

Memorandum

To: Honorable Jerome E. Horton, Chairman
Honorable Michelle Steel, Vice Chair
Honorable Betty T Yee, First District
Senator George Runner, Second District
Honorable John Chiang, State Controller

Date: December 16, 2013

From: Cynthia Bridges 
Executive Director

Subject: **BOE Achieves High Honors at SARA 2013**

On November 13, 2013, the Department of General Services, Procurement Division, hosted the 14th Annual State Agency Recognition Awards (SARA) 2013. This prestigious event honors State Agencies and Departments who have put forth exceptional work and dedication toward accomplishing the Governor's commitment to meet or exceed Small Business (SB) and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) contracting goals.

The BOE was among thirty-nine agencies nominated for an award, and among fourteen nominees for Advocate of the Year. Being recognized as a SARA finalist for furthering SB/DVBE best practice activities is an honor in itself. To then be distinguished as recipient of three awards is a remarkable achievement. The BOE was awarded the Most Notable Improvement for DVBE Contracting for a large agency, for a four hundred percent (400%) increase in contracting and procurements with the DVBE community. Additionally, the Advocate of the Year Silver Award was presented to Linda Ferguson, for outstanding leadership and achievement in SB/DVBE advocacy and contracting. Finally, the BOE was honored as the recipient of the coveted Secretary's Special Achievement Award, presented by Marybel Batjer, Secretary, Government Operations Agency.

These achievements are the result of a concerted effort by the BOE's Acquisitions Branch to identify and award contracts and purchases to SB/DVBE vendors. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2012-13, the BOE significantly exceeded the required State annual SB/DVBE participation goals by awarding over \$19.3 million in contracts and purchases to the SB/DVBE vendor community; nearly 64% of all acquisitions dollars, and a \$10.3 million increase over the previous fiscal year. The SB/DVBE vendor community is an important part of California's revenue stream and economy, therefore awarding acquisitions to this community supports the BOE's mission.

The 14th Annual SARA presentations ceremony is a testimony to the tremendous talent, dedication, and hard work of our State SB/DVBE Advocates and contracting and procurement offices. It is my privilege to acknowledge before the Board Members this outstanding achievement by the management and staff of the BOE Acquisitions Branch.

LH:js

cc: Christine Demes, Chief, Administrative Support Division
Joe Gee, Chief, Acquisitions Branch
Cheryl Blakeway, Procurement Manager
Linda Ferguson, Contracts Manager