1. BUY AMERICA REQUIREMENTS § 635.410

A. The provisions of this section shall prevail and be given precedence over any requirements of this subpart which are contrary to this section. However, nothing in this section shall be construed to be contrary to the requirements of § 635.409(a) of this subpart.

B. No Federal-aid highway construction project is to be authorized for advertisement or otherwise authorized to proceed unless at least one of the following requirements is met:

1. The project either: (i) Includes no permanently incorporated steel or iron materials, or (ii) if steel or iron materials are to be used, all manufacturing processes, including application of a coating, for these materials must occur in the United States. Coating includes all processes which protect or enhance the value of the material to which the coating is applied.

2. The State has standard contract provisions that require the use of domestic materials and products, including steel and iron materials, to the same or greater extent as the provisions set forth in this section.

3. The State elects to include alternate bid provisions for foreign and domestic steel and iron materials which comply with the following requirements. Any procedure for obtaining alternate bids based on furnishing foreign steel and iron materials which is acceptable to the Division Administrator may be used. The contract provisions must (i) require all bidders to submit a bid based on furnishing domestic steel and iron materials, and (ii) clearly state that the contract will be awarded to the bidder who submits the lowest total bid based on furnishing domestic steel and iron materials unless such total bid exceeds the lowest total bid based on furnishing foreign steel and iron materials by more than 25 percent.

4. When steel and iron materials are used in a project, the requirements of this section do not prevent a minimal use of foreign steel and iron materials, if the cost of such materials used does not exceed one-tenth of one percent (0.1 percent) of the total contract cost or $2,500, whichever is greater. For purposes of this paragraph, the cost is that shown to be the value of the steel and iron products as they are delivered to the project.

C. 1. A State may request a waiver of the provisions of this section if;

i. The application of those provisions would be inconsistent with the public interest; or

ii. Steel and iron materials/products are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities which are of a satisfactory quality.

2. A request for waiver, accompanied by supporting information, must be submitted in writing to the Regional Federal Highway Administrator (RFHWA) through the FHWA Division Administrator. A request must be submitted sufficiently in advance of the need for the waiver in order to allow time for proper review and action on the request. The RFHWA will have approval authority on the request.

3. Requests for waivers may be made for specific projects, or for certain materials or products in specific geographic areas, or for combinations of both, depending on the circumstances.

4. The denial of the request by the RFHWA may be appealed by the State to the Federal Highway Administrator (Administrator), whose action on the request shall be considered administratively final.

5. A request for a waiver which involves nationwide public interest or availability issues or more than one FHWA region may be submitted by the RFHWA to the Administrator for action.

6. A request for waiver and an appeal from a denial of a request must include facts and justification to support the granting of the waiver. The FHWA response to a request or appeal will be in writing and made available to the public upon request. Any request for a nationwide waiver and FHWA's action on such a request may be published in the **Federal Register** for public comment.

7. In determining whether the waivers described in paragraph (c)(1) of this section will be granted, the FHWA will consider all appropriate factors including, but not limited to, cost, administrative burden, and delay that would be imposed if the provision were not waived.

D. Standard State and Federal-aid contract procedures may be used to assure compliance with the requirements of this section.

2. SANCTIONS AND PENALTIES FOR BREACH OF CONTRACT

Contracts for more than the simplified acquisition threshold currently set at $150,000, which is the inflation adjusted amount determined by the Civilian Agency Acquisition Council and the Defense Acquisition Regulations Council (Councils) as authorized by 41 U.S.C. 1908, must address administrative, contractual, or legal remedies in instances where contractors violate or breach contract terms, and provide for such sanctions and penalties as appropriate.

3. ADVERTISING FOR BIDS AND PROPOSALS

Each bidder shall file a statement executed by, or on behalf of the person, firm, association, or corporation submitting the bid certifying that such person, firm, association, or corporation has not, either directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement, participated in any collusion, or otherwise taken any action, in restraint of free competitive bidding in connection with the submitted bid. Failure to

submit the executed statement as part of the bidding documents will make the bid nonresponsive and not eligible for award consideration.

4. ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Mandatory standards and policies relating to energy efficiency which are contained in the state energy conservation plan issued in compliance with the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6201).

5. PROCUREMENT OF RECOVERED MATERIALS

A non-Federal entity that is a state agency or agency of a political subdivision of a state and its contractors must comply with section 6002 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The requirements of Section 6002 include procuring only items designated in guidelines of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at 40 CFR part 247 that contain the highest percentage of recovered materials practicable, consistent with maintaining a satisfactory level of competition, where the purchase price of the item exceeds $10,000 or the value of the quantity acquired by the preceding fiscal year exceeded $10,000; procuring solid waste management services in a manner that maximizes energy and resource recovery; and establishing an affirmative procurement program for procurement of recovered materials identified in the EPA guidelines.

6. EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL OF PUBLIC AGENCIES

The Contractor shall not employ any person or persons in the employ of the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, or of the State of Arizona or any of its boards, agencies, or commissions, for any work required by the terms of this Contract, without prior written permission of the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Railroad Administration or of the State.

7. RETENTION OF RECORDS

The contractor and any sub-consultant/subcontractor/contractor shall keep and maintain all books, papers, records, accounting records, files, accounts, reports, costs proposals with backup data, and all other material relating to the contract and related project(s), and shall make all such material available at any reasonable time during the term of work on the contract and related project(s) and for five (5) years from the date of final payment to the contractor for auditing, inspection, and copying upon the State's request, or at the request of the Federal Highway Administration or any other authorized representative of the Federal Government.

The contractor shall insert in each of its subcontracts the above requirement and also a clause requiring its subcontractors to include the above requirement in any lower-tier subcontracts or purchase orders.

8. DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

1.0 Policy:

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

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

1. To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of USDOT-assisted contracts;
2. To create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for USDOT-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 counted as DBEs;
5. To help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in USDOT-assisted contracts; and
6. To assist in the development of firms that can compete successfully in the market place outside the DBE program; and
7. To promote the use of DBEs in all types of federally-assisted contracts and procurement activities.

It is also the policy of the Department to facilitate and encourage participation of Small Business Concerns (SBCs), as defined in Subsection 3.0, in USDOT-assisted contracts. The Department encourages contractors to take reasonable steps to eliminate obstacles to SBCs' participation and to utilize SBCs in performing contracts

2.0 Assurances of Non-Discrimination:

The contractor, subrecipient, or subcontractor shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin or sex in the performance of this contract. The contractor shall carry out applicable requirements of 49 CFR Part 26 in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts. Failure by the contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach of this contract, which may result in the termination of this contract or such other remedy as the Department deems appropriate, which may include, but are not limited to:

(1) Withholding monthly progress payments;
(2) Assessing damages;
(3) Liquidated damages;
(4) Suspension or Debarment per Uniform Terms and Conditions Paragraph 9.3 of the contractor from future bidding; and/or

(5) Cancellation, termination, or suspension of the Contract, in whole or in part

The contractor, subrecipient, or subcontractor shall ensure that all subcontract agreements contain this non-discrimination assurance.

3.0 Definitions:

(A) **Commercially Useful Function (CUF):** Commercially Useful Function is defined fully in 49 CFR 26.55, which definition is incorporated herein by reference.

(B) **Committed DBE:** A DBE that was identified by the contractor, typically on a DBE Affidavit, to meet an assigned DBE goal a condition of contract award and performance, and includes any substitute DBE that has subsequently been committed work to meet the assigned contract goal.

(C) **Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE):** a for-profit small business concern which meets both of the following requirements:

(1) Is at least 51 percent owned by one or more socially and economically disadvantaged individuals or, in the case of any publicly owned business, at least 51 percent of the stock is owned by one or more such individuals; and,

(2) Whose management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more of the socially and economically disadvantaged individuals who own it.

(D) **NAICS Code:** The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is the standard used by Federal statistical agencies in classifying business establishments for the purpose of collecting, analyzing, and publishing statistical data related to the U.S. business economy.

(E) **Non-DBE:** any firm that is not a DBE.

(F) **Race-Conscious:** a measure or program focused specifically on assisting only DBEs, including women-owned DBEs.

(G) **Race-Neutral (RN):** a measure or program used to assist all small businesses. For the purposes of this part, race-neutral includes gender-neutrality.

(H) **Small Business Concern (SBC):** a business that meets all of the following conditions:

(1) Operates as a for-profit business registered to do business in Arizona;

(2) Operates a place of business primarily within the U.S., or makes a significant contribution to the U.S. economy through payment of taxes or use of American products, materials, or labor;

(3) Is independently owned and operated;

(4) Is not dominant in its field on a national basis; and

(5) Does not have annual gross receipts that exceed the Small Business Administration size standards average annual income criteria for its primary North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code.

(I) **Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Individuals:** any individual who is a citizen (or lawfully admitted permanent resident) of the United States and who is:

(1) Any individual who is found to be a socially and economically disadvantaged individual on a case-by-case basis.

