

EXHIBIT 10-J

STANDARD AGREEMENT FOR SUBCONTRACTOR/DBE PARTICIPATION

1. Subcontractors

A. Nothing contained in this Agreement or otherwise, shall create any contractual relation between the Agency and any subcontractors, and no subcontract shall relieve the Contractor of his/her responsibilities and obligations hereunder. The Contractor agrees to be as fully responsible to the Agency for the acts and omissions of its subcontractors and of persons either directly or indirectly employed by any of them as it is for the acts and omissions of persons directly employed by the Contractor. The Contractor's obligation to pay its subcontractors is an independent obligation from the Agency's obligation to make payments to the Contractor.

B. Any subcontract in excess of \$25,000, entered into as a result of this Agreement, shall contain all the provisions stipulated in this Agreement to be applicable to subcontractors.

C. Contractor shall pay its subcontractors within ten (10) calendar days from receipt of each payment made to the Contractor by the Agency.

D. Any substitution of subcontractors must be approved in writing by the Agency's Contract Manager in advance of assigning work to a substitute subcontractor.

2. Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program Availability Advisory

A. This Agreement is subject to Title 49, Part 26, Code of Federal Regulations (49 CFR 26) entitled "Participation by Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in Department of Transportation Financial Assistance Programs." In order to ensure Caltrans achieves its federally mandated statewide overall DBE goal, the Agency encourages the participation of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs), as defined in 49 CFR 26 in the performance of Agreements financed in whole or in part with federal funds. The Contractor shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the award and performance of subcontracts.

B. As required by federal law, Caltrans has established a statewide overall DBE goal. In order to ascertain whether that statewide overall DBE goal is being achieved, the Caltrans is tracking DBE participation on all federal-aid contracts.

C. To assist Contractors in ascertaining DBE availability for specific items of work, the Agency advises that it has determined that DBEs could reasonably be expected to compete for subcontracting opportunities on this project and the likely DBE Availability Advisory Percentage is **ENTER DBE % HERE** percent. The Agency also advises that participation of DBEs in the specified percentage is not a condition of award.

D. Contractor has agreed to carry out applicable requirements of Title 49 CFR 26, in the award and administration of federally assisted Agreements. The regulations in their entirety are incorporated herein and by reference.

E. The Contractor should notify the Contract Manager in writing, of any changes to its anticipated DBE participation. This notice should be provided prior to the commencement of that portion of the work.

F. DBE and other small businesses (SB), as defined in Title 49 CFR26 are encouraged to participate in the performance of agreements financed in whole or in part with federal funds. The contractor, subrecipient or subcontractor shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the performance of this Agreement. The contractor shall carry out applicable requirements of Title 49 CFR 26 in the award and administration of US DOT-assisted agreements. Failure by the contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach of this Agreement, which may result in the termination of this Agreement or such other remedy as the recipient deems appropriate.

G. Any subcontract entered into as a result of this Agreement shall contain all of the provisions of this section.

3. Performance of DBE Contractors, and other DBE Subcontractors/Suppliers

A. A DBE performs a commercially useful function when it is responsible for execution of the work of the Agreement and is carrying out its responsibilities by actually performing, managing, and supervising the work involved. To perform a commercially useful function, the DBE must also be responsible with respect to materials and supplies used on the Agreement, for negotiating price, determining quality and quantity, ordering the material, and installing (where applicable) and paying for the material itself. To determine whether a DBE is performing a commercially useful function, evaluate the amount of work subcontracted, industry practices; whether the amount the firm is to be paid under the Agreement is commensurate with the work it is actually performing, and other relevant factors.

B. A DBE does not perform a commercially useful function if its role is limited to that of an extra participant in a transaction, Agreement, or project through which funds are passed in order to obtain the appearance of DBE participation. In determining whether a DBE is such an extra participant, examine similar transactions, particularly those in which DBEs do not participate.

C. If a DBE does not perform or exercise responsibility for at least thirty percent of the total cost of its Agreement with its own work force, or the DBE subcontracts a greater portion of the work of the Agreement than would be expected on the basis of normal industry practice for the type of work involved, it will be presumed that it is not performing a commercially useful function.

4. Prompt Payment of Funds Withheld to Subcontractors

No retainage will be held by the Agency from progress payments due the prime contractor. Any retainage held by the prime contractors or subcontractors from progress payments due subcontractors shall be promptly paid in full to subcontractors within 30 days after the subcontractor's work is satisfactorily completed. Federal law (49 CFR 26.29) requires that any delay or postponement of payment over the 30 days may take place only for good cause and with the agency's prior written approval. Any violation of this provision shall subject the violating prime contractor or subcontractor to the penalties, sanctions and other remedies specified in Section 7108.5 of the Business and Professions Code. 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. This provision applies to both DBE and non-DBE prime contractors and subcontractors.

Any subcontract entered into as a result of this Agreement shall contain all of the provisions of this section.

