

## **CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS DBE PROVISIONS**

\*\* FOR USE ON LPA FEDERAL AID PROJECTS WITH GOALS. \*\*  
\* NOTE: REFER TO EDITING INSTRUCTIONS IN SECTIONS 12.0 AND 17.0 \*

**(LPA EPRISE, 07/01/2017)**

### **DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES:**

#### **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;
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 herein 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.

Local Public Agencies (LPA) and or Subrecipients of Federal financial assistance have adopted ADOT's DBE Program Plan, adhere to the Department's DBE policy and will administer and manage the contracts from advertising, consultant selection, negotiation, contract execution, processing payment reports and contract modifications, audits, DBE compliance (e.g., reporting and monitoring) through contract closeout.

## 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 USDOT-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 LPA/Subrecipient, with the Department's concurrence, deems appropriate, which may include, but not limited to:

- (1) Withholding monthly progress payments;
- (2) Assessing sanctions;
- (3) Liquidated damages; and/or
- (4) Disqualifying the contractor from future bidding as non-responsible.

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 as 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) Joint Check:** a two-party check between a subcontractor, DBE and/or non-DBE, a prime contractor and the regular dealer of material supplies.
- (E) Joint Venture:** an association of a DBE firm and one or more other firms to carry out a single, for-profit business enterprise, for which parties combine their property, capital, efforts, skills and knowledge, and in which the DBE is responsible for a distinct, clearly defined portion of the work of the contract and whose share in the capital contribution,

control, management, risks, and profits of the joint venture are commensurate with its ownership interest.

**(F) 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 US business economy.

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

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

**(I) Race Neutral:** a measure or program is one that is, or can be, used to assist all small businesses. For the purposes of this part, race neutral includes gender-neutrality.

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

- (1) Operates as a for-profit business;
- (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.

**(K) 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, Dominican, Central or South American, or other Spanish or Portuguese culture or origin, regardless of race;

- (iii) "Native Americans," which includes persons who are enrolled members of a federally or State recognized Indian tribe, Alaskan Natives 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 Republic 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 bidders 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 program of the Department. BECO contact information is as follows:

Arizona Department of Transportation  
Business Engagement and Compliance Office  
1801 W. Jefferson Street, Room 101, Mail Drop 154A  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
Phone (602) 712-7761  
Email: [LPAContractorCompliance@azdot.gov](mailto:LPAContractorCompliance@azdot.gov)  
Website: [www.azdot.gov/beco](http://www.azdot.gov/beco)

#### **4.01 Mentor-Protégé Program:**

ADOT 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 the 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. But the program does not diminish the DBE rules or regulations, and participants may not circumvent these rules.

## **5.0 Applicability:**

ADOT has established an overall annual goal for DBE participation on Federal-aid contracts. ADOT intends for the goal to be met with a combination of race conscious and race neutral efforts. Race conscious participation occurs where 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, describes race neutral participation 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 bidders including DBE bidders.

## **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 one of its Unified Certification Program (UCP) partner agencies 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; only that the 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 business 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 goals on projects, the Department and the LPA/Subrecipient 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 registration of SBCs is not a representation of qualifications and/or abilities. The contractor bears all risks of ensuring that SBC firms selected by the contractor are able to perform the work.

## **7.0 DBE Financial Institutions:**

ADOT 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. ADOT 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.

ADOT and the LPA/Subrecipient encourages prime contractors to research the Federal Reserve Board website at [www.federalreserve.gov](http://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, or Federal or State holiday, the period extends to the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal or State holiday. In circumstances where the LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office is closed for all or part of the last day, the period extends to the next day on which the LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office is open.

## **10.0 Contractor and Subcontractor Requirements:**

### **10.01 General:**

The contractor shall establish a DBE 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 in the DBE Intended Participation Affidavit Summary.

## **11.0 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 through a Bidders/Proposers List 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 and the LPA/Subrecipient. This information will be maintained as confidential to the extent allowed by federal and state law.

Prime contractors and all subcontractors, including DBEs, must be registered in AZ UTRACS. Bidders may verify that their firm and each subcontractors is registered using the AZ UTRACS website.