(2) Any individual in the following groups, members of which are rebuttably presumed to be socially and economically disadvantaged:

(i) "Black Americans," which includes persons having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa;

(ii) "Hispanic Americans," which includes persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish or Portuguese culture or origin, regardless of race;

(iii) "Native Americans," which includes persons who are American Indians, Eskimos, Aleuts, or Native Hawaiians;

(iv) “Asian-Pacific Americans,” which includes persons whose origins are from Japan, China, Taiwan, Korea, Burma (Myanmar), Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia (Kampuchea), Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Brunei, Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands (Republic of Palau), the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Macao, Fiji, Tonga, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Nauru, Federated States of Micronesia, or Hong Kong;

(v) “Subcontinent Asian Americans,” which includes persons whose origins are from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives Islands, Nepal or Sri Lanka;

(vi) "Women;"

(vii) Any additional groups whose members are designated as socially and economically disadvantaged by the Small Business Administration (SBA), at such time as the SBA designation becomes effective.

4.0 Working with DBEs:

The Department works with DBEs and assists them in their efforts to participate in the highway construction program. All proposers should contact the Department's Business Engagement and Compliance Office (BECO) by phone, through email, or at the address shown below, for assistance in their efforts to use DBEs in the highway construction industry. BECO contact information is as follows:

Arizona Department of Transportation
Business Engagement and Compliance Office
1801 W. Jefferson St, Suite 101, Mail Drop 154A
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Phone (602) 712 7761
FAX (602) 712 8429
Email: ContractorCompliance@azdot.gov
Website: www.azdot.gov/bec

4.01 Mentor-Protège Program:

The Department has established a Mentor-Protégé program as an initiative to encourage and develop disadvantaged businesses in the highway construction industry. The program encourages prime contractors to provide certain types of assistance to certified DBE subcontractors. ADOT encourages contractors and certified DBE subcontractors to engage in a Mentor-Protégé agreement under certain conditions. Such an agreement must be mutually beneficial to both parties and to ADOT in fulfilling requirements of 49 CFR Part 23. For guidance regarding this program refer to the Mentor-Protégé Program Guidelines available on the BECO website.

The Mentor-Protégé program is intended to increase legitimate DBE activities and is not intended to diminish nor circumvent existing DBE rules or regulations.

5.0 Applicability:

The Department has established an overall annual goal for DBE participation on Federal aid contracts. The Department intends for the goal to be met with a combination of race conscious efforts and race neutral efforts. Race conscious participation occurs when the contractor uses a percentage of DBEs, as defined herein, to meet the contract specified goal. Race neutral efforts are those that are, or can be, used to assist all small businesses or increase opportunities for all small businesses. The regulation, 49 CFR 26, defines race neutral as when a DBE wins a prime contract through customary competitive procurement procedures or is awarded a subcontract on a prime contract that does not carry a DBE contract goal.

The contractor shall meet the goal specified herein with DBEs, or establish that it was unable to meet the goal despite making good faith efforts to do so. Prime contractors are encouraged to obtain DBE participation above and beyond any goals that may be set for this project.

The DBE provisions are applicable to all contractors including DBE contractors.

6.0 Certification and Registration:

6.01 DBE Certification:

Certification as a DBE shall be predicated on:

(1) The completion and execution of an application for certification as a "Disadvantaged Business Enterprise".

(2) The submission of documents pertaining to the firm(s) as stated in the application(s), including but not limited to a statement of social disadvantage and a personal financial statement.

(3) The submission of any additional information which the Department may require to determine the firm's eligibility to participate in the DBE program.

(4) The information obtained during the on-site visits to the offices of the firm and to active job-sites.

Applications for certification may be filed online with the Department or the applicable UCP agency at any time through the Arizona Unified Transportation Registration and Certification System (AZ UTRACS) website at http://www.azutracs.com.

DBE firms and firms seeking DBE certification shall cooperate fully with requests for information relevant to the certification process. Failure or refusal to provide such information is a ground for denial or removal of certification.

ADOT is a member of the AZ Unified Certification Program (AZUCP). Only DBE firms that are certified by the AZUCP are eligible for credit on ADOT projects. A list of DBE firms certified by AZUCP is available on the internet at http://www.azutracs.com. The list will indicate contact information and specialty for each DBE firm, and may be sorted in a variety of ways. However, ADOT does not guarantee the accuracy and/or completeness of this information, nor does ADOT represent that any licenses or registrations are appropriate for the work to be done.

The Department's certification of a DBE is not a representation of qualifications and/or abilities nor does it mean that a DBE firm is guaranteed or entitled to receive or be awarded a contract. Being certified simply means that a firm has met the criteria for DBE certification as outlined in 49 CFR Part 26. The contractor bears all risks of ensuring that DBE firms selected by the contractor are able to perform the work.

6.02 SBC Registration:

To comply with 49 CFR Part 26.39, ADOT's DBE Program incorporates contracting requirements to facilitate participation by Small Business Concerns (SBCs) in federally assisted contracts. SBCs are for-

profit businesses authorized to do businesses in Arizona that meet the Small Business Administration (SBA) size standards for average annual revenue criteria for its primary North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code.

While the SBC component of the DBE program does not require utilization of goals on projects, ADOT strongly encourages contractors to utilize small businesses that are registered in AZ UTRACS on their contracts, in addition to DBEs meeting the certification requirement. The contractor may use the AZ UTRACS website to search for certified DBEs and registered SBCs that can be used on the contract. However, SBCs that are not DBEs will not be counted toward the DBE contract goal.

SBCs can register online at the AZ UTRACS website.

The Department's registration of SBCs is not a representation of qualifications and/or abilities nor does it mean that an SBC firm is guaranteed or entitled to receive or be awarded a contract. Being SBC registered simply means that a firm has met the criteria for SBC registration as outlined in 49 CFR Part 26. The contractor bears all risks of ensuring that SBC firms selected by the contractors are able to perform the work.

7.0 DBE Financial Institutions:

The Department thoroughly investigates the full extent of services offered by financial institutions owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals in its service area and makes reasonable efforts to use these institutions. The Department encourages prime contractors to use such institutions on USDOT assisted contracts. However, use of DBE financial institutions will not be counted toward the DBE contract goal.

The Department encourages prime contractors to research the Federal Reserve Board website at www.federalreserve.gov to identify minority-owned banks in Arizona derived from the Consolidated Reports of Condition and Income filed quarterly by banks (FFIEC 031 and 041) and from other information on the Board's National Information Center database.

8.0 Time is of the Essence:

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE IN RESPECT TO THE DBE PROVISIONS

9.0 Computation of Time:

In computing any period of time described in this DBE special provision, such as calendar days, the day from which the period begins to run is not counted, and when the last day of the period is a Saturday, Sunday, Federal or State holiday, the period extends to the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, Federal or State holiday. In circumstances where the Department's offices are closed for all or part of the last day, the period extends to the next day on which the Department's offices are open.

10.0 Contractor and Subcontractor Requirements:

10.01 General:

The contractor shall establish a program that will ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of contracts and subcontracts.

Agreements between the bidder and a DBE in which the DBE promises not to provide subcontracting quotations to other bidders are prohibited.

10.02 DBE Liaison:

The contractor shall designate a DBE Liaison responsible for the administration of the contractor's DBE program. The name of the designated DBE Liaison shall be included on the DBE Intended Participation Affidavit Summary.

11.0 DBE Goals:

The minimum goal for participation by DBEs on this project is as follows:

_____%

The percentage of DBE participation shall be based on the total dollar value of the contract.

Proposers are strongly encouraged to secure and include sufficient DBE firms on their team for multiple disciplines and work categories to ensure they can meet the DBE goal on the contract and for any Contract Amendment that are executed post-award. The DBE goal requirements extend to additional dollars added by Contract Amendment to help ensure that the overall DBE goal is met on the contract. Indicating there is no DBE firm on a prime proposer's team to meet the DBE goal on Contract Amendment does not meet the criteria for Good Faith Efforts in 49 CFR 26.53, and will not be accepted by the Department as Good Faith Efforts when Contract Amendment are issued. Since proposers have been notified of the DBE goal prior to the submittal of their proposal they are required to do their due diligence to secure enough DBE participation to meet the goal or make good faith efforts on the contract and each subsequent Contract Amendment. Firms will be required to locate DBEs to meet the goal on each Contract Amendment even if these DBEs were not originally included as part of their team, if ADOT determines there are qualified DBEs available to complete portions of the work of the Contract Amendment.

12.0 Submission with Offer:

12.01 DBE Assurance/Goal Declaration

In order to be awarded this contract, in addition to all other pre-award requirements, all proposers are required to certify on the attachments that:

The proposer will meet the established DBE goal or will make good faith efforts to meet the goal and that arrangements with certified DBEs have been made prior to the proposal submission.

Failure to affirmatively make this declaration/certification in the manner outlined in the solicitation furnished by the Department will cause an offer to be considered nonresponsive.