5. DBE Records

A. The Contractor shall maintain records of materials purchased and/or supplied from all subcontracts entered into with certified DBEs. The records shall show the name and business address of each DBE or vendor and the total dollar amount actually paid each DBE or vendor, regardless of tier. The records shall show the date of payment and the total dollar figure paid to all firms. DBE prime contractors shall also show the date of work performed by their own forces along with the corresponding dollar value of the work.

B. Upon completion of the Agreement, a summary of these records shall be prepared and submitted on the form entitled, "Final Report-Utilization of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE)," CEM-2402F (Exhibit 17-F in Chapter 17 of the LAPM), certified correct by the Contractor or the Contractor's authorized representative and shall be furnished to the Contract Manager with the final invoice. Failure to provide the summary of DBE payments with the final invoice will result in twenty-five percent (25%) of the dollar value of the invoice being withheld from payment until the form is submitted. The amount will be returned to the Contractor when a satisfactory "Final Report Utilization of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE)" is submitted to the Contract Manager.

a. Prior to the fifteenth of each month, the Contractor shall submit documentation to the Agency's Contract Manager showing the amount paid to DBE trucking companies. The Contractor shall also obtain and submit documentation to the Agency's Contract Manager showing the amount paid by DBE trucking companies to all firms, including owner-operators, for the leasing of trucks. If the DBE leases trucks from a non-DBE, the Contractor may count only the fee or commission the DBE receives as a result of the lease arrangement.

b. The Contractor shall also submit to the Agency's Contract Manager documentation showing the truck number, name of owner, California Highway Patrol CA number, and if applicable, the DBE certification number of the truck owner for all trucks used during that month. This documentation shall be submitted on the Caltrans "Monthly DBE Trucking Verification," CEM-2404(F) form provided to the Contractor by the Agency's Contract Manager.

6. DBE Certification and De-certification Status

If a DBE subcontractor is decertified during the life of the Agreement, the decertified subcontractor shall notify the Contractor in writing with the date of de-certification. If a subcontractor becomes a certified DBE during the life of the Agreement, the subcontractor shall notify the Contractor in writing with the date of certification. Any changes should be reported to the Agency's Contract Manager within 30 days.

When Reporting DBE Participation, Material or Supplies purchased from DBEs may count as follows:

A. If the materials or supplies are obtained from a DBE manufacturer, 100% of the cost of the materials or supplies will count toward the DBE participation. A DBE manufacturer is a firm that operates or maintains a factory or establishment that produces on the premises, the materials, supplies, articles, or equipment required under the Agreement and of the general character described by the specifications.

B. If the materials or supplies are purchased from a DBE regular dealer, count 60% of the cost of the materials or supplies toward DBE goals. A DBE regular dealer is a firm that owns, operates or maintains a store, warehouse, or other establishment in which the materials, supplies, articles or equipment of the general character described by the specifications and required under the Agreement, are bought, kept in stock, and regularly sold or leased to the public in the usual course of business. To be a DBE regular

dealer, the firm must be an established, regular business that engages, as its principal business and under its own name, in the purchase and sale or lease of the products in question. A person may be a DBE regular dealer in such bulk items as petroleum products, steel, cement, gravel, stone or asphalt without owning, operating or maintaining a place of business provided in this section.

C. If the person both owns and operates distribution equipment for the products, any supplementing of regular dealers' own distribution equipment shall be by a long-term lease agreement and not an ad hoc or Agreement-by-Agreement basis. Packagers, brokers, manufacturers' representatives, or other persons who arrange or expedite transactions are not DBE regular dealers within the meaning of this section.

D. Materials or supplies purchased from a DBE, which is neither a manufacturer nor a regular dealer, will be limited to the entire amount of fees or commissions charged for assistance in the procurement of the materials and supplies, or fees or transportation charges for the delivery of materials or supplies required on the job site, provided the fees are reasonable and not excessive as compared with fees charged for similar services.

When Reporting DBE Participation, Participation of DBE trucking companies may count as follows:

A. The DBE must be responsible for the management and supervision of the entire trucking operation for which it is responsible.

B. The DBE must itself own and operate at least one fully licensed, insured, and operational truck used on the Agreement.

C. The DBE receives credit for the total value of the transportation services it provides on the Agreement using trucks it owns, insures, and operates using drivers it employs.

D. The DBE may lease trucks from another DBE firm including an owner-operator who is certified as a DBE. The DBE who leases trucks from another DBE receives credit for the total value of the transportation services the lessee DBE provides on the Agreement.

E. The DBE may also lease trucks from a non-DBE firm, including an owner-operator. The DBE who leases trucks from a non-DBE is entitled to credit only for the fee or commission it receives as a result of the lease arrangement. The DBE does not receive credit for the total value of the transportation services provided by the lessee, since these services are not provided by the DBE.

F. For the purposes of this section, a lease must indicate that the DBE has exclusive use and control over the truck. This does not preclude the leased truck from working for others during the term of the lease with the consent of the DBE, as long as the lease gives the DBE absolute priority for use of the leased truck. Leased trucks must display the name and identification number of the DBE.