

Remarks for International Women's Day 2019



Remarks

Manisha Singh

Acting Under Secretary for Economic Growth,
Energy, and the Environment
U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation
Washington, DC
March 7, 2019

As Prepared

Thank you for the kind introduction and thank you to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation for co-hosting this important event with the Department of State. I also want to thank my great team in the Economic Bureau and our partners in the Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues.

As we gather to celebrate International Women's Day and Women's History Month, I am honored to be here with so many business leaders and champions of women's economic empowerment.

In line with this year's theme, "The Equality Opportunity" I want to set our sights on some bold endeavors:

- What if we could increase labor productivity by 25 percent?
- What if we could recover 19 percent of income lost to low labor force participation in South Asia?

- How about increasing global GDP by \$28 trillion by 2025?

And how can we do these things? By investing in women! Looking at those numbers, we can't afford not to do so!

The Equality Opportunity is literally a \$28 trillion question, and what a perfect moment in time it is to seize that opportunity!

Empowering women to participate and lead in the private sector – and in government as well -- allows us to tap into an enormous pool of talent that benefits our enterprises and societies as a whole.

Businesses around the world face obstacles when expanding to global markets and into key sectors-- this is especially true for female-led businesses. This is where challenge meets opportunity meet.

U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPOWERING WOMEN TO LEAD

It is with that challenge in mind that the Trump Administration has included women's economic empowerment as a priority in America's National Security Strategy. The National Security Strategy explicitly states:

"Societies that empower women to participate fully in civic and economic life," are "more prosperous and peaceful." The United States will "sup-

port efforts to advance women's equality, protect the rights of women and girls, and promote women and youth empowerment programs."

We are committed to expanding entrepreneurship, unleashing access to capital and technology, enhancing women's labor force participation, and addressing the underlying barriers that prevent women's equal participation in the economy.

We recognize that advancing women's economic participation is fundamental to deepening U.S. partnerships all over the world and achieving our foreign policy goals. The private sector is critical in order for us to make meaningful progress. We want to work in partnership with you to promote women's economic empowerment.

I am personally committed to ensuring that more women have opportunities to lead in government and in business.

My team here in Washington and our economic officers all over the world are hard at work for you. We are paving the way for businesses to access overseas markets, by negotiating beneficial agreements, supporting innovation and most importantly, by advocating for you. We are working toward a better, more welcoming international business environment. The role of women is a critical part of this.



California Sub-Bid Request Ads



SYBLON REID
General Engineering Contractors
Providing Solutions to Difficult Projects

P.O. BOX 100 Folsom, CA 95763
Phone: (916) 351-0457 Fax: (916) 351-1674
Contact: Will Scott

Sub-Bids Requested From **MBE, DBE, WBE** Subcontractors & Suppliers for:
OWNER: COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
MITCHELL ROAD (C4J090) AT P.M. 1.15 STORM DAMAGE PROJECT
PROJECT NO.: FEMA 4301-DR-CA PW 1029
CONTRACT NO.: 217300
BIDS OPEN: MARCH 26, 2019 AT 2:00 PM

Trades Solicited:

ASPHALT, PILINGS, CONCRETE & CEMENT, REINFORCING BAR SECTION, GUARD RAILINGS & BARRIERS, TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM, PLANE ASPHALT CONCRETE, ASPHALT CONCRETE, FURNISH & DRIVE PILING, REINFORCING STEEL, METAL BEAM GUARD RAILING, CONCRETE BARRIER, PAVEMENT MARKING, SURVEYOR, LAND SURVEYING

If a portion of the work is too large for you to handle, contact us and we will try and break it into smaller portions

Subcontractors and suppliers must be licensed to conduct business in the state of California. Must be able to provide payment and performance bonds provided by approved surety company. SRC will pay bond premium up to 1.5% of subcontract amount and will assist with insurance compliance. SRC will work with subcontractors on joint check agreements. Plans and specs are available for viewing at our Folsom office and upon request will provide FTP site for electronic viewing of project.

Bonding, insurance, lines of credit and any technical assistance or information related to the plans or specifications for the work will be made available. Assistance with obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials, or related assistance or services for this project will also be offered.

CAHILL CONTRACTORS LLC
requests bids from Certified SBE Subcontractors and Suppliers for **ALL trades EXCEPT:**

Structural Concrete / Structural Light Gauge Metal Stud Framing / Exterior Building Maintenance / Elevators / Fire Sprinklers / Plumbing / HVAC / Electrical / Solar / Earthwork / Shoring / Hoist / Crane / Scaffold

YERBA BUENA ISLAND - REMAINING TRADES
301 Macalla Court, San Francisco, CA 94130

This is a TIDA project with a PLA and construction workforce requirements.

BID DATE: 3/18/19 @ 2 PM

BID DOCUMENTS:

Please contact Colby for access to documents on BuildingConnected.

CONTACT: Colby Smith at estimating@cahill-sf.com, (415) 677-0611.

CAHILL CONTRACTORS LLC requests bids from Certified SBE Subcontractors and Suppliers for the following **DESIGN-BUILD trades:**

Fire Sprinkler / Solar / Exterior Building Maintenance / Fire Alarm (Design Only)

1064 MISSION STREET - DESIGN-BUILD BID
1064 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

This is an SFCMD project with construction workforce and prevailing wage requirements.

BID DATE: 3/18/19 @ 2 PM

BID DOCUMENTS:

Please contact Colby for access to documents on BuildingConnected.

CONTACT: Colby Smith at estimating@cahill-sf.com, (415) 677-0611.



Floating Fire Station 35
Pier 22.5, SF, CA

BID DATE: Friday March 22, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.
EMAIL TO: Bill Krill - BKrill@swinerton.com

Swinerton Builders is requesting **STEEL** quotations from ALL subs.

20% LBE Participation required,
must be Certified by City of San Francisco.

SCOPE OF WORK:

To protect against sea-level rise and earthquakes, the City of San Francisco has awarded to Swinerton Builders a new approximately 16,034 gsf Fire Station on top of a floating barge at piers 22.5/24 (just north of the Bay Bridge) in San Francisco. This is a complete design-build project which is on Port of San Francisco land and will be managed by the San Francisco Department of Public Works (with LBE requirements) with funding through the Emergency Safety and Emergency Response (ESER) Bond passed in 2014. The project includes a steel frame building with metal decking, berthing for three Fire Boats, small craft storage and launching, dive equipment and boat, ambulance access and living quarters for Fire crews and officers.

TRADES:

Structural steel, Metal decking, Miscellaneous metal, Steel stairs and Decorative metal.