12.02 Bidders/Proposers List and AZ UTRACS Registration Requirement:

Under Title 49 CFR of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 26.11, DOTs are required to collect certain information from all contractors and subcontractors who seek to work on federally-assisted contracts in order to set overall and contract DBE goals. ADOT collects this information when firms register their companies on the Arizona Unified Transportation Registration and Certification System (AZ UTRACS) web portal at http://www.azutracs.com/ a centralized database for companies that seek to do business with ADOT. This information will be maintained as confidential to the extent allowed by federal and state law.

Prime contractors and all subcontractors (including DBEs) listed in the offer must be registered in AZ UTRACS. Contractors may verify that their firm and each subcontractor is registered using the AZ UTRACS website.

Proposers may obtain additional information at the AZ UTRACS website or by contacting BECO.

All proposers shall create a Bidders/Proposers list in the AZ UTRACS by selecting all firms, service providers, and vendors that expressed interest or submitted proposals or quotes for this contract. The Bidders/Proposers List form must be complete and must include the names for all subcontractors, service providers, and vendors that submitted offers or quotes on this project regardless of the proposer's intentions to use the those firms on the project.

All proposers must complete and submit the Bidders/Proposers List online at AZ UTRACS prior to Offer submittal. A confirmation email will be generated by the system. This email confirmation shall be submitted with the Offer.

FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED BIDDERS/PROPOSERS LIST CONFIRMATION EMAIL WITH THE OFFER BY THE STATED TIME AND IN THE MANNER HEREIN SPECIFIED AND AS OUTLINED IN THE SOLICITATION SHALL BE CAUSE FOR THE PROPOSER'S OFFER TO BE REJECTED.

13.01 DBE Intended Participation Affidavits:

If the Contractor indicates in the Proposal submittal that it has met or exceeded the DBE goal, a DBE Intended Participation Affidavit form for each DBE firm, and the DBE Intended Participation Affidavit – Summary form shall be submitted to the Procurement Officer with each Proposal as follows:

(1) The DBE Intended Participation Affidavit Form – This form must be submitted for each individual DBE firm at all tiers, including direct expense vendors, that is being proposed to be used to meet the DBE goal on the project. Refer to the Federal Attachments and Exhibits.

(2) The DBE Intended Participation Affidavit Summary Form – This form must be completed by the contractor summarizing information about all DBEs being proposed to meet the DBE goal that are listed on each DBE Intended Participation Affidavit Form. The DBE Intended Participation Affidavit Summary Form, along with the DBE Intended Participation Affidavit form for each individual DBE firm, must be submitted together with the Offer to the Procurement Officer. All forms must be accurate and complete in every detail and must be signed by an officer of the contractor(s). Percentages and dollar amounts must be accurate. Percentages shall be listed to two decimal places. The DBE Intended Participation Affidavit Summary must be submitted listing all the DBEs intended to be used and the creditable amounts. Refer to the Federal Attachments and Exhibits.

(3) The DBE Intended Participation Affidavits Forms and the DBE Intended Participation Affidavit Summary Form must be submitted with the original offer. The same documents must be submitted as part of the Contract Amendment documentation submittals reflecting any change in the contract amount associated with the Contract Amendment.

(4) A proposer must determine DBE credit for the contract in accordance with DBE Special Provision Subsection 17.0 Crediting DBE Participation Toward Meeting Goals. The affidavits will be reviewed by the Procurement Officer.

(5) Only those DBE firms certified by the Arizona Unified Certification Program (AZUCP) at the time of the Offer will be considered for DBE credit. It shall be the proposer's responsibility to ascertain the certification status of designated DBEs.

(6) All DBE commitment amounts must be finalized between the DBE subcontractor and the Prime Contractor prior to affidavit submittal. Contractors shall not inflate DBE awards in order to meet contract goals. Reduction of DBE commitments after affidavit submittal and prior to execution of the contract without good cause may be grounds for the proposer to be considered nonresponsive. Scheduling conflicts are not necessarily evidence of good cause as this should have been considered prior to affidavit submittal. Contractors are required to use DBEs identified in the Offer to meet the contract goal, so the contractor is responsible for ensuring the DBEs listed in the Offer are available to meet those requirements at the time of contract execution.

(7) Offers submitted without affidavits shall be deemed not susceptible for award.

14.0 Documented Good Faith Effort:

14.01 General:

If the selected contractor has indicated in its offer that it will be unable to meet the DBE goal, that contractor must demonstrate, through detailed and comprehensive documentation, that good faith efforts have been made to solicit, assist, and use DBE firms to meet the DBE goal prior to submission of the offer.

Failure to demonstrate good faith efforts to the satisfaction of ADOT will result in ADOT denying the award and moving to the next second highest ranked contractor.

The selected contractor who cannot meet the DBE goal at the time the offer is due must submit its documentation of good faith efforts to the Procurement Officer with the offer. Contract negotiations will not be finalized nor will the contract be executed until the required Good Faith Effort forms and required documentation are received and approved.

The documentation of good faith efforts must include copies of each DBE and non-DBE subcontractor quotes submitted to the contractor when a non-DBE subcontractor was selected over a DBE for work on the contract. A generalized assertion that the contractor received multiple quotes is not sufficient unless copies of those quotes are provided.

Contractors are encouraged to review Appendix A of 49 CFR Part 26.

Useful information related to encouraging DBE participation and documented good faith efforts can be found in the Department's "Good Faith Effort Guide" and other documents made available on the BECO website. The information provided in the "Good Faith Effort Guide" does not replace this specification; contractors must comply with the requirements of this specification.

In order to be awarded a contract on the basis of good faith efforts, a proposer must show that it took all necessary and reasonable steps to achieve the DBE goal, which, by their scope, intensity, and appropriateness to the objective, could reasonably be expected to obtain sufficient DBE participation, even if they were not fully successful. The Department will consider the quality, quantity, and intensity of the different kinds of efforts the proposer has made. The efforts employed by the contractor should be those that one could reasonably expect a contractor to make if the contractor was actively and aggressively trying to obtain DBE participation sufficient to meet the DBE goal. Mere pro forma efforts are not sufficient good faith efforts to meet the DBE contract requirements.

The contractor shall, as a minimum, seek DBEs in the same geographic area in which it generally seeks subcontractors for a given project. If the contractor cannot meet the goals using DBEs from this geographic area, the contractor, as part of its effort to meet the goals, shall expand its search to a reasonably wider geographic area.

The following is a list of types of efforts a proposer must address when submitting good faith effort documentation.

(1) Contacting the Department's BECO prior to the submission of proposals, either by e mail, or by telephone, to inform BECO of the firm's difficulty in meeting the DBE goals on a given project, and requesting assistance. The proposer must document its contact with BECO, and indicate the type of contact, the date and time of the contact, the name of the person(s) contacted, and any details related to the communication. The telephone number for BECO is (602) 712 7761 and the email address is contractorcompliance@azdot.gov. The contact must be made in sufficient time before offer submission to allow BECO to provide effective assistance. The contractor will not be considered to have made good faith efforts if the contractor failed to contact BECO.

(2) Conducting market research to identify small business contractors and suppliers, and soliciting, through all reasonable and available means, the interest of all certified DBEs who have the capability to perform the work of the contract. This may include attendance at pre-proposal meetings and business matchmaking meetings and events, advertising and/or providing written notices, posting of "Notices of Sources Sought" and/or "Requests for Proposals" at reasonable locations, including the contractor's website, written notices or emails to all DBEs listed in the Department's directory of transportation firms that specialize in areas of work desired (as noted in the DBE directory) and which are located in the area or surrounding areas of the project. The contractor should solicit this interest as early in the acquisition process as practicable to allow DBEs to respond to the solicitation and submit a timely offer for the subcontract. The contractor should determine with certainty if DBEs are interested by taking appropriate steps to follow-up initial solicitations.

(3) Selecting portions of the work to be performed by DBEs in order to increase the likelihood that the DBE goal will be achieved. This includes, where appropriate, breaking out contract work items into economically feasible units (for example smaller tasks or quantities) to facilitate DBE participation, even when the prime contractor might otherwise prefer to perform these work items with its own forces. This may include, where possible, establishing flexible time frames for performance and delivery schedules in a manner that encourages and facilitates DBE participation.

(4) Providing interested DBEs with adequate information about the plans, specifications, and requirements of the contract in a timely manner to assist them in responding to a solicitation with their offer for a subcontract.

(5) Negotiating in good faith with interested DBEs. It is the contractor's responsibility to make a portion of the work available to the DBE subcontractors and suppliers, and to select those portions of work or material needs consistent with the available DBE subcontractors and suppliers, so as to facilitate DBE participation. Evidence of such negotiation includes the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of DBEs that were considered; a description of the information provided from the plans and specifications for the work selected for subcontracting; and evidence as to why additional agreements could not be reached for DBEs to perform work.

Pro forma mailings to DBEs requesting proposals are not alone sufficient to constitute good faith negotiation.

