Years I and II, your overall goal is 12 percent, and you obtain 14 and 16 percent DBE participation, respectively. You have exceeded your goals over the two-year period by an average of 25 percent. In Year III, your overall goal is again 12 percent, and your paragraph (c) of this section projection estimates that you will obtain 4 percent DBE participation through DBE-neutral means and 8 percent through contract goals. You then reduce the contract goal projection by 25 percent (i.e., from 8 to 6 percent) and set contract goals accordingly during the year. If in Year III you obtain 11 percent participation, you do not use this contract goal adjustment mechanism for Year IV, because there have not been two consecutive years of exceeding overall goals.

(g) In any year in which you project meeting part of your goal through DBE-neutral means and the remainder through contract goals, you must maintain data separately on DBE achievements in those contracts with and without contract goals, respectively. You must report this data to the concerned operating administration as provided in § 26.11.

(h) Effective October 3, 2025, you may not set any contract goals until the UCP that covers you has completed the reevaluation process described in § 26.111.

■ 24. Amend § 26.55 by adding paragraph (i) to read as follows:

§ 26.55 How is DBE participation counted toward goals?

* * * * *

(i) Effective October 3, 2025, you may not count any DBE participation toward DBE goals until the UCP that covers you has completed the reevaluation process described in § 26.111.

■ 25. Amend § 26.61 by revising paragraph (b) to read as follows:

§ 26.61 Burden of proof.

* * * * *

(b) The firm has the burden of demonstrating, by a preponderance of the evidence, *i.e.*, more likely than not, that it satisfies all of the requirements in this subpart. In determining whether the firm has met its burden, the certifier must consider all the information in the record, viewed as a whole. In a decertification proceeding the certifier bears the burden of proving, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the firm is no longer eligible for certification under the rules of this part.

■ 26. Revise § 26.67 to read as follows:

§ 26.67 Social and economic disadvantage.

(a) Non-presumptive Disadvantage. All applicants must demonstrate social and economic disadvantage (SED) affirmatively based on their own experiences and circumstances within American society, and without regard to race or sex.

(1) To satisfy the SED requirement and ensure all determinations of disadvantage are not based in whole or in part on race or sex, an owner must provide the certifier a Personal Narrative (PN) that establishes the existence of disadvantage by a preponderance of the evidence based on individualized proof regarding specific instances of economic hardship, systemic barriers, and denied opportunities that impeded the owner's progress or success in education, employment, or business, including

obtaining financing on terms available to similarly situated, non-disadvantaged persons.

(2) The PN must state how and to what extent the impediments caused the owner economic harm, including a full description of type and magnitude, and must establish the owner is economically disadvantaged in fact relative to similarly situated non-disadvantaged individuals.

(3) The owner must attach to the PN a current PNW statement and any other financial information he considers relevant.

■ 27. Add § 26.111 to subpart F to read as follows:

§ 26.111 DBE Reevaluation Process.

(a) Effective October 3, 2025, each UCP must:

(1) Identify each currently certified DBE;

(2) Provide each firm identified pursuant to subparagraph (a)(1) with the opportunity to submit documentation demonstrating its DBE eligibility under the standards set forth in this part;

(3) Determine whether each firm identified pursuant to subparagraph (a)(1) meets the DBE eligibility standards set forth in this part; and

(4) Issue a written decision to each firm reevaluated pursuant to subparagraph (a)(3), indicating that it has either been recertified or is decertified.

(b) The provisions of § 26.87 of this part shall not apply to any action taken pursuant to paragraph (a).

(c) Each UCP must reevaluate each firm identified pursuant to subparagraph (a)(1) as quickly as practicable and must promptly notify the Department when it has done so. The Department reserves the right to review a UCP's reevaluation process.

[FR Doc. 2025-19460 Filed 10-2-25; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4810-8X-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Parts 600 and 622

[Docket No. 250915-0853]

RIN 0648-BM94

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of America, and South Atlantic; Fishery Management Plans of Puerto Rico, St. Croix, and St. Thomas and St. John; Amendment 2

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: NMFS issues regulations to implement management measures described in Amendment 2 to the Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) for Puerto Rico, St. Croix, St. Thomas and St. John FMP (Amendment 2), as prepared by the Caribbean Fishery Management Council (Council). This final rule prohibits and restricts the use of certain net gear in U.S. Caribbean Federal waters and requires a descending device to be available and ready for use on vessels when fishing for federally managed reef fish species in U.S. Caribbean Federal waters. The purpose of this final rule and Amendment 2 is to protect habitats and species from the potential negative impacts associated with the use of certain net gear and to enhance the survival of released reef fish in U.S. Caribbean Federal waters.

DATES: This final rule is effective November 3, 2025, except for the revisions for §§ 622.437(a)(4), 622.477(a)(4), and 622.512(a)(4), which are effective April 1, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Electronic copies of Amendment 2, which includes a fishery impact statement, an environmental assessment, a regulatory impact review, and a Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) analysis, may be obtained from the Southeast Regional Office website at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/amendment-2-puerto-rico-st-croix-and-st-thomas-and-st-john-fishery-management-plans-trawl>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maria Lopez-Mercer, NMFS Southeast Regional Office, 727-824-5305, maria.lopez@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS, with the advice of the Council, manages the Puerto Rico, St. Croix, and St. Thomas and St. John fisheries in U.S. Caribbean Federal waters under the Puerto Rico, St. Croix, and St. Thomas and St. John FMPs. The Council prepared the FMPs, which the Secretary of Commerce approved, and NMFS implements the FMPs through regulations at 50 CFR parts 600 and 622 under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

On August 27, 2024, NMFS published a notice of availability for Amendment 2 and requested public comment (89 FR 68572). On September 30, 2024, NMFS published a proposed rule for Amendment 2 and requested public comment (89 FR 79492). NMFS

FHWA 1273 - REQUIRED CONTRACT PROVISIONS FEDERAL-AID CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS

FHWA-1273 -- Revised October 23, 2023

- I. General
- II. Nondiscrimination
- III. Non-segregated Facilities
- IV. Davis-Bacon and Related Act Provisions
- V. Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act Provisions
- VI. Subletting or Assigning the Contract
- VII. Safety: Accident Prevention
- VIII. False Statements Concerning Highway Projects
- IX. Implementation of Clean Air Act and Federal Water Pollution Control Act
- X. Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion
- XI. Certification Regarding Use of Contract Funds for Lobbying
- XII. Use of United States-Flag Vessels:

ATTACHMENTS

A. Employment and Materials Preference for Appalachian Development Highway System or Appalachian Local Access Road Contracts (included in Appalachian contracts only)

I. GENERAL

1. Form FHWA-1273 must be physically incorporated in each construction contract funded under title 23, United States Code, as required in 23 CFR 633.102(b) (excluding emergency contracts solely intended for debris removal). The contractor (or subcontractor) must insert this form in each subcontract and further require its inclusion in all lower tier subcontracts (excluding purchase orders, rental agreements and other agreements for supplies or services). 23 CFR 633.102(e).

The applicable requirements of Form FHWA-1273 are incorporated by reference for work done under any purchase order, rental agreement or agreement for other services. The prime contractor shall be responsible for compliance by any subcontractor, lower-tier subcontractor or service provider. 23 CFR 633.102(e).

Form FHWA-1273 must be included in all Federal-aid design-build contracts, in all subcontracts and in lower tier subcontracts (excluding subcontracts for design services, purchase orders, rental agreements and other agreements for supplies or services) in accordance with 23 CFR 633.102. The design-builder shall be responsible for compliance by any subcontractor, lower-tier subcontractor or service provider.

Contracting agencies may reference Form FHWA-1273 in solicitation-for-bids or request-for-proposals documents, however, the Form FHWA-1273 must be physically incorporated (not referenced) in all contracts, subcontracts and lower-tier subcontracts (excluding purchase orders, rental agreements and

other agreements for supplies or services related to a construction contract). 23 CFR 633.102(b).

2. Subject to the applicability criteria noted in the following sections, these contract provisions shall apply to all work performed on the contract by the contractor's own organization and with the assistance of workers under the contractor's immediate superintendence and to all work performed on the contract by piecework, station work, or by subcontract. 23 CFR 633.102(d).