PLANS & SPECIFICATIONS:

Available through Swinerton "Smartbid" – contact Bill Krill at BKrill@swinerton.com

WE REQUEST BIDS FROM ALL SUBS

Please submit your bid to BKrill@swinerton.com

"Swinerton is an Equal Employment Opportunity, Minority, Women, Disability, and Veteran Employer"



THE PRESSURE GROUT CO.,

is submitting a bid on
March 26, 2019, @ 2PM,

for the following project:

Seismic Retrofit- Soil

Improvements at

Marina Middle School

3500 Fillmore Street

San Francisco, CA 94123

We are looking for quotes for the following services from Certified DVBE Subcontractors and Suppliers of all trades to submit bids for:

1. Top Soil certified in accordance California Environmental Quality Act.
2. Trucking
3. Landscaping
4. Plumbing

Please submit your quotes
by email to:

pgc@pressuregrout.com

Or by Fax to: 510-887-2275

SBE OUTREACH SERVICES

With 1.5 million businesses in our database, SBE is California's #1 source for diversity outreach.

Advertisements

Placed in the Small Business Exchange newspaper, SBE Today newsletter, and online at www.sbeinc.com

Faxed and Eblast Solicitations

Targeted mailings sent to businesses per your criteria.

Telemarketing

Telephone follow-up calls that follow a script of 5 questions you create.

Computer Generated Reports

Will fit right into your proposal, along with a list of interested firms to contact.

Contact Info:

795 Folsom Street, 1st Flr, Room 1124
San Francisco, CA 94107

Email: sbe@sbeinc.com

Website: www.sbeinc.com

Phone: (415) 778-6250, (800) 800-8534

Fax: (415) 778-6255

Publisher of

Small Business Exchange
weekly newspaper



California Sub-Bid Request Ads



SYBLON REID
General Engineering Contractors
Providing Solutions to Difficult Projects

P.O. BOX 100 Folsom, CA 95763
Phone: (916) 351-0457 Fax: (916) 351-1674
Contact: John Pottenburgh

Sub-Bids Requested From **MBE, DBE, WBE** Subcontractors & Suppliers for:
OWNER: NAPA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
RIDGECREST DRIVE MPM 0.40, RDS 18-22 2017 STORM DAMAGE REPAIR –
GRADE BEAM WALL PROJECT.
BIDS OPEN: MARCH 21, 2019 AT 1:30 PM

Trades Solicited:

REBAR, CIDH (DRILLING), CONCRETE WORK, MGS – METAL BEAM GUARD RAIL, TRAFFIC CONTROL, READY MIX SUPPLY, AC PAVEMENT AND AC GRINDING.

If a portion of the work is too large for you to handle, contact us and we will try and break it into smaller portions

Subcontractors and suppliers must be licensed to conduct business in the state of California. Must be able to provide payment and performance bonds provided by approved surety company. SRC will pay bond premium up to 1.5% of subcontract amount and will assist with insurance compliance. SRC will work with subcontractors on joint check agreements. Plans and specs are available for viewing at our Folsom office and upon request will provide FTP site for electronic viewing of project.

Bonding, insurance, lines of credit and any technical assistance or information related to the plans or specifications for the work will be made available. Assistance with obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials, or related assistance or services for this project will also be offered.



SYBLON REID
General Engineering Contractors
Providing Solutions to Difficult Projects

P.O. BOX 100 Folsom, CA 95763
Phone: (916) 351-0457 Fax: (916) 351-1674
Contact: John Pottenburgh

Sub-Bids Requested From **MBE, DBE, WBE** Subcontractors & Suppliers for:
OWNER: NAPA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
SUNNYHILL DRIVE MPM 0.40, RDS 11-16 2017 STORM DAMAGE REPAIR –
GRADE BEAM WALL PROJECT.
BIDS OPEN: MARCH 21, 2019 AT 1:30 PM

Trades Solicited:

REBAR, CIDH (DRILLING), CONCRETE WORK, MGS – METAL BEAM GUARD RAIL, TRAFFIC CONTROL, READY MIX SUPPLY, AC PAVEMENT AND AC GRINDING.

If a portion of the work is too large for you to handle, contact us and we will try and break it into smaller portions

Subcontractors and suppliers must be licensed to conduct business in the state of California. Must be able to provide payment and performance bonds provided by approved surety company. SRC will pay bond premium up to 1.5% of subcontract amount and will assist with insurance compliance. SRC will work with subcontractors on joint check agreements. Plans and specs are available for viewing at our Folsom office and upon request will provide FTP site for electronic viewing of project.

Bonding, insurance, lines of credit and any technical assistance or information related to the plans or specifications for the work will be made available. Assistance with obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials, or related assistance or services for this project will also be offered.

Looking for Subcontractors, Vendors, and Suppliers?

Advertise your Sub-Bid Requests in the **Small Business Exchange.**

With a monthly readership of 75,000, SBE reaches a diverse audience, cutting across ethnic and gender lines as well as traditional industry segments.

Call 1-800-800-8534 or visit us at www.sbeinc.com



Graniterock

5225 Hellyer Avenue, Suite #220
San Jose, CA 95138
Phone (408) 574-1400 Fax (408) 365-9548
Contact: Bryan Jones
Email: estimating@graniterock.com

REQUESTING SUB-QUOTES FROM QUALIFIED DBE Firms SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS/ TRUCKERS FOR:

Rebid –
Light Rail Track Intrusion Prevention
Contract C19003F
Owner: Santa Clara Valley
Transportation Authority
Engineers' Estimate: \$3,500,000.

BID DATE: March 15, 2019 @ 1:00 PM

Items of work include but are not limited to: Traffic Control, Remove Striping & Markings, Concrete Barrier Wall, Slurry Seal, Chain Link Fence & Swing Gate, Metal Picket Fence & Sliding Gate, Signs, Striping & Markings, Electrical, Irrigation and Trucking. Granite Rock Company 'Graniterock' is signatory to Operating Engineers, Laborers, Teamsters, Carpenters and Cement Masons unions. 100% performance and payment bonds will be required from a qualified surety company for the full amount of the subcontract price. Bonding assistance is available. Graniterock will pay bond premium up to 1.5%. In addition to bonding assistance, subcontractors are encouraged to contact Graniterock Estimating with questions regarding obtaining lines of credit, insurance, equipment, materials and/or supplies, or with any questions you may have. Subcontractors must possess a current contractor's license, DIR number, insurance and worker's compensation coverage. Subcontractors will be required to enter into our standard contract. Graniterock intends to work cooperatively with all qualified firms seeking work on this project.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer

Visit www.sbeinc.com to download the latest SBE Newspaper and SBE E-Newsletter





California Sub-Bid Request Ads

DESILVA GATES CONSTRUCTION

11555 Dublin Boulevard • P.O. Box 2909
Dublin, CA 94568-2909
(925) 829-9220 / FAX (925) 803-4263
Estimator: **JIM YACKLEY**
Website: www.desilvagates.com
An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

DeSilva Gates Construction (DGC) is preparing a bid as a Prime Contractor for the project listed below:

CALTRANS ROUTE 70 – CONSTRUCTION ON STATE HIGHWAY IN YUBA COUNTY NEAR LINDA AND MARYSVILLE FROM 0.3 MILE SOUTH OF FEATHER RIVER BOULEVARD UNDERCROSSING TO THE YUBA RIVER BRIDGE AND OVERHEAD,
Contract No. 03-0H5104,
Federal Aid Project No. ACHSNHG-P070(136)E
Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Goal Assigned is 16%

OWNER

STATE OF CALIFORNIA -
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
1727 30th Street, Bidder's Exchange, MS 26,
Sacramento, CA 95816

BID DATE: MARCH 14, 2019 @ 2:00 P.M.