A contractor using good business judgment would consider a number of factors in negotiating with subcontractors, including DBE subcontractors, and would take a firm's price and capabilities as well as contract goals into consideration. However, the fact that there may be some additional costs involved in finding and using DBEs is not in itself sufficient reason for a proposer's failure to meet the DBE goal, as long as such costs are reasonable. Also, the ability or desire of a prime contractor to perform the work of a contract with its own organization does not relieve the contractor of the responsibility to make good faith efforts. However, prime contractors are not required to accept higher quotes from DBEs if the price difference is excessive or unreasonable. Documentation, such as copies of all other proposals or quotes, must be submitted.

Another practice considered an insufficient good faith effort is the rejection of the DBE because its quotation for the work was not the lowest received. The contractor must submit copies of each DBE and non-DBE subcontractor quote submitted to the contractor when a non-DBE subcontractor was selected over a DBE for work on the contract. The Department may contact rejected DBEs as part of its investigation. However, nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to require the contractor or prime contractor to accept unreasonable quotes in order to satisfy contract goals.

(6) Not rejecting DBEs as being unqualified without sound reasons based on a thorough investigation of their capabilities. The contractor's standing within its industry, membership in specific groups, organizations or associations and political or social affiliations (for example, union vs. non-union employee status) are not legitimate causes for the rejection or non-solicitation of proposals in the contractor's efforts to meet the project goal. Contractor must submit documentation of past performance and with input from the PM, contractor's qualifications are then reviewed for acceptance and approval.

(7) Making efforts to assist interested DBEs in obtaining bonding, lines of credit, or insurance as required by the recipient or contractor.

(8) Making efforts to assist interested DBEs in obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials, or related assistance or services.

(9) Effectively using the services of available minority/women community organizations; minority/women contractors' groups; local, state, and Federal minority/women business assistance offices; and other organizations as allowed on a case-by-case basis to provide assistance in the recruitment and placement of DBEs.

In determining whether a contractor has made good faith efforts, the Department will review the documented efforts of the contractor and will review the performance of other contractors in meeting the contract goal.

A promise to use DBEs after contract award is not considered to be responsive to the contract solicitation or to constitute good faith efforts.

The Department will evaluate the submittal to determine whether in fact good faith efforts have been demonstrated consistent with the specifications and the Federal regulations, 49 CFR 26, Appendix A.

14.02 Protest for Denied Good Faith Efforts:

If the Department determines that the contractor failed to make adequate good faith efforts, the contractor may protest the determination of the Department by submitting an appeal in writing to the ADOT CPO. The decision of the ADOT CPO is administratively final.

The contractor whose offer was rejected for failure to meet the goal or make GFE will be given the opportunity to meet in person with the CPO, at the contractor's written request included in the protest, to discuss the issue of whether it met the goal or made adequate good faith efforts to do so. The CPO shall promptly consider any appeals and notify all contractors in writing on its findings and decision.

In accordance with 49 CFR 26.53(d)(5), the result of the protest decision is not subject to administrative appeal to the USDOT.

15.0 Rejection of Proposal:

If, for any reason, the contractor's GFE is rejected or contract negotiations fail, ADOT will proceed with negotiating with the next highest ranked firm. The Department will notify the next highest ranked firm, and this firm shall submit its subsequent detailed submission as set forth in the DBE Subsections 13 or 14.

16.0 Payment Reporting:

The contractor shall report on a monthly basis indicating the amounts paid to all subcontractors, of all tiers, working on the project. Reporting shall be in accordance with below.

Subcontracts:

a. Sub-Contract Terms:

   1. The Contractor agrees to execute a written Contract with all Subcontractors for work to be completed under this Contract. The executed Contract shall include Subcontractor's Scope of Work and all the Uniform Terms and Conditions set forth in this Contract.

   2. The Contractor shall provide electronic copies of signed subcontract agreements with all Subcontractors to ADOT Business Engagement and Compliance Office (BECO) by uploading them to the BECO's online DBE Contract & Labor Compliance Management System (**DBE System**) at https://adot.dbesystem.com. Subcontract agreements shall include all required assurances and required clauses as outlined in this Contract. Each agreement and required

attachment shall be dated and signed by the Subcontractor in order for the subcontract to be considered valid.

3. The Contractor may be in breach of this Contract if the Contractor materially modifies the federal regulations and State statutes in its subcontract agreements terms and conditions with its Subcontractors. Deviations from the terms of this Contract may result in termination of the Contract, or any other such remedy as deemed appropriate by the Department.

b. Sub-Contract Payments

1. Retention: If the prime contract does not provide for retention, the contractor and each subcontractor of any tier shall not withhold retention on any subcontract. If the prime contract provides for retention, the prime contractor and each subcontractor of any tier shall not retain a higher percentage than the Department may retain under the prime contract. Retainage shall be paid to the subcontractor within 7 days of satisfactory completion of the work performed by the subcontractor.

2. No Set-offs Arising from Other Contracts: If a subcontractor is performing work on multiple contracts for the same contractor or subcontractor of any tier, the contractor or subcontractor of any tier shall not withhold or reduce payment from its subcontractors on the contract because of disputes or claims on another contract.

3. Partial Payment: The contractor and each subcontractor of any tier shall make prompt partial payments to its subcontractors within seven days of receipt of payment from the Department. Notwithstanding any provision of Arizona Revised Statutes Section 28-411, the parties may not agree otherwise.

4. Final Payment: The contractor and each subcontractor of any tier shall make prompt final payment to each of its subcontractors. The contractor and each subcontractor of any tier shall pay all monies, including retention, due to its subcontractor within seven days of receipt of payment. Notwithstanding any provision of Arizona Revised Statutes Section 28-411, the parties may not agree otherwise.

5. Payment Reporting: For the purposes of this subsection “Reportable Contracts” means any subcontract, of any tier, DBE or non-DBE, by which work shall be performed on behalf of the contractor and any contract of any tier with a DBE material or service supplier.

   The requirements of this subsection apply to all Reportable Contracts.

   Payment Reporting for all Reportable Contracts shall be done through the Department’s web-based DBE System. The DBE System can be accessed from the Department’s BECO website. No later than fifteen calendar days after the Notice to Proceed is issued, the contractor shall log into the Department’s web based DBE System and enter or verify the name, contact information, and subcontract amounts for Reportable Contracts on the project. As Reportable Contracts are approved over the course of the contract, the contractor shall enter them in the system. Reportable contracts shall be entered into the system no later than five calendar days after approval by the Department.

The contractor shall report on a monthly basis indicating the amounts actually paid and the dates of each payment under any Reportable Contract on the project. In addition, the contractor shall require that all participants in any Reportable Contract electronically verify receipt of payment on the contract by the last day of the month and the contractor shall actively monitor the Department's DBE System to ensure that the verifications are input. The contractor shall proactively work to resolve any payment discrepancies in the DBE System between payment amounts it reports and payment confirmation amounts reported by others.

The contractor shall ensure that all Reportable Contract activity is reported to the Department. This includes all lower-tier Reportable Contracts, regardless of whether a DBE is involved or not.

The contractor shall maintain records for each payment explaining the amount requested by the subcontractor, and the amount actually paid pursuant to the request, which may include but are not limited to, estimates, invoices, pay requests, copies of checks or wire transfers, and lien waivers in support of the monthly payments in the DBE System.

The contractor shall provide information for payments made on all Reportable Contracts during the previous month by the 15th day of the current month. In the event that no payments were made during a given month, the contractor shall identify that by entering a dollar value of zero. If the contractor does not pay the full amount of any invoice from a subcontractor, the contractor shall note that and provide the reasons in the comment section of the Monthly Payment Audit of the DBE System.

For each Reportable Contract on which the contractor fails to submit timely payment information the Department will retain $1,000.00 as liquidated damages, from the monies due to the contractor. Liquidated damages will be deducted each month for each Reportable Contract on which the contractor fails to submit payment information until the contractor provides the required information as described herein. After 90 consecutive days of non-reporting, the liquidated damages will increase to $2,000.00 for each subsequent month, for each Reportable Contract on which the contractor fails to report until the information is provided. These liquidated damages shall be in addition to all other retention or liquidated damages provided for elsewhere in the contract.

Payment reporting requirements apply to all contracts, federal and non-federal funded.

The contractor shall ensure that a copy of this Subsection is included in every Reportable Contract of every tier.

(a) Sanctions for Inadequate Reporting:

For each Reportable Contract on which the contractor fails to submit timely and complete payment information the Department will retain $1,000.00 as liquidated damages, from the monies due to the contractor. Liquidated damages will be deducted each month for each Reportable Contract on which the contractor fails to submit payment information until the contractor provides the required information as described herein. After 90 consecutive days of non-reporting, the liquidated damages will increase to $2,000.00 for each subsequent month, for each Reportable Contract on which the contractor fails to report until the

information is provided. These liquidated damages shall be in addition to all other retention or liquidated damages provided for elsewhere in the contract.