3. A breach of any of the stipulations contained in these Required Contract Provisions may be sufficient grounds for withholding of progress payments, withholding of final payment, termination of the contract, suspension / debarment or any other action determined to be appropriate by the contracting agency and FHWA.

4. Selection of Labor: During the performance of this contract, the contractor shall not use convict labor for any purpose within the limits of a construction project on a Federal-aid highway unless it is labor performed by convicts who are on parole, supervised release, or probation. 23 U.S.C. 114(b). The term Federal-aid highway does not include roadways functionally classified as local roads or rural minor collectors. 23 U.S.C. 101(a).

II NONDISCRIMINATION (23 CFR 230.107(a); 23 CFR Part 230, Subpart A, Appendix A; EO 11246)

The provisions of this section related to 23 CFR Part 230, Subpart A, Appendix A are applicable to all Federal-aid construction contracts and to all related construction subcontracts of \$10,000 or more. The provisions of 23 CFR Part 230 are not applicable to material supply, engineering, or architectural service contracts.

In addition, the contractor and all subcontractors must comply with the following policies: Executive Order 11246, 41 CFR Part 60, 29 CFR Parts 1625-1627, 23 U.S.C. 140, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 794), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.), and related regulations including 49 CFR Parts 21, 26, and 27; and 23 CFR Parts 200, 230, and 633.

The contractor and all subcontractors must comply with: the requirements of the Equal Opportunity Clause in 41 CFR 60- 1.4(b) and, for all construction contracts exceeding \$10,000, the Standard Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Construction Contract Specifications in 41 CFR 60-4.3.

Note: The U.S. Department of Labor has exclusive authority to determine compliance with Executive Order 11246 and the policies of the Secretary of Labor including 41 CFR Part 60, and 29 CFR Parts 1625-1627. The contracting agency and the FHWA have the authority and the responsibility to ensure compliance with 23 U.S.C. 140, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as

amended (29 U.S.C. 794), and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.), and related regulations including 49 CFR Parts 21, 26, and 27; and 23 CFR Parts 200, 230, and 633.

The following provision is adopted from 23 CFR Part 230, Subpart A, Appendix A, with appropriate revisions to conform to the U.S. Department of Labor (US DOL) and FHWA requirements.

1. **Equal Employment Opportunity:** Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) requirements not to discriminate and to take affirmative action to assure equal opportunity as set forth under laws, executive orders, rules, regulations (see 28 CFR Part 35, 29 CFR Part 1630, 29 CFR Parts 1625-1627, 41 CFR Part 60 and 49 CFR Part 27) and orders of the Secretary of Labor as modified by the provisions prescribed herein, and imposed pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 140, shall constitute the EEO and specific affirmative action standards for the contractor's project activities under this contract. The provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) set forth under 28 CFR Part 35 and 29 CFR Part 1630 are incorporated by reference in this contract. In the execution of this contract, the contractor agrees to comply with the following minimum specific requirement activities of EEO:

a. The contractor will work with the contracting agency and the Federal Government to ensure that it has made every good faith effort to provide equal opportunity with respect to all of its terms and conditions of employment and in their review of activities under the contract. 23 CFR 230.409 (g)(4) & (5).

b. The contractor will accept as its operating policy the following statement:

"It is the policy of this Company to assure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, color, national origin, age or disability. Such action shall include: employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship, pre-apprenticeship, and/or on-the-job training."

2. **EEO Officer:** The contractor will designate and make known to the contracting officers an EEO Officer who will have the responsibility for and must be capable of effectively administering and promoting an active EEO program and who must be assigned adequate authority and responsibility to do so.

3. **Dissemination of Policy:** All members of the contractor's staff who are authorized to hire, supervise, promote, and discharge employees, or who recommend such action or are substantially involved in such action, will be made fully cognizant of and will implement the contractor's EEO policy and contractual responsibilities to provide EEO in each grade and classification of employment. To ensure that the above agreement will be met, the following actions will be taken as a minimum:

a. Periodic meetings of supervisory and personnel office employees will be conducted before the start of work and then not less often than once every six months, at which time the contractor's EEO policy and its implementation will be reviewed and explained. The meetings will be conducted by the EEO Officer or other knowledgeable company official.

b. All new supervisory or personnel office employees will be given a thorough indoctrination by the EEO Officer, covering all major

aspects of the contractor's EEO obligations within thirty days following their reporting for duty with the contractor.

c. All personnel who are engaged in direct recruitment for the project will be instructed by the EEO Officer in the contractor's procedures for locating and hiring minorities and women.

d. Notices and posters setting forth the contractor's EEO policy will be placed in areas readily accessible to employees, applicants for employment and potential employees.

e. The contractor's EEO policy and the procedures to implement such policy will be brought to the attention of employees by means of meetings, employee handbooks, or other appropriate means.

4. **Recruitment:** When advertising for employees, the contractor will include in all advertisements for employees the notation: "An Equal Opportunity Employer." All such advertisements will be placed in publications having a large circulation among minorities and women in the area from which the project work force would normally be derived.

a. The contractor will, unless precluded by a valid bargaining agreement, conduct systematic and direct recruitment through public and private employee referral sources likely to yield qualified minorities and women. To meet this requirement, the contractor will identify sources of potential minority group employees and establish with such identified sources procedures whereby minority and women applicants may be referred to the contractor for employment consideration.

b. In the event the contractor has a valid bargaining agreement providing for exclusive hiring hall referrals, the contractor is expected to observe the provisions of that agreement to the extent that the system meets the contractor's compliance with EEO contract provisions. Where implementation of such an agreement has the effect of discriminating against minorities or women, or obligates the contractor to do the same, such implementation violates Federal nondiscrimination provisions.

c. The contractor will encourage its present employees to refer minorities and women as applicants for employment. Information and procedures with regard to referring such applicants will be discussed with employees.

5. **Personnel Actions:** Wages, working conditions, and employee benefits shall be established and administered, and personnel actions of every type, including hiring, upgrading, promotion, transfer, demotion, layoff, and termination, shall be taken without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age or disability. The following procedures shall be followed:

a. The contractor will conduct periodic inspections of project sites to ensure that working conditions and employee facilities do not indicate discriminatory treatment of project site personnel.

b. The contractor will periodically evaluate the spread of wages paid within each classification to determine any evidence of discriminatory wage practices.

c. The contractor will periodically review selected personnel actions in depth to determine whether there is evidence of discrimination. Where evidence is found, the contractor will promptly take corrective action. If the review indicates that the

discrimination may extend beyond the actions reviewed, such corrective action shall include all affected persons.

d. The contractor will promptly investigate all complaints of alleged discrimination made to the contractor in connection with its obligations under this contract, will attempt to resolve such complaints, and will take appropriate corrective action within a reasonable time. If the investigation indicates that the discrimination may affect persons other than the complainant, such corrective action shall include such other persons. Upon completion of each investigation, the contractor will inform every complainant of all of their avenues of appeal.

6. Training and Promotion:

a. The contractor will assist in locating, qualifying, and increasing the skills of minorities and women who are applicants for employment or current employees. Such efforts should be aimed at developing full journey level status employees in the type of trade or job classification involved.

b. Consistent with the contractor's work force requirements and as permissible under Federal and State regulations, the contractor shall make full use of training programs (i.e., apprenticeship and on-the-job training programs for the geographical area of contract performance). In the event a special provision for training is provided under this contract, this subparagraph will be superseded as indicated in the special provision. The contracting agency may reserve training positions for persons who receive welfare assistance in accordance with 23 U.S.C. 140(a).

c. The contractor will advise employees and applicants for employment of available training programs and entrance requirements for each.

d. The contractor will periodically review the training and promotion potential of employees who are minorities and women and will encourage eligible employees to apply for such training and promotion.