DGC is soliciting quotations from certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, for the following types of work and supplies/materials including but not limited to:

AC DIKE, COLD PLANE, CONCRETE BARRIER, CONSTRUCTION AREA SIGNS, ELECTRICAL, EMULSION SUPPLIER, LEAD COMPLIANCE PLAN, METAL BEAM GUARDRAIL, ROADSIDE SIGNS, ROADWAY EXCAVATION, RUMBLE STRIP, STRIPING, SWPPP/WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLAN PREPARATION, TEMPORARY EROSION CONTROL, UNDERGROUND, VEGETATION CONTROL, TRUCKING, WATER TRUCKS, STREET SWEEPING, CLASS 2 AGGREGATE BASE MATERIAL, HOT MIX ASPHALT (TYPE A) MATERIAL, RUBBERIZED HMA (OPEN GRADE) MATERIAL, ASPHALT OIL/BINDER SUPPLIER.

Plans and specifications may be reviewed at our offices located at 11555 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin, CA or 7700 College Town Drive, Sacramento, CA, or at your local Builders Exchange, or reviewed and downloaded from the ftp site at <ftp://ftp%25desilvagates.com:f7pa55wd@pub.desilvagates.com> (if prompted the username is ftp@desilvagates.com and password is [f7pa55wd](ftp://ftp%25desilvagates.com:f7pa55wd@pub.desilvagates.com)) or from the Owner's site at www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/oe/weekly_ads/all_adv_projects.php

Fax your bid to (925) 803-4263 to the attention of Estimator Jim Yackley. If you have questions for the Estimator, call at (925) 829-9220. When submitting any public works bid please include your DUNS number and DIR number. For questions regarding registration for DIR use the link at: www.dir.ca.gov/Public-Works/PublicWorks.html

If you need DBE support services and assistance in obtaining bonding, lines of credit, insurance, necessary equipment, materials and/or supplies or related assistance or services, for this project call the Estimator at (925) 829-9220, or contact your local Small Business Development Center Network (<http://californiasbdc.org>) or contact the California Southwest Transportation Resource Center (www.transportation.gov/osdbu/SBTRCs). DGC is willing to breakout portions of work to increase the expectation of meeting the DBE goal.

At our discretion, 100% Payment and 100% Performance bonds may be required as a subcontract condition. This will be a PREVAILING WAGE JOB. DGC is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

DESILVA GATES CONSTRUCTION

11555 Dublin Boulevard • P.O. Box 2909
Dublin, CA 94568-2909
(925) 829-9220 / FAX (925) 803-4263
Estimator: **VICTOR LE**
Website: www.desilvagates.com
An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

DeSilva Gates Construction (DGC) is preparing a bid as a Prime Contractor for the project listed below:

ZINFANDEL COMPLEX PROJECT – CONSTRUCTION ON STATE HIGHWAY IN SACRAMENTO COUNTY ON STATE HIGHWAY 50 IN THE CITY OF RANCHO CORDOVA AT ZINFANDEL DRIVE FROM 0.2 MILE SOUTH TO 0.1 MILE NORTH OF ZINFANDEL DRIVE OVERCROSSING
City Project No. CP14-2132,
Federal Aid Project No. STPL-5482(032)
Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Goal Assigned is 11%

OWNER

CITY OF RANCHO CORDOVA –
2729 Prospect Park Drive,
Rancho Cordova, CA 95760

BID DATE: MARCH 14, 2019 @ 2:00 P.M.

DGC is soliciting quotations from certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, for the following types of work and supplies/materials including but not limited to:

BRIDGE, CLEARING AND GRUBBING/DEMOLITION, COLD PLANE, CONCRETE BARRIER, CONSTRUCTION AREA SIGNS, ELECTRICAL, EROSION CONTROL, FENCING, LEAD COMPLIANCE PLAN, METAL BEAM GUARDRAIL, MINOR CONCRETE, MINOR CONCRETE STRUCTURE, ROADSIDE SIGNS, DELINEATORS, MARKERS, SIGN STRUCTURE, SLURRY SEAL, STRIPING, SURVEY/STAKING, SWPPP/WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLAN PREPARATION, TEMPORARY EROSION CONTROL, TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEMS, UNDERGROUND, VEGETATION CONTROL, TRUCKING, WATER TRUCKS, STREET SWEEPING, IMPORTED BORROW, CLASS 2 AGGREGATE BASE MATERIAL, HOT MIX ASPHALT (TYPE A) MATERIAL, ASPHALT TREATED PERMEABLE BASE, RUBBERIZED HMA (OPEN GRADE) MATERIAL.

Plans and specifications may be reviewed at our offices located at 11555 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin, CA or 7700 College Town Drive, Sacramento, CA, or at your local Builders Exchange, or reviewed and downloaded from the ftp site at <ftp://ftp%25desilvagates.com:f7pa55wd@pub.desilvagates.com> (if prompted the username is ftp@desilvagates.com and password is [f7pa55wd](ftp://ftp%25desilvagates.com:f7pa55wd@pub.desilvagates.com)) or from the Owner's site.

Fax your bid to (925) 803-4263 to the attention of Estimator Victor Le. If you have questions for the Estimator, call at (925) 829-9220. When submitting any public works bid please include your DUNS number and DIR number. For questions regarding registration for DIR use the link at: www.dir.ca.gov/Public-Works/PublicWorks.html

If you need DBE support services and assistance in obtaining bonding, lines of credit, insurance, necessary equipment, materials and/or supplies or related assistance or services, for this project call the Estimator at (925) 829-9220, or contact your local Small Business Development Center Network (<http://californiasbdc.org>) or contact the California Southwest Transportation Resource Center (www.transportation.gov/osdbu/SBTRCs). DGC is willing to breakout portions of work to increase the expectation of meeting the DBE goal.