6. Completion of Work: A subcontractor's work is satisfactorily completed when all the tasks called for in the subcontract have been accomplished, documented, and accepted by the Department.

7. Disputes: If disputes arise regarding payment of subcontractors, the contractor shall immediately provide the ADOT Project Manager with a written, verifiable explanation if:
   - The contractor does not pay the full amount of any invoice from a subcontractor within seven days of receipt of a progress payment from the Department, or
   - The monthly estimate does not include all work claimed by a subcontractor to have been performed.

   The Department will determine whether the contractor has acted in good faith concerning any such explanations. The Department reserves the right to request and receive documents from the contractor and all subcontractors of any tier, in order to determine whether prompt payment requirements were met. The contractor shall implement and use the dispute resolution process outlined in the subcontract, as described in Uniform Terms and Conditions Paragraph, to resolve payment disputes.

8. Non-Compliance: Failure to make prompt partial payment or prompt final payment including any retention, within the time frames established in this contract, will result in remedies, as the Department deems appropriate, which may include, but are not limited to:
   - Liquidated Damages: These liquidated damages shall be in addition to all other retention or liquidated damages provided for elsewhere in the contract.
     - (i) The Department will withhold two times the disputed dollar amount not paid to each subcontractor.
     - (ii) If full payment is made within 30 days of the Department's payment to the contractor, the amount withheld by the Department will be released.
     - (iii) If full payment is made after 30 days of the Department's payment to the contractor, the Department will release 75 percent of the funds withheld. The Department will retain 25 percent of the monies withheld as liquidated damages.
   - Additional Remedies: If the contractor fails to make prompt payment for three consecutive months, or any four months over the course of one project, or if the contractor fails to make prompt payment on two or more contracts within 24 months, the Department may, in addition, invoke the following remedies:
     - (i) Withhold monthly progress payments until the issue is resolved and full payment has been made to all subcontractors and vendors subject to the requirements outlined under "Liquidated Damages" above,
     - (ii) Terminate the contract for default in accordance with this Contract, and/or
     - (iii) Suspension or Debarment per Uniform Terms and Conditions Paragraph 9.3 of the contractor from future bidding temporarily or permanently, depending on the number and severity of violation.
     - (iv) Reflect the contractor's performance in submitting payment reports and making subcontractor payments utilizing the Department's Vendor Performance Report.

10.1 Crediting DBE Participation Toward Meeting Goals:

10.2 General Requirements:

To count toward meeting the goal, the DBE firms must be certified at the time of the offer submission in each NAICS code applicable to the kind of work the firm will perform on the contract. NAICS for each DBE can be found on the AZ UTRACS website. General descriptions of all NAICS codes can be found at http://www.naics.com/search/.

Credit towards the contractor's DBE goal is given only after the DBE has been paid for the work performed.

The entire amount of a contract that is performed by the DBE's own forces, including the cost of supplies and materials purchased by the DBE for the work on the contract and equipment leased by the DBE will be credited toward DBE participation. Supplies and equipment the DBE subcontractor purchases or leases from the prime contractor or its affiliate will not be credited toward DBE participation.

The contractor bears the responsibility to determine whether the DBE possesses the proper contractor's license(s) to perform the work and, if DBE credit is requested, that the DBE subcontractor is certified for the requested type of work.

If a DBE cannot complete its work due to failure to obtain or maintain its licensing, the contractor bears the responsibility to notify the PM, Procurement Officer and BECO immediately after the contractor becomes aware of the situation, and request approval to replace the DBE with another DBE. The contractor shall follow the DBE termination/substitution requirements described in Subsection 22.0 of these DBE provisions.

The Department's certification is not a representation of a DBE's qualifications and/or abilities. The contractor bears all risks that the DBE may not be able to perform its work for any reason.

A DBE may participate as a prime contractor, subcontractor, or as a vendor of materials or supplies. The dollar amount of work to be accomplished by DBEs, including partial amount of a lump sum or other similar item, shall be on the basis of subcontract, purchase order, hourly rate, rate per ton, etc., as agreed to between parties.

DBE credit may be obtained only for specific work done for the project, supply of equipment specifically for physical work on the project, or supply of materials to be incorporated in the work. DBE credit will not be allowed for costs such as overhead items, capital expenditures (for example, purchase of equipment), and office items.

The contractor may credit second-tier subcontracts issued to DBEs by non-DBE subcontractors. Any second-tier subcontract to a DBE used to meet the goal must meet the requirements of a first-tier DBE subcontract.

A prime contractor may credit the entire amount of that portion of a contract that is performed by the DBE's own forces. The cost of supplies and materials obtained by the DBE for the work of the contract can be included so long as that cost is reasonable. Leased equipment may also be included. No credit is permitted for supplies purchased or equipment leased from the prime contractor or its affiliate(s).

When a DBE subcontracts a part of the work of its contract to another firm, the value of the subcontract may be credited towards the DBE goal only if the DBE's subcontractor is itself a DBE and performs the work with its own forces. Work that a DBE subcontracts to a non DBE firm does not count toward a DBE goal.

A prime contractor may credit the entire amount of fees or commissions charged by a DBE firm for providing a bona fide service, such as professional, technical, consulting, or managerial services, or for providing bonds or insurance specifically required for the performance of a USDOT-assisted contract, provided the fees are reasonable and not excessive as compared with fees customarily allowed for similar services.

17.02 DBE Prime Contractor:

When a certified DBE firm proposes on a contract that contains a DBE goal, the DBE firm is responsible for meeting the DBE goal on the contract or making good faith efforts to meet the goal, just like any other proposer. In most cases, a DBE contractor on a contract will meet the DBE goal by virtue of the work it performs on the contract with its own forces. However, all the work that is performed by the DBE contractor or any other DBE subcontractors and DBE suppliers will count toward the DBE goal. The DBE contractor shall list itself along with any DBE subcontractors and suppliers, on the DBE Intended Participation Affidavit and Summary in order to receive credit toward the DBE goal.

17.03 Effect of Loss of DBE Eligibility:

If a DBE is deemed ineligible (decertified) or suspended by the Department in accordance with 49 CFR 26.87 and 26.88, the DBE may not be considered to meet a contract goal on a new contract, but may be considered to meet the contract goal under a subcontract that was executed before the DBE suspension or decertification is effective.

When the contractor makes a commitment to use an ineligible DBE firm or the Department made a commitment to use an ineligible DBE prime contractor, but a subcontract or contract has not been executed before a decertification notice is issued to the DBE firm by its certifying agency, the ineligible firm does not count toward the contract goal. The contractor must meet the contract goal with an eligible DBE firm or demonstrate good faith effort. When a subcontract is executed with the DBE firm before the Department notified the firm of its ineligibility, the contractor may continue to use the firm on the contract and may continue to receive credit toward the DBE goal for the firm's work.

17.04 Notifying the Contractor of DBE Certification Status:

Each DBE contract at any tier shall require any DBE subcontractor or supplier that is either decertified or certified during the term of the contract to immediately notify the contractor and all parties to the DBE contract in writing, with the date of decertification or certification. The contractor shall require that this provision be incorporated in any contract of any tier in which a DBE is a participant.

17.06 Commercially Useful Function:

A prime contractor can credit expenditures to a DBE subcontractor toward DBE goals only if the DBE performs a Commercially Useful Function (CUF).

A DBE performs a CUF when it is responsible for execution of the work of a contract and carries out its responsibilities by actually performing, managing, and supervising the work involved. To perform a commercially useful function, the DBE must also be responsible, with respect to materials and supplies on the contract, for negotiating price, determining quality and quantity, ordering the material, and installing (where applicable) and paying for the material itself that it uses on the project. To determine whether a DBE is performing a commercially useful function, the Department will evaluate the amount of work subcontracted, industry practices, whether the amount the firm is to be paid under the contract is commensurate with the work it is actually performing and the DBE credit claimed for its performance of the work, and other relevant factors.

A DBE will not be considered to perform a commercially useful function if its role is limited to that of an extra participant in a transaction, contract, or project through which funds are passed in order to obtain the appearance of DBE participation. In determining whether a DBE is such an extra participant, the Department will examine similar transactions, particularly those in which DBEs do not participate.

If a DBE does not perform or exercise responsibility for at least 30 percent of the total cost of its contract with its own work force, or if the DBE subcontracts a greater portion of the work of a contract than would be expected on the basis of normal industry practice for the type of work involved, the Department will presume that the DBE is not performing a commercially useful function.

When a DBE is presumed not to be performing a commercially useful function as provided above, the DBE may present evidence to rebut this presumption. The Department will determine if the firm is performing a CUF given the type of work involved and normal industry practices.

The Department will notify the contractor, in writing, if it determines that the contractor's DBE subcontractor is not performing a CUF. The contractor will be notified within seven calendar days of the Department's decision.