Bidders may obtain additional information at the AZ UTRACS website or by contacting the LPA/Subrecipient.

Bidders shall create the Bidders/Proposers List in the AZ UTRACS by selecting all subcontractors, service providers, manufacturers and suppliers that expressed interest or submitted bids, proposals or quotes for this contract. The Bidders/Proposers List form must be complete and must include the names for all subcontractors, service providers, manufacturers and suppliers regardless of the bidders' intentions to use those firms on the project.

All bidders must complete the Bidders/Proposers List online at AZ UTRACS whether they are the apparent low bidder or not. A confirmation email will be generated by the system. The bidders shall submit to the LPA/Subrecipient a copy of the email confirmation no later than 4:00 p.m. on the fifth calendar day following the bid opening. Faxed copies are acceptable.

FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED BIDDERS/PROPOSERS LIST TO THE LPA/SUBRECIPIENT PROCUREMENT OFFICE BY THE STATED TIME AND IN THE MANNER HEREIN SPECIFIED SHALL BE CAUSE FOR THE BIDDER BEING DEEMED INELIGIBLE FOR AWARD OF THE CONTRACT.

**12.0 DBE Goals:**

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Percent

The percentage of DBE participation shall be based on the total construction bid.

**13.0 Submission with Bids:**

All bidders are required to certify in their bid proposal on the "Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Goal Assurance" certificate either:

- (1) The bidder has met the established DBE goal and arrangements with certified DBEs have been made prior to the submission of the bid, or
- (2) The bidder has been unable to meet the established DBE goal prior to the submission of the bid and has made good faith efforts to do so.

For the purpose of this section, 'arrangements' means, at a minimum, agreement between the bidder and the certified DBE, either written or oral, on unit prices and scope of work.

This certificate may not be revised or corrected after submission of the bid. If the bidder certifies that it has met the goal, the bidder cannot change its position after submission of the bid and submit documentation of a good faith effort. If the bidder certifies that it has been unable to meet the goal and has made a good faith effort, the bidder cannot change its



position after submission of the bid and claim to have met or be able to meet the established goal.

Bids submitted with altered, incomplete or unsigned certificates will be considered non-responsive. Bids submitted with certifications on forms other than those furnished by the LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office will be considered non-responsive.

Certifications on forms other than those furnished by the LPA/Subrecipient will be considered non-responsive.

**14.0 Bidder Meeting DBE Goal:**

**14.01 General:**

To be considered responsible and eligible for award of a contract, a bidder who has indicated in its bid that it met the DBE goal must submit the information described in this Subsection no later than five calendar days after bid opening.

If the bid of the apparent low bidder is rejected for any reason, the next low bidder may become the apparent low bidder only if it had submitted the information described in this Subsection or Subsection 15.01, as appropriate, no later than five calendar days after bid opening.

In order to be awarded this contract, a bidder must establish either (1) that it has met the DBE participation goal of the contract or (2) that it has made adequate good faith efforts (GFE) to meet the DBE goal. This requirement is in addition to all other pre-award requirements.

If the apparent low bidder indicates in the bid that it has met the DBE goal, the bidder shall submit a DBE Intended Participation Affidavit for each individual DBE, and the Intended Participation Affidavit Summary as follows:

- (1) The DBE Intended Participation Affidavit for each individual DBE and the Intended Participation Affidavit Summary must be received by LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office no later than 4:00 P.M. on the fifth calendar day following the bid opening. Copies of these forms are available from LPA/Subrecipient. The affidavits and Summary shall indicate that the bidder has met DBE goal if this was indicated on the submittal with the bid.
- (2) The Intended Participation Affidavit Summary and the DBE Intended Participation Affidavit for each individual DBE 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.