At our discretion, 100% Payment and 100% Performance bonds may be required as a subcontract condition. This will be a PREVAILING WAGE JOB. DGC is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Pacific States

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTRACTORS, INC.

CAL LIC. NO. 723241
11555 Dublin Boulevard
Dublin, CA 94568-2909
Phone: (925) 803-4333 • FAX: (925) 803-4334
Estimator: **Keith Donahue**
KDonahue@pacificstates.net

Pacific States Environmental Contractors, Inc. (PSEC) is preparing a bid as a Prime Contractor for the project listed below:

PROJECT:

Laguna Creek (Line E) Improvements 1200 feet Downstream of Cushing Parkway to Starboard Drive in Fremont, Alameda County California, Zone No. 6 Project.

OWNER:

Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
951 Turner Court, Room 300
Hayward, CA 94545

BID DATE: April 2, 2019 @ 2:00 PM

We hereby encourage responsible participation of Disadvantaged Minority/Women Owned Business Enterprises and solicit their subcontractor or materials and/or suppliers and trucking quotation for the following types of work including but not limited to:

Survey, Concrete, Fencing, Shoring, Landscaping and Underground Utilities.

At our discretion, 100% Payment and 100% Performance bonds may be required as a subcontract condition. Please call if you need assistance in obtaining bonding, insurance, equipment, materials and/or supplies for this project.

This will be a PREVAILING WAGE JOB.

Plans and specifications may be viewed at our office located at 11555 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin, CA, or may be viewed or purchased by contacting Central Blue Print at 17132 E. 14th Street, Hayward, CA 94541 (510-276-2275), East Bay Blue Print and Supply at 1745 14th Ave. Oakland, CA 94606 (510-261-2990), or Custom Blue Print, 1944 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Walnut Creek, Ca 94596 (925-932-3113).

PSEC is willing to breakout any portion of work to encourage Disadvantaged Minority/Women Owned Business Enterprises and solicit their subcontractor or materials and/or suppliers and trucking quotations as well as increase the expectations of meeting the D/M/WBE goal. If you require any assistance, please contact the Estimator, Keith Donahue, email him at KDonahue@pacificstates.net or call (925) 803-4333. Bids may be faxed to us at (925) 803-4334. When submitting any public works bid please include your DUNS number and DIR number. For questions regarding registration for DIR use the link at: www.dir.ca.gov/Public-Works/PublicWorks.html. We are an Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer.

If you need D/M/WBE support services and assistance in obtaining bonding, lines of credit, insurance, necessary equipment, materials and/or supplies or related assistance or services, for this project call the Estimator at (925) 803-4333.

At our discretion, 100% Payment and 100% Performance bonds may be required as a subcontract condition. This will be a PREVAILING WAGE JOB.

PSEC is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.



California Sub-Bid Request Ads



McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.

20401 S.W. Birch Street, Newport, CA. 92660
 Phone (949) 851-8383 Ext. 73347 • Fax (949) 756-6841
 Stephanie Monsen, Preconstruction Manager – smonsen@mccarthy.com

Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise - Invitation to Bid

Project: SMMUSD – Samohi Discovery Building
 Santa Monica California
 Number: E-1808

Bids Due: March 21st, 2018 - 2:00PM PST
 Location: 601 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica, CA 90405
 Expected Start: June 2019
 Expected Finish: June 2021
 Project Size: 225,000 sq. ft.
 Architect: HED

Description:

Create a new educational building in the phased campus master plan. Provide a new 4-story open building concept including physical labs, special education classroom, 28 classrooms for two houses with adjoining commons. The new 4-story building will consist of 50 meter pool, parking garage with lower level B2 and surface parking, dining facility, distribution center, special education classroom, project lead the way/physical science labs, special academic instruction collaboration classrooms, computer lab, career technology education labs and general classrooms.

Documents can be found at - <https://mbc.box.com/v/SamohiDiscovery>



431 Payran Street, Petaluma, CA 94952
 Phone: 707-835-2900 • Fax: 707-835-2994
 Contact: Kelsey Godfrey
 Email: bid@arntzbuilders.com

REQUESTS QUOTATIONS FROM ALL STATE OF CALIFORNIA DGS CERTIFIED DVBE SUBCONTRACTORS & SUPPLIERS and ALL QUALIFIED SUBCONTRACTORS & SUPPLIERS FOR ALL TRADES FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECT:

**GEORGE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL
 VOLUNTARY SEISMIC STRENGTHENING
 SAN FRANCISCO, CA
 SFUSD Project #11898**

BID DATE: March 26, 2019 @ 2:00pm
ESTIMATE: \$25,500,000

Trades needed but not limited to: Earthwork, Excavation and Backfill, Selective Demo, Site Clearing, Concrete, Cast-in-Place Concrete, Shotcrete, Structural Steel and Misc. Iron, Metal Fabrications, Casework, Roof Insulation, Modified Bitumen Roofing, Flashing and Sheet Metal, Unit Skylights, Firestopping, Joint Sealers, Hollow Metal Door Frames, Access Panels, Door Hardware, Glazing, Metal Framing, Gypsum Board, Ceramic Tile, Acoustical Ceilings, Painting, Visual Display Boards, Interior Signage, Toilet Room Accessories, Fire Protection Accessories, Metal Lockers, Walk-in Cooler and Freezer, Elevator Modernization, Fire Suppression, Plumbing, HVAC, Electrical, Asphalt Paving, Haz-Mat.

CONTACT: Kelsey Godfrey bid@arntzbuilders.com

All contractors shall be registered with the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code Section 1725.5 to be qualified to bid on, be listed in a bid proposal (submitted on or after March 1, 2015) or be awarded a contract for public work on a public works project (awarded on or after April 1, 2015). In addition, they are subject to the requirements of Section 4104 of the Public Contract Code.

BONDING, INSURANCE, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE. PLANS AVAILABLE IN GC'S PLAN ROOM. SUCCESSFUL SUBCONTRACTORS WILL BE REQUIRED TO SIGN ARNTZ BUILDERS, INC. STANDARD SUBCONTRACT AGREEMENT WHICH INCLUDES ARNTZ BUILDERS, INC. REQUIREMENT THAT SUBCONTRACTORS PROVIDE A 100% FAITHFUL PERFORMANCE AND PAYMENT BOND OF THE SUBCONTRACT PRICE FROM A TREASURY LISTED SURETY COMPANY ACCEPTABLE TO ARNTZ BUILDERS. BOND PREMIUM TO BE INCLUDED IN BID AS A SEPARATE ITEM. SUBCONTRACTORS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE A WAIVER OF SUBROGATION ENDORSEMENT TO THEIR WORKERS COMPENSATION INSURANCE.