Decisions on CUF may be appealed to the CPO. The appeal must be in writing and personally delivered or sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the CPO. The appeal must be received by the State Engineer no later than seven calendar days after the decision of BECO. BECO's decision remains in place unless and until the State Engineer reverses or modifies BECO's decision. ADOT's CPO will promptly consider any appeals under this subsection and notify the contractor of ADOT's CPO findings and decisions. Decisions on CUF matters are not administratively appealable to USDOT.

The BECO may conduct project site visits on the contract to confirm that DBEs are performing a CUF. The contractor shall cooperate during the site visits and the BECO's staff will make every effort not to disrupt work on the project.

18.0 Effect of Contract Changes:

The contractor acknowledges that uncertainties can occur during the performance of the work and if for any reason it becomes apparent that the DBE goal will not be met then the contractor shall: (1) immediately notify the PM, Procurement Officer and BECO of the potential or actual decrease in DBE compensation, and (2) make good faith efforts to obtain DBE participation to meet or exceed the project DBE goal.

BECO will approve or deny the contractor's good faith efforts. Good faith efforts required under the provisions of this section may vary, depending on the time available, the nature of the change, and other factors as determined by BECO.

The contractor is not required to take work committed to another subcontractor and assign it to a DBE subcontractor in order to meet the committed DBE percentage.

If the resulting change increases the scope or quantity of work being done by a DBE subcontractor, the DBE shall be given the opportunity to complete the additional work and receive additional compensation beyond their original subcontract amount.

19.0 DBE Participation Above the Goal (Race-Neutral Participation):

Additional DBE participation above the DBE participation required to meet the contract DBE goal is an important aspect of the Department's DBE program. The contractor is strongly encouraged to use additional DBEs above the DBE goal requirement in the contract to assist the Department in meeting its overall DBE goal and help the Department to meet the maximum feasible portion of its DBE goals through race neutral participation as outlined in 49 CFR Part 26.

There are fewer administrative requirements on the part of the contractor when using race neutral DBEs (DBEs not listed on the DBE Intended Participation Affidavit Summary). For example, if a DBE is not listed on the DBE Intended Participation Affidavit Summary, the DBE does not have to submit an Affidavit, and the subcontract approval process follows the same process of any other subcontract. The contractor does not have to replace the DBE with another DBE subcontractor if the DBE fails to perform. Therefore these DBEs are treated as any other subcontractor on the project.

20.0 Required Provisions for DBE Subcontracts:

All subcontracts of any tier, all supply contracts, and any other contracts in which a DBE is a participant shall include as a physical attachment, DBE Subcontractor Compliance Assurances refer to the Federal Attachments and Exhibits.

Contractors executing agreements with subcontractors, DBE or non-DBE, that materially modify federal regulation and state statutes such as, prompt payment and retention requirements, through subcontract terms and conditions will be found in breach of contract which may result in termination of the contract, or any other such remedy as the deemed appropriate as outlined in Subsection 2.0 of these DBE provisions.

The Department reserves the right to conduct random reviews of DBE and non-DBE subcontract documentation to ensure compliance with federal requirements.

The contractor shall ensure that all subcontracts or agreements with DBEs to supply labor or materials require that the subcontract and all lower tier subcontracts be performed in accordance with 49 CFR Part 26 provisions.

The Contractor shall provide electronic copies of signed subcontract agreements with all Subcontractors by uploading them within 15 calendar days of an executed contract to the ADOT DBE System. Subcontract agreements shall include all required assurances and clauses as outlined in DBE Subcontractor Compliance Assurances refer to the Federal Attachments and Exhibits of the Contract. Each agreement and required attachment shall be dated and signed by the Subcontractor in order for the subcontract to be considered valid.

The Contractor shall be in breach of this Contract if the Contractor materially modifies the federal regulations and State statutes in its subcontract agreements terms and conditions with its Subcontractors. Deviations from the terms of this Contract may result in termination of the Contract, or any other such remedy as deemed appropriate by the Department.

21.0 Contract Performance:

Contract items of work designated by the contractor to be awarded to DBEs shall be performed by the designated DBE or a Department-approved DBE substitute. The Contractor or a non-DBE Subcontractor shall not perform DBE contract work items without prior approval by BECO and execution of the a Contract Amendment by the Procurement Officer. The DBE must perform a commercially useful function; that is, the DBE must manage, perform, and supervise a distinct element of work.

The contractor is required to use DBEs identified in the offer to meet the contract goal, so the prime contractor is responsible for ensuring that the DBEs are available to meet scheduling, work and other requirements on the contract.

The Department will visit the contractor's office to conduct reviews to ensure compliance with CUF and other DBE requirements. The reviews may include, among other activities, interview of DBEs and their employees and the contractor and its employees. The contractor shall cooperate in the review and make its employees available. The contractor shall inform the PM and BECO in advance when each DBE will be working on the project to help facilitate reviews.

The Department reserves the right to request and inspect all records of the contractor and all records of the DBEs and non-DBE subcontractors concerning this contract. The contractor must make available a copy of all documents related to all contracts to ADOT upon request.

Use of every DBE listed on the DBE Intended Participation Affidavit Summary is a condition of this contract. The contractor shall utilize the specific DBEs listed to perform the work and supply the materials for which each is listed on the DBE Intended Participation Affidavit Summary unless the contractor obtains the Department's written consent. Absent consent from the Department, the contractor shall not be entitled to any payment for work or material that is not performed or supplied by the listed DBE.

22.0 DBE Termination/Substitution:

22.01 General Requirements:

The contractor shall make all reasonable efforts to avoid terminating or substituting a DBE listed on the DBE Intended Participation Affidavit Summary. At a minimum, the contractor shall negotiate in good faith, give timely notices and/or extend deadlines to the extent that it will not jeopardize the contract with the Department. Reasonable methods to resolve performance disputes must be applied and documentation provided to the Department before attempting to substitute or terminate a DBE.

22.02 Contractor Notice of Termination/Substitution:

All terminations, substitutions, and reductions in scope of work to be performed by DBEs listed on the DBE Intended Participation Affidavit Summary must be approved in writing by BECO and by means of the executed contract amendment from the Procurement Officer. The contractor shall contact the BECO and the Procurement Officer promptly at the first sign of any reason for DBE termination/substitution.

The contractor shall not terminate a DBE subcontractor listed on the DBE Intended Participation Affidavit Summary or complete the work contracted to the DBE with its own forces or with a non-DBE firm without written consent from BECO and the Procurement Officer. Before submitting a formal request to the BECO and the Procurement Officer for DBE termination/substitution, the contractor shall give written notice to the DBE subcontractor with a copy to BECO of its intent to terminate or substitute the DBE identifying the reason for the action. The DBE shall be allowed a minimum of five calendar days to respond to the contractor's notice advising the contractor and BECO of its position. BECO and the Procurement Officer will consider both the contractor's request and the DBE firm's response before approving the contractor's termination and substitution request.

22.03 Contractor Request of Termination/Substitution:

The contractor shall formally request the termination or substitution of a DBE listed on the DBE Intended Participation Affidavit Summary by submitting the DBE Termination/Substitution Request Form and supporting documentation to the Procurement Officer. The submission shall include the following information:

(1) The date the contractor determined the DBE to be unwilling, unable or ineligible to perform.
(2) A brief statement of facts describing the situation and citing specific actions or inaction by the DBE firm giving rise to contractor's assertion that the DBE firm is unwilling, unable, or ineligible to perform.
(3) A brief statement of the good faith efforts undertaken by the contractor to enable the DBE firm to perform.
(4) The total dollar amount currently paid for work performed by the DBE firm.
(5) The total dollar amount remaining to be paid to the DBE firm for work completed, but for which the DBE firm has not received payment, and over which the contractor and the DBE firm have no dispute.
(6) The remaining work that has not been completed by the DBE and the corresponding dollar amount.
(7) The projected date that the contractor requires a substitution or replacement DBE to commence work, if consent is granted to the request.

Written consent for terminating the performance of any DBE listed on the DBE Intended Participation Affidavit Summary will be granted only where the contractor can demonstrate good cause showing that the DBE is unable, unwilling, or ineligible to perform. Such written consent to terminate any DBE shall concurrently constitute written consent to substitute or replace the terminated DBE. Termination or substitution of a DBE listed on the DBE Intended Participation Summary will not be allowed based solely on a contractor's ability to negotiate a more advantageous contract with another subcontractor. The Department will consider both the contractor's request and DBE's response and explanation before approving the contractor's termination and substitution request.

Any requests for substitutions or terminations of DBEs shall be made on the forms provided in the Federal Attachments and Exhibits.

22.04 Good Cause:

The Department will make the determination of good cause by providing written consent to the contractor after evaluating the contractor's good cause to terminate or substitute a DBE firm. Good cause for this purpose includes the following in relation to the listed DBE subcontractor:

(1) Fails or refuses to execute a written contract.
(2) Fails or refuses to perform the work of its subcontract in a way consistent with normal industry practice standards. However, good cause does not exist if the failure or refusal of the DBE subcontractor to perform its work on the subcontract results from the bad faith or discriminatory action of the prime contractor.
(3) Fails or refuses to meet the prime contractor's reasonable, nondiscriminatory insurance/bond requirements.
(4) Becomes bankrupt, insolvent, or exhibits credit unworthiness.