7. Unions: If the contractor relies in whole or in part upon unions as a source of employees, the contractor will use good faith efforts to obtain the cooperation of such unions to increase opportunities for minorities and women. 23 CFR 230.409. Actions by the contractor, either directly or through a contractor's association acting as agent, will include the procedures set forth below:

a. The contractor will use good faith efforts to develop, in cooperation with the unions, joint training programs aimed toward qualifying more minorities and women for membership in the unions and increasing the skills of minorities and women so that they may qualify for higher paying employment.

b. The contractor will use good faith efforts to incorporate an EEO clause into each union agreement to the end that such union will be contractually bound to refer applicants without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, or disability.

c. The contractor is to obtain information as to the referral practices and policies of the labor union except that to the extent such information is within the exclusive possession of the labor union and such labor union refuses to furnish such information to the contractor, the contractor shall so certify to the contracting agency

and shall set forth what efforts have been made to obtain such information.

d. In the event the union is unable to provide the contractor with a reasonable flow of referrals within the time limit set forth in the collective bargaining agreement, the contractor will, through independent recruitment efforts, fill the employment vacancies without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, or disability; making full efforts to obtain qualified and/or qualifiable minorities and women. The failure of a union to provide sufficient referrals (even though it is obligated to provide exclusive referrals under the terms of a collective bargaining agreement) does not relieve the contractor from the requirements of this paragraph. In the event the union referral practice prevents the contractor from meeting the obligations pursuant to Executive Order 11246, as amended, and these special provisions, such contractor shall immediately notify the contracting agency.

8. Reasonable Accommodation for Applicants / Employees with Disabilities: The contractor must be familiar with the requirements for and comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and all rules and regulations established thereunder. Employers must provide reasonable accommodation in all employment activities unless to do so would cause an undue hardship.

9. Selection of Subcontractors, Procurement of Materials and Leasing of Equipment: The contractor shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, or disability in the selection and retention of subcontractors, including procurement of materials and leases of equipment. The contractor shall take all necessary and reasonable steps to ensure nondiscrimination in the administration of this contract.

a. The contractor shall notify all potential subcontractors, suppliers, and lessors of their EEO obligations under this contract.

b. The contractor will use good faith efforts to ensure subcontractor compliance with their EEO obligations.

10. Assurances Required:

a. The requirements of 49 CFR Part 26 and the State DOT's FHWA-approved Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program are incorporated by reference.

b. The contractor, subrecipient or subcontractor shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the performance of this contract. The contractor shall carry out applicable requirements of 49 CFR part 26 in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts. Failure by the contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach of this contract, which may result in the termination of this contract or such other remedy as the recipient deems appropriate, which may include, but is not limited to:

(1) Withholding monthly progress payments;

(2) Assessing sanctions;

(3) Liquidated damages; and/or

(4) Disqualifying the contractor from future bidding as non-responsible.

c. The Title VI and nondiscrimination provisions of U.S. DOT Order 1050.2A at Appendixes A and E are incorporated by reference. 49 CFR Part 21.

11. Records and Reports: The contractor shall keep such records as necessary to document compliance with the EEO requirements. Such records shall be retained for a period of three years following the date of the final payment to the contractor for all contract work and shall be available at reasonable times and places for inspection by authorized representatives of the contracting agency and the FHWA.

a. The records kept by the contractor shall document the following:

- (1) The number and work hours of minority and non-minority group members and women employed in each work classification on the project;
- (2) The progress and efforts being made in cooperation with unions, when applicable, to increase employment opportunities for minorities and women; and
- (3) The progress and efforts being made in locating, hiring, training, qualifying, and upgrading minorities and women.

b. The contractors and subcontractors will submit an annual report to the contracting agency each July for the duration of the project indicating the number of minority, women, and non-minority group employees currently engaged in each work classification required by the contract work. This information is to be reported on Form FHWA-1391. The staffing data should represent the project work force on board in all or any part of the last payroll period preceding the end of July. If on-the-job training is being required by special provision, the contractor will be required to collect and report training data. The employment data should reflect the work force on board during all or any part of the last payroll period preceding the end of July.

III. NONSEGREGATED FACILITIES

This provision is applicable to all Federal-aid construction contracts and to all related construction subcontracts of more than \$10,000. 41 CFR 60-1.5.

As prescribed by 41 CFR 60-1.8, the contractor must ensure that facilities provided for employees are provided in such a manner that segregation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin cannot result. The contractor may neither require such segregated use by written or oral policies nor tolerate such use by employee custom. The contractor's obligation extends further to ensure that its employees are not assigned to perform their services at any location under the contractor's control where the facilities are segregated. The term "facilities" includes waiting rooms, work areas, restaurants and other eating areas, time clocks, restrooms, washrooms, locker rooms and other storage or dressing areas, parking lots, drinking fountains, recreation or entertainment areas, transportation, and housing provided for employees. The contractor shall provide separate or single-user restrooms and necessary dressing or sleeping areas to assure privacy between sexes.

IV. DAVIS-BACON AND RELATED ACT PROVISIONS

This section is applicable to all Federal-aid construction projects exceeding \$2,000 and to all related subcontracts and lower-tier subcontracts (regardless of subcontract size), in accordance with 29 CFR 5.5. The requirements apply to all projects located within the right-of-way of a roadway that is functionally classified as Federal-

aid highway. 23 U.S.C. 113. This excludes roadways functionally classified as local roads or rural minor collectors, which are exempt. 23 U.S.C. 101.

Where applicable law requires that projects be treated as a project on a Federal-aid highway, the provisions of this subpart will apply regardless of the location of the project. Examples include: Surface Transportation Block Grant Program projects funded under 23 U.S.C. 133 [excluding recreational trails projects], the Nationally Significant Freight and Highway

Projects funded under 23 U.S.C. 117, and National Highway Freight Program projects funded under 23 U.S.C. 167.

The following provisions are from the U.S. Department of Labor regulations in 29 CFR 5.5 "Contract provisions and related matters" with minor revisions to conform to the FHWA-1273 format and FHWA program requirements.

1. Minimum wages (29 CFR 5.5)

a. *Wage rates and fringe benefits.* All laborers and mechanics employed or working upon the site of the work (or otherwise working in construction or development of the project under a development statute), will be paid unconditionally and not less often than once a week, and without subsequent deduction or rebate on any account (except such payroll deductions as are permitted by regulations issued by the Secretary of Labor under the Copeland Act (29 CFR part 3)), the full amount of basic hourly wages and bona fide fringe benefits (or cash equivalents thereof) due at time of payment computed at rates not less than those contained in the wage determination of the Secretary of Labor which is attached hereto and made a part hereof, regardless of any contractual relationship which may be alleged to exist between the contractor and such laborers and mechanics. As provided in paragraphs (d) and (e) of 29 CFR 5.5, the appropriate wage determinations are effective by operation of law even if they have not been attached to the contract. Contributions made or costs reasonably anticipated for bona fide fringe benefits under the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. 3141(2)(B)) on behalf of laborers or mechanics are considered wages paid to such laborers or mechanics, subject to the provisions of paragraph 1.e. of this section; also, regular contributions made or costs incurred for more than a weekly period (but not less often than quarterly) under plans, funds, or programs which cover the particular weekly period, are deemed to be constructively made or incurred during such weekly period. Such laborers and mechanics must be paid the appropriate wage rate and fringe benefits on the wage determination for the classification(s) of work actually performed, without regard to skill, except as provided in paragraph 4. of this section. Laborers or mechanics performing work in more than one classification may be compensated at the rate specified for each classification for the time actually worked therein: Provided, That the employer's payroll records accurately set forth the time spent in each classification in which work is performed. The wage determination (including any additional classifications and wage rates conformed under paragraph 1.c. of this section) and the Davis-Bacon poster (WH-1321) must be posted at all times by the contractor and its subcontractors at the site of the work in a prominent and accessible place where it can be easily seen by the workers.

b. *Frequently recurring classifications.* (1) In addition to wage and fringe benefit rates that have been determined to be prevailing under the procedures set forth in 29 CFR part 1, a wage determination may contain, pursuant to § 1.3(f), wage and fringe benefit rates for classifications of laborers and mechanics for which conformance

requests are regularly submitted pursuant to paragraph 1.c. of this section, provided that:

(i) The work performed by the classification is not performed by a classification in the wage determination for which a prevailing wage rate has been determined;

(ii) The classification is used in the area by the construction industry; and

(iii) The wage rate for the classification bears a reasonable relationship to the prevailing wage rates contained in the wage determination.