WE ARE SIGNATORY TO THE CARPENTER'S AND LABORER'S COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS
 AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



O.C. Jones & Sons, Inc.
 1520 Fourth Street • Berkeley, CA 94710
 Phone: 510-526-3424 • FAX: 510-526-0990
 Contact: Jean Sicard

REQUEST FOR DBE
 SUBCONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS FOR:

**2014 Napa Earthquake Pavement Repairs,
 Rds 18-14
 County of Napa
 BID DATE: March 14, 2019 @ 3:30 PM**

We are soliciting quotes for (including but not limited to):

Trucking, Temporary and Permanent Erosion Control Measures, Pulverizing Pavement, Striping & Marking, Traffic Control, Crack Seal, and Construction Materials

An Equal Opportunity Employer

100% Performance & Payment Bonds may be required. Worker's Compensation Waiver of Subrogation required. Please call OCJ for assistance with bonding, insurance, necessary equipment, material and/or supplies. OCJ is willing to breakout any portion of work to encourage DBE Participation. Plans & Specs are available for viewing at our office.



O.C. Jones & Sons, Inc.
 1520 Fourth Street • Berkeley, CA 94710
 Phone: 510-526-3424 • FAX: 510-526-0990
 Contact: Jason Martin

REQUEST FOR DVBE & SBE
 SUBCONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS FOR:

**Ohlone Community College District
 Ohlone College North Parking Lot
 BID DATE: March 13, 2019 @ 2:00 PM**

We are soliciting quotes for (including but not limited to):

Trucking, Temporary and Permanent Erosion Control Measures, Survey, Clearing, Tree Removal, Scheduling, Concrete Curb & Gutter, Flatwork, Concrete Structures (Retaining Walls, Stairs), CMU Building (CMU, Doors, Skylights, Roofing, etc.) , Water Line, Sewer, Storm Drain, Fencing, Gates, Hand Rails, Bollards, Landscape, Irrigation, Asphalt Material Supply, Aggregate Supply, Mechanical, Hazardous Materials Abatement, Striping, Signs, Painting, Fire Alarm Systems, Lighting, Site Electrical, Cold Milling, Slurry Seal, Saw Cutting, Water-Proofing, Temporary Fence, Rebar, Utility Adjustment, Pipe Supply, SWPPP Plan, and Construction Materials

An Equal Opportunity Employer

100% Performance & Payment Bonds may be required. Worker's Compensation Waiver of Subrogation required. Please call OCJ for assistance with bonding, insurance, necessary equipment, material and/or supplies. OCJ is willing to breakout any portion of work to encourage DVBE & SBE Participation. Plans & Specs are available for viewing at our office.



Public Legal Notices



CITY & COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Contract No. 1000013088 JOB ORDER CONTRACT J46 SPECIALITY DOORS

Sealed bids will be received at 1155 Market Street, 4th Floor, San Francisco, California 94103 until **2:30 p.m. on March 20, 2019**, after which they will be publicly opened and read. Digital files of Bid Documents, Plan Holders Lists, and Addenda may be downloaded at no cost from the Public Works Electronic Bid Documents Download site at www.sfpublishworks.org/biddocs. Please visit the Contracts, Bids and Payments webpage at www.sfpublishworks.org for more information (click on Resources > Contractor Resources). Notices regarding Addenda and other bid changes will be distributed by email to Plan Holders.

The advertisement for bids is for the award of a Job Order Contract (JOC). Work is accomplished by issuing Task Orders to the successful Contractor during the term of the Contract. The scope of work may include removal and installation of specialty doors and related work, including work at San Francisco Fire Department fire stations that will remain fully operational during construction.

The Contract Term is 730 days from the date of notification to Contractor of executed Contract or when the cumulative amount of issued Task Orders reaches the Maximum Contract Value, whichever comes first. The Contract Term may be extended up to 5 years to complete the work of issued Task Orders, but no new Task Orders will be issued after the first 4 years.

The Maximum Contract Value is \$2,500,000, with a guarantee to receive opportunity to perform a minimum of \$50,000 worth of Task Order(s) to be issued during the Contract Term. For more information, contact the JOC Manager, **Teenchee Le** at 415-558-4023.

Bids will not be accepted from contractors currently holding a JOC contract with San Francisco Public Works, except when such existing JOC contract will expire in 120 days or fewer from the date Bids are due for this Contract, or if the contractor has been issued Task Orders valued by the City in an amount equal to or exceeding 90% of the Maximum Contract Value of the existing JOC contract.

On July 1, 2014, the registration program under section 1725.5 of the California Labor Code went into effect. The program requires that all contractors and subcontractors who bid or work on a public works project register and pay an annual fee to the California Department of Industrial Relations ("DIR").

No contractor or subcontractor may be listed in a bid or awarded a contract for a public works project unless registered with the DIR as required by Labor Code section 1725.5 [with limited exceptions from this requirement for bid purposes only under Labor Code section 1771.1(a)].

Pursuant to San Francisco Administrative Code ("Administrative Code") Section 6.25 and Chapter 25 of the Environment Code, "Clean Construction" is required for the performance of all work.

Each Task Order will include liquidated damages, and each Task Order will be on a Lump Sum basis computed using preset Unit Prices and the Adjustment Factors.

Progressive payments will be made on Task Orders with construction duration of more than 45 calendar days.

The Contract will be awarded to the lowest responsible responsive bidder.

Bid discounts may be applied as per Administrative Code Chapter 14B. LBE Subcontracting Participation Requirement is 5%. Call Fionnbarra (Finbarr) Jewell at 415-274-0511 for details. In accordance with Administrative Code Chapter 14B requirements, all bidders shall submit documented good faith efforts with their bids, except those who exceed the above stated LBE Subcontracting Participation Requirement

by 35%. Bidders must achieve 80 out of 100 points to be deemed responsive. Bidders will receive 15 points for attending the pre-bid conference, if scheduled. Refer to CMD Form 2B.

A pre-bid conference will be held on **March 5, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.** at 30 Van Ness Avenue, 3rd Floor Golden Gate Conference Room. Bidders are strongly encouraged to attend to obtain information regarding the Job Order Contract program.

For information on the City's Surety Bond Program, call Jennifer Elmore at (415) 217-6578.

A corporate surety bond or certified check for no less than \$62,500, an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the Initial Performance Bond and Initial Payment Bond amount of \$625,000, must accompany each bid.

Class "D-28" license required to bid.

In accordance with Administrative Code Chapter 6, no bid is accepted and no contract in excess of \$600,000 is awarded by the City and County of San Francisco until such time as the Mayor or the Mayor's designee approves the contract for award, and the Director of Public Works then issues an order of award. Pursuant to Charter Section 3.105, all contract awards are subject to certification by the Controller as to the availability of funds.