(5) Is ineligible to work on public works projects because of suspension and debarment proceedings pursuant to federal or state law.
(6) Is not a responsible contractor.
(7) Voluntarily withdraws from the project and provides written notice of its withdrawal to the Department.
(8) Is ineligible to receive DBE credit for the type of work required.
(9) A DBE owner dies or becomes disabled with the result that the firm is unable to complete its work on the contract.
(10) Other documented good cause that the Department determines compels the termination or substitution of the DBE subcontractor.

If good cause is determined, the Department will notify the Contractor of the decision and necessary modifications to the contract can be made.

22.05 DBE Replacement Good Faith Effort:

If the Department approves the termination of a DBE, the contractor shall make good faith efforts to find another DBE subcontractor to substitute for the original DBE. The good faith efforts as identified in DBE Subsection 17.0 shall be directed at finding another DBE to perform at least the same amount of work under the contract as the DBE that was terminated, to the extent needed to meet the contract goal. The good faith efforts shall be documented and provided, upon request, to the Department within seven calendar days from the date of the request.

A prime contractor's inability to find a replacement DBE at the original price is not alone sufficient to support a finding that good faith efforts have been made to replace the original DBE. The fact that the contractor has the ability and/or desire to perform the contract work with its own forces does not relieve the contractor of the obligation to make good faith efforts to find the replacement DBE, and it is not a sound basis for rejecting a perspective replacement DBE's reasonable quote.

The termination of a DBE firm shall not relieve the contractor of its obligations under this Special Provision, and the unpaid portion of the terminated DBE firm's subcontract will not be counted toward the DBE goal. If the Department has eliminated items of work subcontracted to a committed DBE, the prime contractor shall still make good faith efforts to replace the DBE with another DBE to the extent necessary to meet the goal. The Department will review the quality, thoroughness, and intensity of those efforts.

When a DBE substitution is necessary, the contractor shall submit an amended DBE Intended Participation Affidavit and Intended Participation Affidavit Summary to the Procurement Officer for processing and to BECO for approval with the substitute DBE's name, description of work, NAICS code, AZ UTRACS registration number, and dollar value of work to the PM, Procurement Officer and BECO. Approval from BECO must be obtained prior to the execution of Contract Amendment by the Procurement Officer and before substituted DBE can begin work.

22.06 Sanctions:

Failure by the contractor to carry out the requirements of the Department's DBE Termination/Substitution specifications is a material breach of contract and will result in such remedies as the Department deems appropriate, which will include, but are not limited to the assessment of liquidated damages. The Department will deduct from monies due or becoming due the contractor, the dollar amount of the wrongfully substituted/replaced DBE subcontract plus 25% of the amount remaining to be paid to the DBE as liquidated damages. These liquidated damages shall be in addition to all other retention or liquidated damages provided for elsewhere in the contract.

23.0 Certification of Final DBE Payments:

The contractor's achievement of the goal is measured by actual payments made to the DBEs. The contractor shall submit the "Certification of Final DBE Payments" form for each DBE firm working on the contract. This form shall be signed by the contractor and the relevant DBE, and submitted to the Procurement Officer no later than 30 days after the DBE completes its work.

ADOT will use this certification and other information available to determine applicable DBE credit allowed to date by the Prime Contractor and the extent to which the DBE firms were fully paid for that work. By the act of filing the forms, the contractor acknowledges that the information is supplied in order to justify the payment of state and federal funds to the contractor.

The contractor will not be released from the obligations of the contract until the "Certification of Final DBE Payments" forms are received and deemed acceptable by the Procurement Officer and BECO.

24.0 Sanctions for Not Meeting Contract DBE Goal:

If the Department determines that the contractor has not met the DBE goal at the end of the contract, the Department at its discretion, may assess liquidated damages up to two times the amount of the unattained portion of the original DBE goal, based on the circumstances of the noncompliance. Not meeting the DBE goal will also be reflected in the contractor evaluation.

In determining whether liquidated damages will be assessed and the amount of the liquidated damages, the Department will consider whether there have been other violations on this or other contracts, whether the failure was due to circumstances beyond the control of the contractor, whether the contractor has made good faith efforts to meet the goal, and other appropriate circumstances.

In addition to any other sanctions, willful failure of the contractor, DBE or other subcontractor to comply with this contract or with the Federal DBE regulations may result in disqualification from further contracting, subcontracting, or other participation in the Department's projects.

25.0 False, Fraudulent, or Dishonest Conduct:

In addition to any other remedies or actions, the Department will bring to the attention of the US Department of Transportation any appearance of false, fraudulent, or dishonest conduct in connection

with the DBE program, so that USDOT can take steps such as referral to the Department of Justice for criminal prosecution, referral to the USDOT Inspector General for possible initiation of suspension and debarment proceedings against the offending parties or application of "Program Fraud and Civil Penalties" rules provided in 49 CFR Part 31.

9. NONDISCRIMINATION

1. During the performance of this Contract, the Consultant, for itself, its Subconsultants, assignees and successors shall:

   a. Not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex and shall carry out applicable requirements of 49 CFR Part 26 in the performance of this Contract. Failure by the Consultant to carry out these requirements is a material breach of this Contract, which may result in the termination of this Contract, disqualification from proposing on other Contracts or other remedy as the State deems appropriate.
   b. Comply with Executive Order 2009-09, "Prohibition of Discrimination in Employment by Government Contractors and Subcontractors," which is hereby included in its entirety by reference and considered a part of this Contract.

   c. Comply with the provisions of Executive Order 11246, entitled "Equal Employment Opportunity," as amended by Executive Order 11375, and as supplemented in Department of Labor Regulations (41 CFR Part 60). Said provisions are made applicable by reference and are hereinafter considered a part of this Contract.

   d. Post in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment, the following notice:

      "It is the policy of this company not to discriminate against any employee, or applicant for employment, because of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, sex, age, handicapped, or disabled veterans and Vietnam era veterans. Such actions shall include, but are not limited to: employment, upgrading, demotion, transfer, recruitment, or recruitment advertising; laying-off or termination; rates of pay or other compensation; and selection for training, and on-the-job training. Also, it is the policy to ensure and maintain a working environment free of harassment, intimidation and coercion."

   e. Comply with the Regulations relative to nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the U.S. Department of Transportation (hereinafter USDOT), 49 CFR Part 21, as they may be amended from time to time, (hereinafter referred to as the Regulations), which are herein incorporated by reference and made a part of this Contract.

   f. Not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin in the selection and retention of Subconsultants, including procurement of materials and leases of equipment. The

Consultant shall not participate either directly or indirectly in the discrimination prohibited by Section 21.5 of the Regulations, including employment practices.

g. In all solicitations either by competitive bidding or negotiations made by the Consultant for work to be performed under a subcontract, including procurement of materials or leases of equipment, notify each potential Subconsultant or supplier of the Consultant's obligations under this Contract and the Regulations relative to nondiscrimination on the ground of race, color, or national origin.

h. Provide all information and reports required by the Regulations or directives issued pursuant thereto, and shall permit access to its books, records, accounts, other sources of information and its facilities as may be determined by the State to be pertinent to ascertain compliance with such Regulations, orders and instructions. Where any information required of a Consultant is in the exclusive possession of another who fails or refuses to furnish this information, the Consultant shall so certify to the State as appropriate, and shall set forth what efforts it has made to obtain the information.

2. In the event of the Consultant's noncompliance with the NONDISCRIMININATION provision (Section A) of this Contract, the State shall impose such Contract sanctions as the State or FHWA may determine to be appropriate, including but not limited to:

   a. Withholding of payments to the Consultant under the Contract until the Consultant complies, and/or;

   b. Cancellation, termination, or suspension of the Contract, in whole or in part.

3. The Consultant shall include the provisions of paragraph 1.a. through 1.h. in every subcontract with Subconsultants, DBEs and non-DBEs, including procurement of materials and equipment leases, unless exempt by the Regulations or directives issued pursuant thereto.

4. The Consultant shall take such action with respect to any Subconsultants or procurement as the State or the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), FHWA and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for noncompliance. Provided, however, that in the event the Consultant becomes involved in or is threatened with litigation with a Subconsultant or supplier as a result of such direction, the Consultant may request the State to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the State, and in addition, the Consultant may request the United States to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the United States.

10. AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Contractor shall take the following affirmative action steps with respect to securing supplies, equipment, or services under the terms of this contract:

a. Include qualified firms owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals on solicitation lists.

b. Assure that firms owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals are solicited whenever they are potential sources.

c. When economically feasible, divide total requirements into smaller tasks or quantities so as to permit maximum participation by firms owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.

d. Where the requirement permits, establish delivery schedules which will encourage participation by firms owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.

e. Use the services and assistance of the Small Business Administration, the Office of Minority Business Enterprise of the Department of Commerce, and the Community Services Administration, as required.