(2) The Administrator will establish wage rates for such classifications in accordance with paragraph 1.c.(1)(iii) of this section. Work performed in such a classification must be paid at no less than the wage and fringe benefit rate listed on the wage determination for such classification.

c. *Conformance.* (1) The contracting officer must require that any class of laborers or mechanics, including helpers, which is not listed in the wage determination and which is to be employed under the contract be classified in conformance with the wage determination. Conformance of an additional classification and wage rate and fringe benefits is appropriate only when the following criteria have been met:

(i) The work to be performed by the classification requested is not performed by a classification in the wage determination; and

(ii) The classification is used in the area by the construction industry; and

(iii) The proposed wage rate, including any bona fide fringe benefits, bears a reasonable relationship to the wage rates contained in the wage determination.

(2) The conformance process may not be used to split, subdivide, or otherwise avoid application of classifications listed in the wage determination.

(3) If the contractor and the laborers and mechanics to be employed in the classification (if known), or their representatives, and the contracting officer agree on the classification and wage rate (including the amount designated for fringe benefits where appropriate), a report of the action taken will be sent by the contracting officer by email to DBAconformance@dol.gov. The Administrator, or an authorized representative, will approve, modify, or disapprove every additional classification action within 30 days of receipt and so advise the contracting officer or will notify the contracting officer within the 30-day period that additional time is necessary.

(4) In the event the contractor, the laborers or mechanics to be employed in the classification or their representatives, and the contracting officer do not agree on the proposed classification and wage rate (including the amount designated for fringe benefits, where appropriate), the contracting officer will, by email to DBAconformance@dol.gov, refer the questions, including the views of all interested parties and the recommendation of the contracting officer, to the Administrator for determination. The Administrator, or an authorized representative, will issue a determination within 30 days of receipt and so advise the

contracting officer or will notify the contracting officer within the 30-day period that additional time is necessary.

(5) The contracting officer must promptly notify the contractor of the action taken by the Wage and Hour Division under paragraphs 1.c.(3) and (4) of this section. The contractor must furnish a written copy of such determination to each affected worker or it must be posted as a part of the wage determination. The wage rate (including fringe benefits where appropriate) determined pursuant to paragraph 1.c.(3) or (4) of this section must be paid to all workers performing work in the classification under this contract from the first day on which work is performed in the classification.

d. *Fringe benefits not expressed as an hourly rate.* Whenever the minimum wage rate prescribed in the contract for a class of laborers or mechanics includes a fringe benefit which is not expressed as an hourly rate, the contractor may either pay the benefit as stated in the wage determination or may pay another bona fide fringe benefit or an hourly cash equivalent thereof.

e. *Unfunded plans.* If the contractor does not make payments to a trustee or other third person, the contractor may consider as part of the wages of any laborer or mechanic the amount of any costs reasonably anticipated in providing bona fide fringe benefits under a plan or program, Provided, That the Secretary of Labor has found, upon the written request of the contractor, in accordance with the criteria set forth in § 5.28, that the applicable standards of the Davis-Bacon Act have been met. The Secretary of Labor may require the contractor to set aside in a separate account assets for the meeting of obligations under the plan or program.

f. *Interest.* In the event of a failure to pay all or part of the wages required by the contract, the contractor will be required to pay interest on any underpayment of wages.

2. Withholding (29 CFR 5.5)

a. *Withholding requirements.* The contracting agency may, upon its own action, or must, upon written request of an authorized representative of the Department of Labor, withhold or cause to be withheld from the contractor so much of the accrued payments or advances as may be considered necessary to satisfy the liabilities of the prime contractor or any subcontractor for the full amount of wages and monetary relief, including interest, required by the clauses set forth in this section for violations of this contract, or to satisfy any such liabilities required by any other Federal contract, or federally assisted contract subject to Davis-Bacon labor standards, that is held by the same prime contractor (as defined in § 5.2). The necessary funds may be withheld from the contractor under this contract, any other Federal contract with the same prime contractor, or any other federally assisted contract that is subject to Davis-Bacon labor standards requirements and is held by the same prime contractor, regardless of whether the other contract was awarded or assisted by the same agency, and such funds may be used to satisfy the contractor liability for which the funds were withheld. In the event of a contractor's failure to pay any laborer or mechanic, including any apprentice or helper working on the site of the work all or part of the wages required by the contract, or upon the contractor's failure to submit the required records as discussed in paragraph 3.d. of this section, the contracting agency may on its own initiative and after written notice to the contractor, take such action as may be necessary to cause the suspension of any further payment, advance, or guarantee of funds until such violations have ceased.

b. *Priority to withheld funds.* The Department has priority to funds withheld or to be withheld in accordance with paragraph 2.a. of this section or Section V, paragraph 3.a., or both, over claims to those funds by:

- (1) A contractor's surety(ies), including without limitation performance bond sureties and payment bond sureties;
- (2) A contracting agency for its procurement costs;
- (3) A trustee(s) (either a court-appointed trustee or a U.S. trustee, or both) in bankruptcy of a contractor, or a contractor's bankruptcy estate;
- (4) A contractor's assignee(s);
- (5) A contractor's successor(s); or
- (6) A claim asserted under the Prompt Payment Act, 31 U.S.C. 3901–3907.

3. Records and certified payrolls (29 CFR 5.5)

a. *Basic record requirements (1) Length of record retention.* All regular payrolls and other basic records must be maintained by the contractor and any subcontractor during the course of the work and preserved for all laborers and mechanics working at the site of the work (or otherwise working in construction or development of the project under a development statute) for a period of at least 3 years after all the work on the prime contract is completed.

(2) *Information required.* Such records must contain the name; Social Security number; last known address, telephone number, and email address of each such worker; each worker's correct classification(s) of work actually performed; hourly rates of wages paid (including rates of contributions or costs anticipated for bona fide fringe benefits or cash equivalents thereof of the types described in 40 U.S.C. 3141(2)(B) of the Davis-Bacon Act); daily and weekly number of hours actually worked in total and on each covered contract; deductions made; and actual wages paid.

(3) *Additional records relating to fringe benefits.* Whenever the Secretary of Labor has found under paragraph 1.e. of this section that the wages of any laborer or mechanic include the amount of any costs reasonably anticipated in providing benefits under a plan or program described in 40 U.S.C. 3141(2)(B) of the Davis-Bacon Act, the contractor must maintain records which show that the commitment to provide such benefits is enforceable, that the plan or program is financially responsible, and that the plan or program has been communicated in writing to the laborers or mechanics affected, and records which show the costs anticipated or the actual cost incurred in providing such benefits.

(4) *Additional records relating to apprenticeship.* Contractors with apprentices working under approved programs must maintain written evidence of the registration of apprenticeship programs, the registration of the apprentices, and the ratios and wage rates prescribed in the applicable programs.

b. *Certified payroll requirements (1) Frequency and method of submission.* The contractor or subcontractor must submit weekly, for each week in which any DBA- or Related Acts- covered work is performed, certified payrolls to the contracting

agency. The prime contractor is responsible for the submission of all certified payrolls by all subcontractors. A contracting agency or

prime contractor may permit or require contractors to submit certified payrolls through an electronic system, as long as the electronic system requires a legally valid electronic signature; the system allows the contractor, the contracting agency, and the Department of Labor to access the certified payrolls upon request for at least 3 years after the work on the prime contract has been completed; and the contracting agency or prime contractor permits other methods of submission in situations where the contractor is unable or limited in its ability to use or access the electronic system.

(2) *Information required.* The certified payrolls submitted must set out accurately and completely all of the information required to be maintained under paragraph 3.a.(2) of this section, except that full Social Security numbers and last known addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses must not be included on weekly transmittals. Instead, the certified payrolls need only include an individually identifying number for each worker (e.g., the last four digits of the worker's Social Security number). The required weekly certified payroll information may be submitted using Optional Form WH–347 or in any other format desired. Optional Form WH–347 is available for this purpose from the Wage and Hour Division website at <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WHD/legacy/files/wh347/.pdf> or its successor website. It is not a violation of this section for a prime contractor to require a subcontractor to provide full Social Security numbers and last known addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses to the prime contractor for its own records, without weekly submission by the subcontractor to the contracting agency.

