



Contra Costa County  
Public Works  
Department

Warren Lai, Director  
Deputy Directors  
Stephen Kowalewski, Chief  
Allison Knapp  
Sarah Price  
Carrie Ricci  
Joe Yee

November 6, 2024

**UPS Overnight and FAX (415-457-5820)**

Valentine Corporation  
111 Pelican Way  
San Rafael, CA 94901  
bvalentine@valentinecorp.com

**RE:** Pleasant Hill Road Bridge Over Taylor Boulevard  
Preventative Maintenance Project

**Project No.:** 0662-6R4086

**Federal Project No.:** BRLS-5928(154)

Dear Mr. Valentine:

Our office has reviewed the bid and Good Faith Effort documentation submitted by your firm on the above project. Based upon our review, we have determined that your firm's submitted Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) commitment and Good Faith Effort documentation (GFE) did not comply with the requirements of the project specifications, as described below.

Based on the List of Subcontractors/Suppliers/Manufactures/Truckers and Exhibit 15-G Construction Contract DBE Commitment submitted with your bid, your firm failed to meet the 20% DBE contract goal, having achieved a DBE commitment of only 12.25% or \$124,148.00 of the total bid<sup>1</sup>. According to the Disadvantage Business Enterprise Program, since your firm did not meet the established goal, your firm's Good Faith Effort documentation was required to comply with the requirements as specified in Section 2-1.12 of the project specifications.

In accordance with the above, your firm failed to meet the GFE requirements by not providing adequate documentation. Specifically, your firm did not provide documentation that you sent letters or faxes to subcontractors indicating your interest in receiving sub-bids 10 days prior to bid opening. While the written notices were dated 10/10/2024, the Email, Fax & Telephone Log submitted with your GFE documentation, indicated that they were sent on 10/14/2024, 8 days prior to bid opening, less than 10 days prior to bid opening.

<sup>1</sup> The County acknowledges that your 15-G claimed 13.07%; however, as per Section 2.1-12B(3) of the specs, the County can only count the list of Subs and the values identified in the proposal at time of bid submittal. Here, that was only \$124,148, or 12.25%. It is noted, however, that even if the entire amount claimed in your 15-G were credited, your bid would still nevertheless fail to meet project DBE commitment requirements.

Furthermore, since your firm did not provide adequate documentation of valid initial solicitations, any documentation of follow up was also not valid. See Section 2-1.12B(4).

Based on your firm's failure to meet the established goal or document an adequate Good Faith Effort, we plan to recommend that your firm's bid be rejected as non-responsive and that the contract be awarded to the second lowest bidder, American Civil Constructors West Coast LLC., which has fully complied with the 20% DBE contract goal.

Should your firm disagree with our determination, you may appeal it in writing to Monica Nino, County Administrator, c/o County Administrator's Office, 1025 Escobar Street, Martinez, CA 94553, Martinez, CA 94553. Your firm's appeal must be received at that address no later than 5:00 p.m. on November 13, 2024, and must describe in detail all facts and arguments on which your firm relies.

It is anticipated that the contract will be awarded by the Board of Supervisors at its meeting on December 3, 2024, which begins at 9:00 a.m. If you wish, you may appear at the Board meeting to comment on this matter. Any comments to the Board will be limited to the facts and arguments set forth in your firm's appeal.

Sincerely,



Adelina Huerta  
Division Manager  
Design/Construction Division

AH:rs:cp

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C: M. Nino, County Administrator  
T. Ewell, County Administrator's Office  
D. Schmidt, County Counsel  
L. Strobel, County Administrator's Office  
A. Wilson, Human Resources  
W. Lai, Public Works Director  
J. Yee, Public Works  
R. Sanders, Public Works  
K. Dahl, Public Works