11. CONTRACT WORK HOURS AND SAFETY STANDARDS ACT

The following clauses apply to any Federal-aid contract in an amount in excess of $100,000 and subject to the overtime provisions of the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act. These clauses shall be inserted in addition to the clauses required by 29 CFR 5.5(a) or 29 CFR 4.6. As used in this paragraph, the terms laborers and mechanics include watchmen and guards.

Overtime requirements. No contractor or subcontractor contracting for any part of the contract work which may require or involve the employment of laborers or mechanics shall require or permit any such laborer or mechanic in any workweek in which he or she is employed on such work to work in excess of forty hours in such workweek unless such laborer or mechanic receives compensation at a rate not less than one and one-half times the basic rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty hours in such workweek.

Violation; liability for unpaid wages; liquidated damages. In the event of any violation of the clause set forth in paragraph (1.) of this section, the contractor and any subcontractor responsible therefor shall be liable for the unpaid wages. In addition, such contractor and subcontractor shall be liable to the United States (in the case of work done under contract for the District of Columbia or a territory, to such District or to such territory), for liquidated damages. Such liquidated damages shall be computed with respect to each individual laborer or mechanic, including watchmen and guards, employed in violation of the clause set forth in paragraph (1.) of this section, in the sum of $10 for each calendar day on which such individual was required or permitted to work in excess of the standard workweek of forty hours without payment of the overtime wages required by the clause set forth in paragraph (1.) of this section. **Withholding for unpaid wages and liquidated damages.** The FHWA or the contacting agency shall upon its own action or upon written request of an authorized representative of the Department of Labor withhold or cause to be withheld, from any moneys payable on account of work performed by the contractor or subcontractor under any such contract or any other Federal contract with the same prime contractor, or any other federally-assisted contract subject to the Contract Work Hours and Safety

Standards Act, which is held by the same prime contractor, such sums as may be determined to be necessary to satisfy any liabilities of such contractor or subcontractor for unpaid wages and liquidated damages as provided in the clause set forth in paragraph (2.) of this section.

Subcontracts. The contractor or subcontractor shall insert in any subcontracts the clauses set forth in paragraph (1.) through (4.) of this section and also a clause requiring the subcontractors to include these clauses in any lower tier subcontracts. The prime contractor shall be responsible for compliance by any subcontractor or lower tier subcontractor with the clauses set forth in paragraphs (1.) through (4.) of this section.

12. IMPLEMENTATION OF CLEAN AIR ACT AND FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT

This provision is applicable to all Federal-aid construction contracts and to all related subcontracts.

By submission of this bid/proposal or the execution of this contract, or subcontract, as appropriate, the bidder, proposer, Federal-aid construction contractor, or subcontractor, as appropriate, will be deemed to have stipulated as follows:

a. That any person who is or will be utilized in the performance of this contract is not prohibited from receiving an award due to a violation of Section 508 of the Clean Water Act or Section 306 of the Clean Air Act.

b. That the contractor agrees to include or cause to be included the requirements of paragraph (1) of this Section X in every subcontract, and further agrees to take such action as the contracting agency may direct as a means of enforcing such requirements.

13. CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, INELIGIBILITY AND VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION

This provision is applicable to all Federal-aid construction contracts, design-build contracts, subcontracts, lower-tier subcontracts, purchase orders, lease agreements, consultant contracts or any other covered transaction requiring FHWA approval or that is estimated to cost $25,000 or more – as defined in 2 CFR Parts 180 and 1200.

1. Instructions for Certification – First Tier Participants:
   a. By signing and submitting this proposal, the prospective first tier participant is providing the certification set out below.

   b. The inability of a person to provide the certification set out below will not necessarily result in denial of participation in this covered transaction. The prospective first tier participant shall submit an explanation of why it cannot provide the certification set out below. The certification or explanation will be considered in connection with the department or agency's determination whether to enter into this transaction. However, failure of the prospective first tier participant to furnish a certification or an explanation shall disqualify such a person from participation in this transaction.

c. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when the contracting agency determined to enter into this transaction. If it is later determined that the prospective participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the contracting agency may terminate this transaction for cause of default.

d. The prospective first tier participant shall provide immediate written notice to the contracting agency to whom this proposal is submitted if any time the prospective first tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.

e. The terms "covered transaction," "debarred," "suspended," "ineligible," "participant," "person," "principal," and "voluntarily excluded," as used in this clause, are defined in 2 CFR Parts 180 and 1200. “First Tier Covered Transactions” refers to any covered transaction between a grantee or subgrantee of Federal funds and a participant (such as the prime or general contract). “Lower Tier Covered Transactions” refers to any covered transaction under a First Tier Covered Transaction (such as subcontracts). “First Tier Participant” refers to the participant who has entered into a covered transaction with a grantee or subgrantee of Federal funds (such as the prime or general contractor). “Lower Tier Participant” refers any participant who has entered into a covered transaction with a First Tier Participant or other Lower Tier Participants (such as subcontractors and suppliers).

f. The prospective first tier participant agrees by submitting this proposal that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the department or agency entering into this transaction.

g. The prospective first tier participant further agrees by submitting this proposal that it will include the clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-Lower Tier Covered Transactions," provided by the department or contracting agency, entering into this covered transaction, without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions exceeding the $25,000 threshold.

h. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that is not debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant is responsible for ensuring that its principals are not suspended, debarred, or otherwise ineligible to participate in covered transactions. To verify the eligibility of its principals, as well as the eligibility of any lower tier prospective participants, each participant may, but is not required to, check the

Excluded Parties List System website (https://www.epls.gov/), which is compiled by the General Services Administration.

i. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require the establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of the prospective participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.

j. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph (f) of these instructions, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency may terminate this transaction for cause or default.

2. Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion – First Tier Participants:

a. The prospective first tier participant certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it and its principals:

(1) Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participating in covered transactions by any Federal department or agency;

(2) Have not within a three-year period preceding this proposal been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;

(3) Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (a)(2) of this certification; and

(4) Have not within a three-year period preceding this application/proposal had one or more public transactions (Federal, State or local) terminated for cause or default.

b. Where the prospective participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

3. Instructions for Certification - Lower Tier Participants:

(Applicable to all subcontracts, purchase orders and other lower tier transactions requiring prior FHWA approval or estimated to cost $25,000 or more - 2 CFR Parts 180 and 1200)

a. By signing and submitting this proposal, the prospective lower tier is providing the certification set out below.

b. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was entered into. If it is later determined that the prospective lower tier participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department, or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.

c. The prospective lower tier participant shall provide immediate written notice to the person to which this proposal is submitted if at any time the prospective lower tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.

d. The terms "covered transaction," "debarred," "suspended," "ineligible," "participant," "person," "principal," and "voluntarily excluded," as used in this clause, are defined in 2 CFR Parts 180 and 1200. You may contact the person to which this proposal is submitted for assistance in obtaining a copy of those regulations. “First Tier Covered Transactions” refers to any covered transaction between a grantee or subgrantee of Federal funds and a participant (such as the prime or general contract). “Lower Tier Covered Transactions” refers to any covered transaction under a First Tier Covered Transaction (such as subcontracts). “First Tier Participant” refers to the participant who has entered into a covered transaction with a grantee or subgrantee of Federal funds (such as the prime or general contractor). “Lower Tier Participant” refers any participant who has entered into a covered transaction with a First Tier Participant or other Lower Tier Participants (such as subcontractors and suppliers).

e. The prospective lower tier participant agrees by submitting this proposal that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the department or agency with which this transaction originated.

f. The prospective lower tier participant further agrees by submitting this proposal that it will include this clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-Lower Tier Covered Transaction," without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions exceeding the $25,000 threshold.

g. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that is not debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant is responsible for ensuring that its principals are not suspended, debarred, or otherwise ineligible to participate in covered transactions. To verify the eligibility of its principals, as well as the eligibility of any lower tier prospective participants, each participant may, but is not required to, check the Excluded Parties List System website (https://www.epls.gov/), which is compiled by the General Services Administration.

h. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.

i. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph e of these instructions, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.

4. Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion--Lower Tier Participants:

a. The prospective lower tier participant certifies, by submission of this proposal, that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participating in covered transactions by any Federal department or agency.

b. Where the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

14. CERTIFICATION REGARDING USE OF CONTRACT FUNDS FOR LOBBYING

This provision is applicable to all Federal-aid construction contracts and to all related subcontracts which exceed $100,000 (49 CFR 20).

1. The prospective participant certifies, by signing and submitting this bid or proposal, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

a. No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any Federal agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

b. If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any Federal agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.

2. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by 31 U.S.C. 1352. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than $10,000 and not more than $100,000 for each such failure.

a. The prospective participant also agrees by submitting its bid or proposal that the participant shall require that the language of this certification be included in all lower tier subcontracts, which exceed $100,000 and that all such recipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.