(3) *Statement of Compliance.* Each certified payroll submitted must be accompanied by a “Statement of Compliance,” signed by the contractor or subcontractor, or the contractor's or subcontractor's agent who pays or supervises the payment of the persons working on the contract, and must certify the following:

(i) That the certified payroll for the payroll period contains the information required to be provided under paragraph 3.b. of this section, the appropriate information and basic records are being maintained under paragraph 3.a. of this section, and such information and records are correct and complete;

(ii) That each laborer or mechanic (including each helper and apprentice) working on the contract during the payroll period has been paid the full weekly wages earned, without rebate, either directly or indirectly, and that no deductions have been made either directly or indirectly from the full wages earned, other than permissible deductions as set forth in 29 CFR part 3; and

(iii) That each laborer or mechanic has been paid not less than the applicable wage rates and fringe benefits or cash equivalents for the classification(s) of work actually performed, as specified in the applicable wage determination incorporated into the contract.

(4) *Use of Optional Form WH–347.* The weekly submission of a properly executed certification set forth on the reverse side of Optional Form WH–347 will satisfy the requirement for submission of the “Statement of Compliance” required by paragraph 3.b.(3) of this section.

(5) *Signature.* The signature by the contractor, subcontractor, or the contractor's or subcontractor's agent must be an original handwritten signature or a legally valid electronic signature.

(6) *Falsification.* The falsification of any of the above certifications may subject the contractor or subcontractor to civil or criminal prosecution under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 31 U.S.C. 3729.

(7) *Length of certified payroll retention.* The contractor or subcontractor must preserve all certified payrolls during the course of the work and for a period of 3 years after all the work on the prime contract is completed.

c. *Contracts, subcontracts, and related documents.* The contractor or subcontractor must maintain this contract or subcontract and related documents including, without limitation, bids, proposals, amendments, modifications, and extensions. The contractor or subcontractor must preserve these contracts, subcontracts, and related documents during the course of the work and for a period of 3 years after all the work on the prime contract is completed.

d. *Required disclosures and access (1) Required record disclosures and access to workers.* The contractor or subcontractor must make the records required under paragraphs 3.a. through 3.c. of this section, and any other documents that the contracting agency, the State DOT, the FHWA, or the Department of Labor deems necessary to determine compliance with the labor standards provisions of any of the applicable statutes referenced by § 5.1, available for inspection, copying, or transcription by authorized representatives of the contracting agency, the State DOT, the FHWA, or the Department of Labor, and must permit such representatives to interview workers during working hours on the job.

(2) *Sanctions for non-compliance with records and worker access requirements.* If the contractor or subcontractor fails to submit the required records or to make them available, or refuses to permit worker interviews during working hours on the job, the Federal agency may, after written notice to the contractor, sponsor, applicant, owner, or other entity, as the case may be, that maintains such records or that employs such workers, take such action as may be necessary to cause the suspension of any further payment, advance, or guarantee of funds. Furthermore, failure to submit the required records upon request or to make such records available, or to permit worker interviews during working hours on the job, may be grounds for debarment action pursuant to § 5.12. In addition, any contractor or other person that fails to submit the required records or make those records available to WHD within the time WHD requests that the records be produced will be precluded from introducing as evidence in an administrative proceeding under 29 CFR part 6 any of the required records that were not provided or made available to WHD. WHD will take into consideration a reasonable request from the contractor or person for an extension of the time for submission of records. WHD will determine the reasonableness of the request and may consider, among other things, the location of the records and the volume of production.

(3) *Required information disclosures.* Contractors and subcontractors must maintain the full Social Security number and last known address, telephone number, and email address of each covered worker, and must provide them upon request to the contracting agency, the State DOT, the FHWA, the contractor, or the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor for purposes of an investigation or other compliance action.

4. Apprentices and equal employment opportunity (29 CFR 5.5)

a. *Apprentices (1) Rate of pay.* Apprentices will be permitted to work at less than the predetermined rate for the work they perform when they are employed pursuant to and individually registered in

a bona fide apprenticeship program registered with the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Apprenticeship (OA), or with a State Apprenticeship Agency recognized by the OA. A person who is not individually registered in the program, but who has been certified by the OA or a State Apprenticeship Agency (where appropriate) to be eligible for probationary employment as an apprentice, will be permitted to work at less than the predetermined rate for the work they perform in the first 90 days of probationary employment as an apprentice in such a program. In the event the OA or a State Apprenticeship Agency recognized by the OA withdraws approval of an apprenticeship program, the contractor will no longer be permitted to use apprentices at less than the applicable predetermined rate for the work performed until an acceptable program is approved.

(2) *Fringe benefits.* Apprentices must be paid fringe benefits in accordance with the provisions of the apprenticeship program. If the apprenticeship program does not specify fringe benefits, apprentices must be paid the full amount of fringe benefits listed on the wage determination for the applicable classification. If the Administrator determines that a different practice prevails for the applicable apprentice classification, fringe benefits must be paid in accordance with that determination.

(3) *Apprenticeship ratio.* The allowable ratio of apprentices to journeymen on the job site in any craft classification must not be greater than the ratio permitted to the contractor as to the entire work force under the registered program or the ratio applicable to the locality of the project pursuant to paragraph 4.a.(4) of this section. Any worker listed on a payroll at an apprentice wage rate, who is not registered or otherwise employed as stated in paragraph 4.a.(1) of this section, must be paid not less than the applicable wage rate on the wage determination for the classification of work actually performed. In addition, any apprentice performing work on the job site in excess of the ratio permitted under this section must be paid not less than the applicable wage rate on the wage determination for the work actually performed.

(4) *Reciprocity of ratios and wage rates.* Where a contractor is performing construction on a project in a locality other than the locality in which its program is registered, the ratios and wage rates (expressed in percentages of the journeyworker's hourly rate) applicable within the locality in which the construction is being performed must be observed. If there is no applicable ratio or wage rate for the locality of the project, the ratio and wage rate specified in the contractor's registered program must be observed.

b. *Equal employment opportunity.* The use of apprentices and journeymen under this part must be in conformity with the equal employment opportunity requirements of Executive Order 11246, as amended, and 29 CFR part 30.

c. *Apprentices and Trainees* (programs of the U.S. DOT).

Apprentices and trainees working under apprenticeship and skill training programs which have been certified by the Secretary of Transportation as promoting EEO in connection with Federal-aid highway construction programs are not subject to the requirements of paragraph 4 of this Section IV. 23 CFR 230.111(e)(2). The straight time hourly wage rates for apprentices and trainees under such programs will be established by the particular programs. The ratio of apprentices and trainees to journeymen shall not be greater than permitted by the terms of the particular program.

5. Compliance with Copeland Act requirements. The contractor shall comply with the requirements of 29 CFR part 3, which are

incorporated by reference in this contract as provided in 29 CFR 5.5.

6. Subcontracts. The contractor or subcontractor must insert FHWA-1273 in any subcontracts, along with the applicable wage determination(s) and such other clauses or contract modifications as the contracting agency may by appropriate instructions require, and a clause requiring the subcontractors to include these clauses and wage determination(s) in any lower tier subcontracts. The prime contractor is responsible for the compliance by any subcontractor or lower tier subcontractor with all the contract clauses in this section. In the event of any violations of these clauses, the prime contractor and any subcontractor(s) responsible will be liable for any unpaid wages and monetary relief, including interest from the date of the underpayment or loss, due to any workers of lower-tier subcontractors, and may be subject to debarment, as appropriate. 29 CFR 5.5.

7. Contract termination: debarment. A breach of the contract clauses in 29 CFR 5.5 may be grounds for termination of the contract, and for debarment as a contractor and a subcontractor as provided in 29 CFR 5.12.

8. Compliance with Davis-Bacon and Related Act requirements. All rulings and interpretations of the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts contained in 29 CFR parts 1, 3, and 5 are herein incorporated by reference in this contract as provided in 29 CFR 5.5.

9. Disputes concerning labor standards. As provided in 29 CFR 5.5, disputes arising out of the labor standards provisions of this contract shall not be subject to the general disputes clause of this contract. Such disputes shall be resolved in accordance with the procedures of the Department of Labor set forth in 29 CFR parts 5, 6, and 7. Disputes within the meaning of this clause include disputes between the contractor (or any of its subcontractors) and the contracting agency, the U.S. Department of Labor, or the employees or their representatives.

