

## **Policy Statement**

The San Diego Unified Port District (District) has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 49 CFR Part 26. The District has received Federal financial assistance from the DOT, and as a condition of receiving this assistance, the District has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26.

It is the policy of the District to ensure that DBEs as defined in 49 CFR Part 26, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in DOT-assisted contracts. It is also our policy:

1. To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts;
2. To create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for DOT-assisted contracts;
3. To ensure that the DBE program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
4. To ensure that only firms that fully meet 49 CFR Part 26 eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs;
5. To help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in DOT-assisted contracts;
6. To assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the market place outside the DBE program.

The Manager, Equal Opportunity has been designated as the DBE Liaison Officer. In that capacity, the Manager, Equal Opportunity is responsible for implementing all aspects of the DBE program. Implementation of the DBE program is accorded the same priority as compliance with all other legal obligations incurred by the District in its financial assistance agreements with the DOT.

The District has disseminated this policy statement throughout our organization and to DBEs and all businesses that want to perform work for us. Distribution is accomplished by posting to our website, inclusion in our DOT-assisted contracts, and notification to our stakeholder databases.

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Marshall Merrifield  
Chairman

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Robert "Dukie" Valderrama  
Vice-Chairman

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Rafael Castellanos  
Secretary

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Bob Nelson

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Ann Moore

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Dan Malcolm

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Garry J. Bonelli

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Date