Minimum wage rates for this project must comply with the current General Prevailing Wage as determined by the State Department of Industrial Relations. Minimum wage rates other than applicable to General Prevailing Wage must comply with Administrative Code Chapter 12P, Minimum Compensation Ordinance.

This Project is subject to the requirements of the San Francisco Local Hiring Policy for Construction ("Policy") as set forth in Administrative Code Section 6.22(g). Bidders are hereby advised that the requirements of the Policy will be incorporated as a material term of any contract awarded for the Project. Refer to Section 00 73 30 of the Project Manual for more information.

Bidders are hereby advised that the Contractor to whom the Contract is awarded must be certified by the Contract Monitoring Division as being in compliance with the Equal Benefits Provisions of Chapter 12B of the Administrative Code within two weeks after notification of award.

If a bidder objects on any ground to any bid specification or legal requirement imposed by this Advertisement for Bids, the bidder shall, no later than the 10th working day prior to the date of Bid opening, provide written notice to the Contract Administration Division, San Francisco Public Works, setting forth with specificity the grounds for the objection.

3/7/19

CNS-3227431#

SMALL BUSINESS EXCHANGE

March 2019 Outreach Ads

Let your career take off at San Francisco International Airport (SFO)! A variety of career opportunities are available including airport administration, positions with airlines, security, baggage and cargo handling, driving, food service, retail, and more! Some companies are offering signing bonuses. SFO also offers robust education and internship programs, helping to pave the pathway for future employment. Contact community@flysfo.com or 650-821-5242 to learn more.

Big opportunities are also available for small businesses at SFO! The Airport offers a wide variety of business opportunities ranging from construction to concessions to professional services. Contact smallbusiness@flysfo.com or 650-821-5022 to learn more about upcoming opportunities and the range of supports that enable small businesses to compete equitably.

The San Francisco Youth Commission Transformative Justice Committee invites youth 12-24 years old to participate in a youth - police Roundtable. Beyond creating a space for truth and understanding, we wish to bring together solutions. The youth commission hopes to empower youth from different walks of life, who are at the forefront of the juvenile justice system, to sit down with law enforcement to come up with community oriented solutions to issues plaguing the current justice system and how it interacts with youth.

The event will be held March 12th, 2019 at the SF Main Library Latino/Hispanic Room A from 5 - 7 pm.

For any questions or concerns, please contact Caroline.truong@sfgov.org

RSVP here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/youth-police-roundtable-tickets-56439555229>

Child support matters can be complicated, stressful, and confusing. The Department of Child Support Services helps parents understand the process so they know their rights and options for making and receiving support payments. Call us today at (866) 901-3212 or visit our office at 617 Mission Street to learn how we can help you. Information is also available online at www.sfgov.org/dcss.

CNS-3225921#

Visit www.sbeinc.com
to download the latest SBE
Newspaper and Newsletter



Remarks for International Women's Day 2019



Continued from page 1

This is an issue that is very personal for me-- the opportunities I received as a young girl have allowed me to become the person I am today. I want every young girl to have the same opportunities I did. And we can't take it for granted that every one does. Let's be proactive in our strategy to give women the access to the tools, the resources, the networks they need to bring their ideas to life!

The good news is that momentum is on our side. This momentum builds on decades of U.S. efforts to support women's economic leadership around the globe. In regional networks of women entrepreneurs all over the world, we know that women are much more than beneficiaries of growth and stability -- they drive it!

Since January 2017, the Trump Administration has launched several new efforts to empower women globally. Let me tell you about a few of them.

WE-FI

The United States was a founding member of the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi): Announced at the G20 Leaders' Summit in Hamburg, Germany with the World Bank and 13 other donor countries. Championed by the United States and the first of its kind, the initiative is on track to mobilize more than \$1.6 billion in capital for women entrepreneurs in developing countries.

WOMENCONNECT

The WomenConnect Challenge: Launched by this Administration on International Women's Day 2018, seeks to increase women's access to digital technology and bridge the digital gender divide. The initiative seeks to ensure women have access to life-enhancing information, networks, and services, thus reducing poverty and driving inclusive economic growth.

2X WOMEN'S INITIATIVE

The 2X Women's Initiative: In early 2018, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), announced a new initiative to mobilize \$1 billion in capital to support women in the developing world. Subsequently, during the 2018 G7, each G7 country's development finance institution joined OPIC in collectively committing to mobilize \$3 billion. These funds will provide women in developing markets with improved access to leadership opportunities, quality employment, finance, and products and services that enhance their economic participation.

WOMEN'S GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPERITY INITIATIVE

Building on the momentum of these successful initiatives, on February 7, the President signed a National Security Presidential Memorandum officially launching the Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative (W-GDP). Under the leadership of Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump, the W-GDP is the first-ever integrated approach to women's economic empowerment across federal agencies. The initiative aims to reach 50 million women by 2025 and will focus on three key pillars. And GDP says it all -- we know that when women participate fully in economies, the GDP of a nation rises.

Pillar One – Women Thriving in the Workforce: Workforce development and skills training for women help pave the way for economic empowerment. Improving women's access to quality vocational education, including training opportunities closely linked with employer needs, can lead to higher-paying, middle-skill jobs. These jobs include high growth, in-demand occupations, such as those in the STEM fields.

Pillar Two – Women Succeeding as Entrepreneurs: Women entrepreneurs are an emerging market force, serving as an important source of innovation and job creation. We will continue to support women who want to start and scale their businesses, creating prosperity and stability for their families and communities. We will also focus our efforts on businesses that enhance women's economic participation and access through their policies and practices, as well as their products and services.

Pillar Three – Women Enabled in the Economy: Women's economic empowerment also relies on changes to laws, policies, practices, and norms that have historically limited women's potential. Our work will continue to identify and reduce the policy, legal, and regulatory barriers to women's participation in the economy. We will promote improved practices that increase women's economic empowerment.

STATE DEPARTMENT AND WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

The three pillars of the W-GDP serve as the foundation for the State Department's engagement and strong partnership with foreign governments and the private sector. We are aligning our programming and initiatives to reflect W-GDP priorities.