10. Certification of eligibility. a. By entering into this contract, the contractor certifies that neither it nor any person or firm who has an interest in the contractor's firm is a person or firm ineligible to be awarded Government contracts by virtue of 40 U.S.C. 3144(b) or § 5.12(a).

b. No part of this contract shall be subcontracted to any person or firm ineligible for award of a Government contract by virtue of 40 U.S.C. 3144(b) or § 5.12(a).

c. The penalty for making false statements is prescribed in the U.S. Code, Title 18 Crimes and Criminal Procedure, 18 U.S.C. 1001.

11. Anti-retaliation. It is unlawful for any person to discharge, demote, intimidate, threaten, restrain, coerce, blacklist, harass, or in any other manner discriminate against, or to cause any person to discharge, demote, intimidate, threaten, restrain, coerce, blacklist, harass, or in any other manner discriminate against, any worker or job applicant for:

a. Notifying any contractor of any conduct which the worker reasonably believes constitutes a violation of the DBA, Related Acts, this part, or 29 CFR part 1 or 3;

b. Filing any complaint, initiating or causing to be initiated any proceeding, or otherwise asserting or seeking to assert on behalf of

themselves or others any right or protection under the DBA, Related Acts, this part, or 29 CFR part 1 or 3;

c. Cooperating in any investigation or other compliance action, or testifying in any proceeding under the DBA, Related Acts, this part, or 29 CFR part 1 or 3; or

d. Informing any other person about their rights under the DBA, Related Acts, this part, or 29 CFR part 1 or 3.

V. CONTRACT WORK HOURS AND SAFETY STANDARDS ACT

Pursuant to 29 CFR 5.5(b), the following clauses apply to any Federal-aid construction contract in an amount in excess of \$100,000 and subject to the overtime provisions of the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act. These clauses shall be inserted in addition to the clauses required by 29 CFR 5.5(a) or 29 CFR 4.6. As used in this paragraph, the terms laborers and mechanics include watchpersons and guards.

1. Overtime requirements. No contractor or subcontractor contracting for any part of the contract work which may require or involve the employment of laborers or mechanics shall require or permit any such laborer or mechanic in any workweek in which he or she is employed on such work to work in excess of forty hours in such workweek unless such laborer or mechanic receives compensation at a rate not less than one and one-half times the basic rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty hours in such workweek. 29 CFR 5.5.

2. Violation; liability for unpaid wages; liquidated damages. In the event of any violation of the clause set forth in paragraph 1. of this section the contractor and any subcontractor responsible therefor shall be liable for the unpaid wages and interest from the date of the underpayment. In addition, such contractor and subcontractor shall be liable to the United States (in the case of work done under contract for the District of Columbia or a territory, to such District or to such territory), for liquidated damages. Such liquidated damages shall be computed with respect to each individual laborer or mechanic, including watchpersons and guards, employed in violation of the clause set forth in paragraph 1. of this section, in the sum currently provided in 29 CFR 5.5(b)(2)* for each calendar day on which such individual was required or permitted to work in excess of the standard workweek of forty hours without payment of the overtime wages required by the clause set forth in paragraph 1. of this section.

* \$31 as of January 15, 2023 (See 88 FR 88 FR 2210) as may be adjusted annually by the Department of Labor, pursuant to the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990.

3. Withholding for unpaid wages and liquidated damages

a. *Withholding process.* The FHWA or the contracting agency may, upon its own action, or must, upon written request of an authorized representative of the Department of Labor, withhold or cause to be withheld from the contractor so much of the accrued payments or advances as may be considered necessary to satisfy the liabilities of the prime contractor or any subcontractor for any unpaid wages; monetary relief, including interest; and liquidated damages required by the clauses set forth in this section on this contract, any other Federal contract with the same prime contractor, or any other federally assisted contract subject to the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act that is held by the same prime contractor (as

defined in § 5.2). The necessary funds may be withheld from the contractor under this contract, any other Federal contract with the same prime contractor, or any other federally assisted contract that is subject to the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act and is held by the same prime contractor, regardless of whether the other contract was awarded or assisted by the same agency, and such funds may be used to satisfy the contractor liability for which the funds were withheld.

b. *Priority to withheld funds.* The Department has priority to funds withheld or to be withheld in accordance with Section IV paragraph 2.a. or paragraph 3.a. of this section, or both, over claims to those funds by:

- (1) A contractor's surety(ies), including without limitation performance bond sureties and payment bond sureties;
- (2) A contracting agency for its procurement costs;
- (3) A trustee(s) (either a court-appointed trustee or a U.S. trustee, or both) in bankruptcy of a contractor, or a contractor's bankruptcy estate;
- (4) A contractor's assignee(s);
- (5) A contractor's successor(s); or
- (6) A claim asserted under the Prompt Payment Act, 31 U.S.C. 3901–3907.

4. Subcontracts. The contractor or subcontractor must insert in any subcontracts the clauses set forth in paragraphs 1. through 5. of this section and a clause requiring the subcontractors to include these clauses in any lower tier subcontracts. The prime contractor is responsible for compliance by any subcontractor or lower tier subcontractor with the clauses set forth in paragraphs 1. through 5. In the event of any violations of these clauses, the prime contractor and any subcontractor(s) responsible will be liable for any unpaid wages and monetary relief, including interest from the date of the underpayment or loss, due to any workers of lower-tier subcontractors, and associated liquidated damages and may be subject to debarment, as appropriate.

5. Anti-retaliation. It is unlawful for any person to discharge, demote, intimidate, threaten, restrain, coerce, blacklist, harass, or in any other manner discriminate against, or to cause any person to discharge, demote, intimidate, threaten, restrain, coerce, blacklist, harass, or in any other manner discriminate against, any worker or job applicant for:

- a. Notifying any contractor of any conduct which the worker reasonably believes constitutes a violation of the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (CWHSSA) or its implementing regulations in this part;
- b. Filing any complaint, initiating or causing to be initiated any proceeding, or otherwise asserting or seeking to assert on behalf of themselves or others any right or protection under CWHSSA or this part;
- c. Cooperating in any investigation or other compliance action, or testifying in any proceeding under CWHSSA or this part; or
- d. Informing any other person about their rights under CWHSSA or this part.

VI. SUBLETTING OR ASSIGNING THE CONTRACT

This provision is applicable to all Federal-aid construction contracts on the National Highway System pursuant to 23 CFR 635.116.

1. The contractor shall perform with its own organization contract work amounting to not less than 30 percent (or a greater percentage if specified elsewhere in the contract) of the total original contract price, excluding any specialty items designated by the contracting agency. Specialty items may be performed by subcontract and the amount of any such specialty items performed may be deducted from the total original contract price before computing the amount of work required to be performed by the contractor's own organization (23 CFR 635.116).

a. The term "perform work with its own organization" in paragraph 1 of Section VI refers to workers employed or leased by the prime contractor, and equipment owned or rented by the prime contractor, with or without operators. Such term does not include employees or equipment of a subcontractor or lower tier subcontractor, agents of the prime contractor, or any other assignees. The term may include payments for the costs of hiring leased employees from an employee leasing firm meeting all relevant Federal and State regulatory requirements. Leased employees may only be included in this term if the prime contractor meets all of the following conditions: (based on longstanding interpretation)

- (1) the prime contractor maintains control over the supervision of the day-to-day activities of the leased employees;
- (2) the prime contractor remains responsible for the quality of the work of the leased employees;
- (3) the prime contractor retains all power to accept or exclude individual employees from work on the project; and
- (4) the prime contractor remains ultimately responsible for the payment of predetermined minimum wages, the submission of payrolls, statements of compliance and all other Federal regulatory requirements.

b. "Specialty Items" shall be construed to be limited to work that requires highly specialized knowledge, abilities, or equipment not ordinarily available in the type of contracting organizations qualified and expected to bid or propose on the contract as a whole and in general are to be limited to minor components of the overall contract. 23 CFR 635.102.

2. Pursuant to 23 CFR 635.116(a), the contract amount upon which the requirements set forth in paragraph (1) of Section VI is computed includes the cost of material and manufactured products which are to be purchased or produced by the contractor under the contract provisions.

