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METROPOLIS LA COUNTY

Program at work helping contractors secure public construction deals

LOS ANGELES (MNS)—A three-pronged Los Angeles regional program—consisting of the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Metro, and the County of Los Angeles -- has been created to help small and diverse contractors in bidding and obtaining work on infrastructure development and other publicly funded construction projects.

The regional Contractor Development and Bonding Program will provide bonding assistance, contract financing, technical support, education, training, and other services to under-represented businesses. The recent addition of a program at the County of Los Angeles has led to the creation of a new regional program website and to expanded outreach and supportive services in order to help contractors access billions of dollars in infrastructure work, a sector that will soon expand even more with the signing of the \$1.2 trillion federal infrastructure investment plan late last year.

All three prongs are being administered by Merriwether & Williams Insurance Services, which has many years of experience working on public construction contracting and diversity, equity, and inclusion issues statewide.

"Los Angeles is a diverse region with so many talented business owners, and we need to use all their talents and optimize competition to have the greatest local economic impact of regional contracting dollars," said Ingrid Merriwether, CEO of Merriwether & Williams.

"We need to break down the barriers that have prevented many small and diverse groups from accessing public contracts. This program will help to create greater equity in regional public contracting. This is an inclusionary program to build a stronger region," she said.

Small and diverse businesses are encouraged to participate in the new Los Angeles regional Contractor Development and Bonding Program. To obtain more information, go online to the new regional program website LAConDev.com or call 213-258-3000.

Contractor development and bonding program establishes an "inclusionary program to build a stronger region"