As an example, the State Department supports the Global Entrepreneurship Summit, which brings together thousands of entrepreneurs, investors, and business representatives from all corners of the world. This year's ninth Global Entrepreneurship Summit will be in the Netherlands in June. Empowering women entrepreneurs will be a critical component of this event. We are working with our co-hosts in the Netherlands to ensure women entrepreneurs and investors from the United States meet and partner with their peers from all

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Public Legal Notices



CITY & COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Contract No. 1000013087 JOB ORDER CONTRACT J45 SPECIALTY DOORS

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3/7/19

**CNS-3227114#
SMALL BUSINESS EXCHANGE**

CALIFORNIA SUB-BID REQUEST AD

**Project Name: Pier 70 E2 Design-Build
SHW & Elevators**

Location: San Francisco, California

Bid Date: Thursday, March 14, 2019 @2pm

Pre-Bid Meeting: February 28, 2019 @ 10AM

Location: Nibbi Office,

1000 Brannan Street, Suite 102

**Labor Requirements: This project is subject to a
Project Stabilization Agreement
(Labor Agreement) and Prevailing wage provisions.**

Project Schedule: July 2019 – June 2021

Nibbi Brothers has been selected as the General Contractor for the Pier 70 Building E2 project in San Francisco, CA. We are in receipt of the 100% DD Set and are currently requesting bid proposals from subcontractors and suppliers including those certified with the San Francisco Contract Monitoring Department (CMD) as local business enterprises (LBE’s) Design-Build Solar Hot Water & Elevators. **Please note that All Subcontractors will be required to comply with the following requirements by the Port of San Francisco:**

1. 17% LBE Disadvantaged Business (LBE) goal.
2. The Project is subject to MBE/WBE/VBE participation goals in accordance with the Developer’s Diversity Program with a goal of 10% participation.
3. 30% of total construction hours performed by SF residents.
 - Consistent with Local Hire Program.
 - Contractor agrees to work with the Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) and local partner Young Community Developers (YCD).
4. 50% new hires for employment opportunities in the construction trades and any Entry-level Position.
 - Contractor agrees to work in Good Faith with the Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD).
5. Pier 70 desires to engage contracting teams that reflect the diversity of our City and include participation of both businesses and residents from the City’s most disadvantaged communities including, but not limited to, the neighborhoods in the 94107, 94124, and 94134 zip codes.

The project consists of new construction of Type III-A fully sprinkler construction for 5 stories of R-2 residential over 2 story Type IA above grade group R-2 residential, Group M Retail and A-2 Restaurant in San Francisco with a total of 244,502 gross square feet. Includes one floor of below grade parking for 105 automobiles, retail space at ground floor, and 7 Story residential building containing 275 dwelling units.

To get access to the bid documents,

please contact Kristin Medwick,

Senior Precon & Estimating Coordinator via email,
kristinm@nibbi.com.

For specific questions regarding this project, please contact Jordan Drake, Project Manager via email,
jordand@nibbi.com.



Public Legal Notices

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

1. Notice is hereby given that the governing board ("Board") of the Oakland Unified School District ("District") will receive sealed bids for the following project, Bid No. 15137, ("Project" or "Contract"):

**Westlake Middle School –
Playfield Renovation**

2629 Harrison Street, Oakland, CA. 94612

2. The Project consists of:

Scope of work includes renovation of the playground facilities and/addition of a synthetic play field; to include all code, life safety and ADA upgrades required; accessible parking lot, if parking is provided on campus; accessible loading; if loading is provided on campus; the public right-of-way, if pedestrian way is provided; accessible restrooms serving boys and girls; parking, loading, pedestrian way and restroom stall all comply with 2016 CBC Chapter 11B.

3. **Engineer's Estimate: \$805,000.00**

4. Project Manager for this project is **Lee Sims**, she can be reached at **(510) 535-7094**.

5. To bid on this Project, the Bidder is required to possess one or more of the following State of California contractors' license(s):

**A-General Engineering and/or
B-General Building Contractor**

The Bidder's license(s) must remain active and in good standing throughout the term of the Contract.

6. To bid on this Project, the Bidder is required to be registered as a public works contractor with the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to the Labor Code. The Bidder's registration must remain active throughout the term of the Contract.

7. Contract Documents will be available on or after Wednesday, March 13, 2019, for review at East Bay Blue Print, located at 1745 14th Avenue, Oakland, CA 94606. All requests should be addressed Attention: Sandy Petty. Plans can be ordered by:

Ph: 510-261-2990 Fax: 510-261-6077 Email: ebbp@eastbayblueprint.com, Attn: Sandy. Online using the Plan Command System at www.eastbayblueprint.com or plans can be delivered to a place of business, at requester's own expense. Payment for plan sets must be made with East Bay Blue Print and are NON-REFUNDABLE

In addition, Contract Documents are available for bidders' review at the following builders' exchanges:

Builder's Exchange of Alameda County
McGraw Hill Construction Data
San Francisco Builder's Exchange
Reed Construction Market Data
Contra Costa Builder's Exchange
Marin Builder's Exchange

8. Sealed bids will be received until **2:00 p.m., on Wednesday, April 10, 2019**, at the District Office, located at **955 High Street, Front Desk, Oakland, California**, at or after which time the bids will be opened and publicly read aloud. Any bid that is submitted after this time shall be nonresponsive and returned to the bidder. Any claim by a bidder of error in its bid must be made in compliance with section 5100 et seq. of the Public Contract Code.

9. Pursuant to Public Contract Code section 20111.5, and the District's Prequalification for Prospective Certified Local/Small Local Resident bidders, only prequalified bidders will be eligible to submit a bid for this Project. Any bid submitted by a bidder who is not prequalified shall be non-responsive and returned unopened to the bidder.

10. All bids shall be on the form provided by the District. Each bid must conform and be responsive to all pertinent Contract Documents, including, but not limited to, the Instructions to Bidders.

11. A bid bond by an admitted surety insurer on the form provided by the District, cash, or a cashier's check or a certified check, drawn to the order of the Oakland Unified School District, in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the total bid price, shall accompany the Bid Form and Proposal, as a guarantee that the Bidder will, within seven (7) calendar days after the date of the Notice of Award, enter into a contract with the District for the performance of the services as stipulated in the bid.

12. A **mandatory**/voluntary pre-bid conference and site visit will be held on **Wednesday, March 26, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at Front Entrance of Westlake**. All participants are required to sign in at the front Entrance of the Building. The site visit is expected to take approximately **[1] hour**. Failure to attend or tardiness will render bid ineligible.

13. The successful Bidder shall be required to furnish a 100% Performance Bond and a 100% Payment Bond if it is awarded the Contract for the Work.

14. The successful Bidder may substitute securities for any monies withheld by the District to

ensure performance under the Contract, in accordance with the provisions of section 22300 of the Public Contract Code.

15. The successful bidder will be required to certify that it either meets the Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise ("DVBE") goal of three percent (3%) participation or made a good faith effort to solicit DVBE participation in this Contract if it is awarded the Contract for the Work.

16. The Contractor and all Subcontractors under the Contractor shall pay all workers on all Work performed pursuant to this Contract not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages and the general prevailing rate for holiday and overtime work as determined by the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations, State of California, for the type of work performed and the locality in which the work is to be performed within the boundaries of the District, pursuant to section 1770 et seq. of the California Labor Code. Prevailing wage rates are also available from the District or on the Internet at: <http://www.dir.ca.gov>.