3. Pursuant to 23 CFR 635.116(c), the contractor shall furnish
(a) a competent superintendent or supervisor who is employed by the firm, has full authority to direct performance of the work in accordance with the contract requirements, and is in charge of all construction operations (regardless of who performs the work) and
(b) such other of its own organizational resources (supervision, management, and engineering services) as the contracting officer determines is necessary to assure the performance of the contract.

4. No portion of the contract shall be sublet, assigned or otherwise disposed of except with the written consent of the contracting officer, or authorized representative, and such consent when given shall not be construed to relieve the contractor of any responsibility for the fulfillment of the contract. Written consent will be given only after the contracting agency has assured that each subcontract is evidenced in writing and that it contains all pertinent provisions and requirements of the prime contract. (based on long- standing interpretation of 23 CFR 635.116).

5. The 30-percent self-performance requirement of paragraph (1) is not applicable to design-build contracts; however, contracting agencies may establish their own self-performance requirements. 23 CFR 635.116(d).

VII. SAFETY: ACCIDENT PREVENTION

This provision is applicable to all Federal-aid construction contracts and to all related subcontracts.

1. In the performance of this contract the contractor shall comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws governing safety, health, and sanitation (23 CFR Part 635). The contractor shall provide all safeguards, safety devices and protective equipment and take any other needed actions as it determines, or as the contracting officer may determine, to be reasonably necessary to protect the life and health of employees on the job and the safety of the public and to protect property in connection with the performance of the work covered by the contract. 23 CFR 635.108.

2. It is a condition of this contract, and shall be made a condition of each subcontract, which the contractor enters into pursuant to this contract, that the contractor and any subcontractor shall not permit any employee, in performance of the contract, to work in surroundings or under conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous or dangerous to his/her health or safety, as determined under construction safety and health standards (29 CFR Part 1926) promulgated by the Secretary of Labor, in accordance with Section 107 of the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. 3704). 29 CFR 1926.10.

3. Pursuant to 29 CFR 1926.3, it is a condition of this contract that the Secretary of Labor or authorized representative thereof, shall have right of entry to any site of contract performance to inspect or investigate the matter of compliance with the construction safety and health standards and to carry out the duties of the Secretary under Section 107 of the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. 3704).

VIII. FALSE STATEMENTS CONCERNING HIGHWAY PROJECTS

This provision is applicable to all Federal-aid construction contracts and to all related subcontracts.

In order to assure high quality and durable construction in conformity with approved plans and specifications and a high degree of reliability on statements and representations made by engineers, contractors, suppliers, and workers on Federal- aid highway projects, it is essential that all persons concerned with the project perform their functions as carefully, thoroughly, and honestly as possible. Willful falsification, distortion, or misrepresentation with respect to any facts related to the project is a violation of Federal law. To prevent any misunderstanding regarding the seriousness of these and similar acts, Form FHWA-

1022 shall be posted on each Federal-aid highway project (23 CFR Part 635) in one or more places where it is readily available to all persons concerned with the project:

18 U.S.C. 1020 reads as follows:

"Whoever, being an officer, agent, or employee of the United States, or of any State or Territory, or whoever, whether a person, association, firm, or corporation, knowingly makes any false statement, false representation, or false report as to the character, quality, quantity, or cost of the material used or to be used, or the quantity or quality of the work performed or to be performed, or the cost thereof in connection with the submission of plans, maps, specifications, contracts, or costs of construction on any highway or related project submitted for approval to the Secretary of Transportation; or

Whoever knowingly makes any false statement, false representation, false report or false claim with respect to the character, quality, quantity, or cost of any work performed or to be performed, or materials furnished or to be furnished, in connection with the construction of any highway or related project approved by the Secretary of Transportation; or

Whoever knowingly makes any false statement or false representation as to material fact in any statement, certificate, or report submitted pursuant to provisions of the Federal-aid Roads Act approved July 11, 1916, (39 Stat. 355), as amended and supplemented;

Shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 5 years or both."

IX. IMPLEMENTATION OF CLEAN AIR ACT AND FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT (42 U.S.C. 7606; 2 CFR 200.88; EO 11738)

This provision is applicable to all Federal-aid construction contracts in excess of \$150,000 and to all related subcontracts. 48 CFR 2.101; 2 CFR 200.327.

By submission of this bid/proposal or the execution of this contract or subcontract, as appropriate, the bidder, proposer, Federal-aid construction contractor, subcontractor, supplier, or vendor agrees to comply with all applicable standards, orders or regulations issued pursuant to the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401-7671q) and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251-1387). Violations must be reported to the Federal Highway Administration and the Regional Office of the Environmental Protection Agency. 2 CFR Part 200, Appendix II.

The contractor agrees to include or cause to be included the requirements of this Section in every subcontract, and further agrees to take such action as the contracting agency may direct as a means of enforcing such requirements. 2 CFR 200.327.

X. CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, INELIGIBILITY AND VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION

This provision is applicable to all Federal-aid construction contracts, design-build contracts, subcontracts, lower-tier

subcontracts, purchase orders, lease agreements, consultant contracts or any other covered transaction requiring FHWA approval or that is estimated to cost \$25,000 or more – as defined in 2 CFR Parts 180 and 1200. 2 CFR 180.220 and 1200.220.

1. Instructions for Certification – First Tier Participants:

a. By signing and submitting this proposal, the prospective first tier participant is providing the certification set out below.

b. The inability of a person to provide the certification set out below will not necessarily result in denial of participation in this covered transaction. The prospective first tier participant shall submit an explanation of why it cannot provide the certification set out below. The certification or explanation will be considered in connection with the department or agency's determination whether to enter into this transaction. However, failure of the prospective first tier participant to furnish a certification or an explanation shall disqualify such a person from participation in this transaction. 2 CFR 180.320.

c. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when the contracting agency determined to enter into this transaction. If it is later determined that the prospective participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the contracting agency may terminate this transaction for cause of default. 2 CFR 180.325.

d. The prospective first tier participant shall provide immediate written notice to the contracting agency to whom this proposal is submitted if any time the prospective first tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances. 2 CFR 180.345 and 180.350.

e. The terms "covered transaction," "debarred," "suspended," "ineligible," "participant," "person," "principal," and "voluntarily excluded," as used in this clause, are defined in 2 CFR Parts 180, Subpart I, 180.900-180.1020, and 1200. "First Tier Covered Transactions" refers to any covered transaction between a recipient or subrecipient of Federal funds and a participant (such as the prime or general contract). "Lower Tier Covered Transactions" refers to any covered transaction under a First Tier Covered Transaction (such as subcontracts). "First Tier Participant" refers to the participant who has entered into a covered transaction with a recipient or subrecipient of Federal funds (such as the prime or general contractor). "Lower Tier Participant" refers any participant who has entered into a covered transaction with a First Tier Participant or other Lower Tier Participants (such as subcontractors and suppliers).

f. The prospective first tier participant agrees by submitting this proposal that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the department or agency entering into this transaction. 2 CFR 180.330.

g. The prospective first tier participant further agrees by submitting this proposal that it will include the clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-Lower Tier Covered Transactions," provided by the department or contracting agency, entering into this covered

transaction, without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions exceeding the \$25,000 threshold. 2 CFR 180.220 and 180.300.

h. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that is not debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. 2 CFR 180.300; 180.320, and 180.325. A participant is responsible for ensuring that its principals are not suspended, debarred, or otherwise ineligible to participate in covered transactions. 2 CFR 180.335. To verify the eligibility of its principals, as well as the eligibility of any lower tier prospective participants, each participant may, but is not required to, check the System for Award Management website (<https://www.sam.gov/>). 2 CFR 180.300, 180.320, and 180.325.

i. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require the establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of the prospective participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.

j. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph (f) of these instructions, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency may terminate this transaction for cause or default. 2 CFR 180.325.

* * * * *

2. Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion – First Tier Participants:

a. The prospective first tier participant certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it and its principals:

(1) Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participating in covered transactions by any Federal department or agency, 2 CFR 180.335;

(2) Have not within a three-year period preceding this proposal been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property, 2 CFR 180.800;

(3) Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (a)(2) of this certification, 2 CFR 180.700 and 180.800; and

(4) Have not within a three-year period preceding this application/proposal had one or more public transactions (Federal, State or local) terminated for cause or default. 2 CFR 180.335(d).

(5) Are not a corporation that has been convicted of a felony violation under any Federal law within the two-year period preceding this proposal (USDOT Order 4200.6 implementing appropriations act requirements); and

(6) Are not a corporation with any unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted, or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability (USDOT Order 4200.6 implementing appropriations act requirements).

b. Where the prospective participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant should attach an explanation to this proposal. 2 CFR 180.335 and 180.340.

* * * * *

3. Instructions for Certification - Lower Tier Participants:

(Applicable to all subcontracts, purchase orders, and other lower tier transactions requiring prior FHWA approval or estimated to cost \$25,000 or more - 2 CFR Parts 180 and 1200). 2 CFR 180.220 and 1200.220.

a. By signing and submitting this proposal, the prospective lower tier participant is providing the certification set out below.

b. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was entered into. If it is later determined that the prospective lower tier participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department, or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.

c. The prospective lower tier participant shall provide immediate written notice to the person to which this proposal is submitted if at any time the prospective lower tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous by reason of changed circumstances. 2 CFR 180.365.

d. The terms "covered transaction," "debarred," "suspended," "ineligible," "participant," "person," "principal," and "voluntarily excluded," as used in this clause, are defined in 2 CFR Parts 180, Subpart I, 180.900 – 180.1020, and 1200. You may contact the person to which this proposal is submitted for assistance in obtaining a copy of those regulations. "First Tier Covered Transactions" refers to any covered transaction between a recipient or subrecipient of Federal funds and a participant (such as the prime or general contract). "Lower Tier Covered Transactions" refers to any covered transaction under a First Tier Covered Transaction (such as subcontracts). "First Tier Participant" refers to the participant who has entered into a covered transaction with a recipient or subrecipient of Federal funds (such as the prime or general contractor). "Lower Tier Participant" refers any participant who has entered into a covered transaction with a First Tier Participant or other Lower Tier Participants (such as subcontractors and suppliers).

e. The prospective lower tier participant agrees by submitting this proposal that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered

transaction, unless authorized by the department or agency with which this transaction originated. 2 CFR 1200.220 and 1200.332.

f. The prospective lower tier participant further agrees by submitting this proposal that it will include this clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-Lower Tier Covered Transaction," without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions exceeding the \$25,000 threshold. 2 CFR 180.220 and 1200.220.

g. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that is not debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant is responsible for ensuring that its principals are not suspended, debarred, or otherwise ineligible to participate in covered transactions. To verify the eligibility of its principals, as well as the eligibility of any lower tier prospective participants, each participant may, but is not required to, check the System for Award Management website (<https://www.sam.gov/>), which is compiled by the General Services Administration. 2 CFR 180.300, 180.320, 180.330, and 180.335.

h. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.

i. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph e of these instructions, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment. 2 CFR 180.325.

* * * * *

4. Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion--Lower Tier Participants:

a. The prospective lower tier participant certifies, by submission of this proposal, that neither it nor its principals:

(1) is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participating in covered transactions by any Federal department or agency, 2 CFR 180.355;

(2) is a corporation that has been convicted of a felony violation under any Federal law within the two-year period preceding this proposal (USDOT Order 4200.6 implementing appropriations act requirements); and

(3) is a corporation with any unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted, or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability. (USDOT Order 4200.6 implementing appropriations act requirements)

b. Where the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant should attach an explanation to this proposal.

* * * * *

XI. CERTIFICATION REGARDING USE OF CONTRACT FUNDS FOR LOBBYING

This provision is applicable to all Federal-aid construction contracts and to all related subcontracts which exceed \$100,000. 49 CFR Part 20, App. A.

1. The prospective participant certifies, by signing and submitting this bid or proposal, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

a. No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any Federal agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

b. If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any Federal agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.

2. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by 31 U.S.C. 1352. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

3. The prospective participant also agrees by submitting its bid or proposal that the participant shall require that the language of this certification be included in all lower tier subcontracts, which exceed \$100,000 and that all such recipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

XII. USE OF UNITED STATES-FLAG VESSELS:

This provision is applicable to all Federal-aid construction contracts, design-build contracts, subcontracts, lower-tier subcontracts, purchase orders, lease agreements, or any other covered transaction. 46 CFR Part 381.

This requirement applies to material or equipment that is acquired for a specific Federal-aid highway project. 46 CFR 381.7. It is not applicable to goods or materials that come into inventories independent of an FHWA funded-contract.

When oceanic shipments (or shipments across the Great Lakes) are necessary for materials or equipment acquired for a specific Federal-aid construction project, the bidder, proposer, contractor, subcontractor, or vendor agrees:

1. To utilize privately owned United States-flag commercial vessels to ship at least 50 percent of the gross tonnage (computed separately for dry bulk carriers, dry cargo liners, and tankers) involved, whenever shipping any equipment, material, or commodities pursuant to this contract, to the extent such vessels are available at fair and reasonable rates for United States-flag commercial vessels. 46 CFR 381.7.

2. To furnish within 20 days following the date of loading for shipments originating within the United States or within 30 working days following the date of loading for shipments originating outside the United States, a legible copy of a rated, 'on-board' commercial ocean bill-of-lading in English for each shipment of cargo described in paragraph (b)(1) of this section to both the Contracting Officer (through the prime contractor in the case of subcontractor bills-of-lading) and to the Office of Cargo and Commercial Sealift (MAR-620), Maritime Administration, Washington, DC 20590. (MARAD requires copies of the ocean carrier's (master) bills of lading, certified onboard, dated, with rates and charges. These bills of lading may contain business sensitive information and therefore may be submitted directly to MARAD by the Ocean Transportation Intermediary on behalf of the contractor). 46 CFR 381.7.

ATTACHMENT A - EMPLOYMENT AND MATERIALS PREFERENCE FOR APPALACHIAN DEVELOPMENT HIGHWAY SYSTEM OR APPALACHIAN LOCAL ACCESS ROAD CONTRACTS (23 CFR 633, Subpart B, Appendix B) This provision is applicable to all Federal-aid projects funded under the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965.

1. During the performance of this contract, the contractor undertaking to do work which is, or reasonably may be, done as on-site work, shall give preference to qualified persons who regularly reside in the labor area as designated by the DOL wherein the contract work is situated, or the subregion, or the Appalachian counties of the State wherein the contract work is situated, except:

a. To the extent that qualified persons regularly residing in the area are not available.

b. For the reasonable needs of the contractor to employ supervisory or specially experienced personnel necessary to assure an efficient execution of the contract work.

c. For the obligation of the contractor to offer employment to present or former employees as the result of a lawful collective bargaining contract, provided that the number of nonresident persons employed under this subparagraph (1c) shall not exceed 20 percent of the total number of employees employed by the contractor on the contract work, except as provided in subparagraph (4) below.

2. The contractor shall place a job order with the State Employment Service indicating (a) the classifications of the laborers, mechanics and other employees required to perform the contract work, (b) the number of employees required in each classification, (c) the date on which the participant estimates such employees will be required, and (d) any other pertinent information required by the State Employment Service to complete the job order form. The job order may be placed with the State Employment Service in writing or by telephone. If during the course of the contract work, the information

submitted by the contractor in the original job order is substantially modified, the participant shall promptly notify the State Employment Service.

3. The contractor shall give full consideration to all qualified job applicants referred to him by the State Employment Service. The contractor is not required to grant employment to any job applicants who, in his opinion, are not qualified to perform the classification of work required.

4. If, within one week following the placing of a job order by the contractor with the State Employment Service, the State Employment Service is unable to refer any qualified job applicants to the contractor, or less than the number requested, the State Employment Service will forward a certificate to the contractor indicating the unavailability of applicants. Such certificate shall be made a part of the contractor's permanent project records. Upon receipt of this certificate, the contractor may employ persons who do not normally reside in the labor area to fill positions covered by the certificate, notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph (1c) above.

5. The provisions of 23 CFR 633.207(e) allow the contracting agency to provide a contractual preference for the use of mineral resource materials native to the Appalachian region.

6. The contractor shall include the provisions of Sections 1 through 4 of this Attachment A in every subcontract for work which is, or reasonably may be, done as on-site work.