17. This Project is subject to labor compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code section 1771.4 and subject to the requirements of Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations. The Contractor and all Subcontractors under the Contractor shall furnish electronic certified payroll records directly to the Labor Commissioner weekly and within ten (10) days of any request by the District or the Labor Commissioner. The successful Bidder shall comply with all requirements of Division 2, Part 7, Chapter 1, Articles 1-5 of the Labor Code.

18. The District has entered into a Project Labor Agreement that is applicable to this Project. For questions or assistance concerning the Project Labor Agreement, **contact Maribel Alejandre, (510) 835-7603 X 21, Davillier-Sloan, Inc. 1630 12th Street, Oakland, California, 94607**.

19. The District shall award the Contract, if it awards it at all, to the lowest responsive responsible bidder based on:

A. The base bid amount only.

20. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids and/or waive any irregularity in any bid received. If the District awards the Contract, the security of unsuccessful bidder(s) shall be returned within sixty (60) days from the time the award is made. Unless otherwise required by law, no bidder may withdraw its bid for ninety (90) days after the date of the bid opening.

Remarks for International Women's Day 2019

■ Continued from page 7

over the world. American women entrepreneurs will also hear from, and interact with, industry-leading women innovators in the focus sectors of agriculture, connectivity, health, energy and water. Investment-ready entrepreneurs, especially women, should apply online right now at www.ges2019.org. The application system is open until March 22.

EMPOWERING WOMEN AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

In my travels, I have enjoyed meeting many inspiring women leaders, and they voice a common need to me: women need strong professional networks and business environments to advance their careers and to grow their businesses.

I believe that we can – and we must -- work together to establish strong professional networks and business environments that promote women's economic empowerment in a global context. We have to make sure that the plans we put in place now are sustainable and work in the economy of the future.

POWER INITIATIVE

Turning to State's efforts, this week our team launched POWER – or the "Providing Opportunities for Women's Economic Rise" Initiative. This multi-tiered program connects the U.S. private sector with U.S. government initiatives overseas to promote women's economic empowerment. I think many of the participants in our conversation are here today and I want to thank them again for partnering with us!

Through POWER, we are convening the U.S. private sector, including women business owners, industry experts, and investors, to identify and link U.S. private sector priorities to opportunities abroad in support of women in business. We will then deploy the full breadth of U.S. diplomatic networks to support women's economic empowerment and advance economic priorities.

POWER's ability to connect U.S. women business leaders with those abroad enables women to develop strong professional networks and key partnerships in emerging markets. This initiative contributes to the overall advancement of U.S. economic interests, aligns with the National Security Strategy, and supports the goals of the W-GDP.

STATE'S IMPACT ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

I want to emphasize that women's economic empowerment is a cross-cutting issue and we must integrate this goal into everything that we do. We must cultivate female talent and make every effort to pull each other up.

One way the State Department is empowering women to lead is by recognizing women business leaders, and businesses leading the charge in em-

powering women. A perfect example is The Secretary of State's Award for Corporate Excellence.

Last fall the State Department recognized winners for corporate excellence in women's economic empowerment. This was the first time in the award's 19-year history that we had an award category specifically dedicated to empowering women.

The Award for Corporate Excellence in Women's Economic Empowerment went to a company called Alaffia, which is a health and beauty products company based in Washington State with several hundred employees there and sourcing products Togo. So Alaffia employs thousands of women, both here and abroad contributing to economic well-being and security. This company has a unique history.

Founded as a social enterprise, Alaffia alleviates poverty and advances women's equality through the fair trade of indigenous resources to produce health and beauty products for the global market. Proving that individual economic prosperity equally affects the community, Alaffia dedicates 15 percent of its sales to community projects that improve maternal and child health, promote education, and protect the environment in rural Togo. The company directly employs more than 700 women in rural Togo, paying salaries that are four times the average family income. It also contracts with more than 14,000 women as suppliers.

Alaffia is a terrific example of the impact women can have when they are economically empowered. One of the co-founders credits the success of the company to the support he received from women in his community, business, and family, both in Togo and the United States.

We are excited to highlight the great work of U.S. companies like Alaffia, so for the second year we are including women's economic empowerment as one of the category's for this year's Award for Corporate Excellence.

In fact, we encourage you all to share your success stories and best practices on women's economic empowerment with us through this process. ACE award nominations are sent forward by our ambassadors, so, if interested, please reach out to the U.S. Embassy in the country where your company is making an impact by April 12th. I am looking forward to telling your stories and supporting the great examples of U.S. firms advancing women's economic empowerment once again.

The State Department's efforts to advance women's economic empowerment are not only outward focused. We are committed to seeing how we can do better at the State Department, and that includes women's economic empowerment.

For instance, when our officers at one of our embassies in South America noticed that very few of the bidders on embassy contracts were women, they dived deeper to see how they could better engage women-owned businesses.

They developed an outreach program focused on women-owned businesses and their ability to access information on business opportunities with the embassy. Within one year, this prompted an increase from \$74,000 in embassy contracts with women-owned businesses in 2016 to over \$440,000 in contracts in 2017.

It turns out that the embassy not only empowered women-owned businesses, but they also drove down costs.

This is one of many examples demonstrating that economic empowerment of women is not just the right thing to do, it is smart business. By engaging women-owned businesses, the embassy increased competition in the market, which in turn lowered costs for U.S. taxpayers.

OUTSTANDING CHALLENGES FOR WOMEN

We have taken advantage of many opportunities, however women also continue to face many challenges. We need to ensure that women have access to professional training and development, success networks and enforced legal protections against harassment and discrimination.

Through the W-GDP, the Trump Administration wants to face these challenges. We will drive a whole-of-government effort with diverse and innovative approaches including educational programs, financial and technical assistance, capacity building, and mentorship. We will work with partners in the private sector, civil society, and the diplomatic community to ensure women have the opportunity to reach their full economic potential in the United States and around the world.

In order to turn challenges into the Equality Opportunity, we need focus and determination. We invite you to join us in our results oriented efforts to support initiatives that advance women's economic empowerment and lead to greater prosperity, security, and stability for all.

CONCLUSION

I congratulate the U.S. Chambers of Commerce for over 100 years of partnership in advancing free enterprise and for having excellent women as members of your team—we've had the chance to work with several of them. I also want to congratulate the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation for their innovative Women's Economic Empowerment Program. Your work is invaluable.

Through government, the private sector, civil society and driven individuals, let's create a women's economic empowerment ecosystem that will create a better future for everyone.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing about the outstanding work you are doing throughout the world.

SOURCE: www.state.gov