- (3) A separate DBE Intended Participation Affidavit must be submitted for each DBE used to meet the goal of the project. The bidder shall indicate each DBE's name,—a description of the work the DBE will perform, bid item number, proposed subcontract amount, and the NAICS code applicable to the kind of work the firm would perform on the contract. A list of certified DBEs with their respective NAICS codes can be located on the DBE Directory at AZ UTRACS website. All partial items must be explained. If not, the DBE will be considered to be responsible for the entire item. The intended DBE must complete and sign the form to confirm its participation in the contract.
- (4) The affidavits and summary may be submitted electronically through email to the LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office.
- (5) A bidder must determine DBE credit in accordance with DBE Subsection 18 (Crediting DBE Participation Toward Meeting Goals). The affidavit will be reviewed, and approved or rejected by the LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office, with BECO concurrence.
- (6) Only those DBE firms certified by the Arizona Unified Certification Program (AZUCP) as of the deadline for bid submittal will be considered for DBE credit. It shall be the bidder's responsibility to ascertain the certification status of designated DBEs.
- (7) All DBE commitment amounts must be finalized between the DBE subcontractor and the bidder prior to the deadline for affidavit submittal. Bidders shall not inflate DBE awards in order to meet contract goals.
- (8) The bidder bears the risk of late submission or late delivery by the postal service or a delivery service. Affidavits and Summary received by the LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office after 4:00 P.M. on the fifth calendar day following the bid opening will not be accepted.
- (9) Reduction of DBE commitments after affidavit submittal and prior to execution of the contract without good cause will result in the bid being rejected or LPA/Subrecipient rescinding any award. Scheduling conflicts are not necessarily evidence of good cause as this should have been considered during pre-bid negotiations. The contractor is responsible for ensuring the DBE is available to meet the requirements of the contract.

#### **14.02 Failure to Comply:**

If the apparent low bidder fails to submit the required information by the stated time and in the manner herein specified, or if the submitted information reveals a failure to meet the requirements of the specifications, the apparent low bidder shall be ineligible to receive award of the contract and the bid will be rejected.

#### **15.0 Documented Good Faith Effort:**

## **15.01 General:**

To be considered responsible and eligible for award of a contract a bidder, who has indicated in its bid that it was unable to meet the DBE goal but made good faith efforts must submit the information described in this Subsection no later than five calendar days after bid opening.

If the bid of the apparent low bidder is rejected for any reason, the next low bidder may become the apparent low bidder only if it had submitted the information described in this Subsection or Subsection 14.01, as appropriate, no later than five calendar days after bid opening.

Failure to demonstrate good faith efforts to the satisfaction of the LPA/Subrecipient with concurrence of BECO will result in the rejection of the bid. In the event that the low bid is rejected, the Department will consider award of the contract to the next responsible and responsive bidder. To be considered responsive, the bidder must have submitted the information described in either Subsection 14 or 15 of this DBE special provision, no later than five calendar days after bid opening.

The bidder's good faith effort documentation must be submitted to and received by the LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office by 4:00 P.M. on the fifth calendar day after the bids are opened. Good faith effort documentation may be submitted electronically through email to the LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office. Good faith effort documentation submitted after the time specified will not be accepted.

The bidder bears the risk of late submission or late delivery by the postal service or a delivery service.

The documentation of good faith efforts must include copies of each DBE and non-DBE subcontractor quote submitted to the bidder 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.

Bidders 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 "Good Faith Effort Guide" and other documents made available on the internet at BECO's website. The information provided in the "Good Faith Effort Guide" does not replace the specifications; bidders must comply with the requirements of this specification.

In order to be awarded a contract on the basis of good faith efforts, a bidder 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 quality, quantity, and intensity of the different kinds of efforts the bidder made will be evaluated. The efforts employed by the bidder should be those that one could reasonably expect a bidder to make if the bidder were 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 bidder shall, as a minimum, seek DBEs in the same geographic area in which it generally seeks subcontractors for a given project. If the bidder cannot meet the goals using DBEs from this geographic area, the bidder, 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 bidder must address when submitting good faith effort documentation:

- (1) Contacting the LPA/Subrecipient and BECO prior to the submission of bids, either by e-mail, or by telephone, to inform of the firm's difficulty in meeting the DBE goals on a given project, and requesting assistance. The bidder must document its contact with LPA/Subrecipient and 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 contact must be made in sufficient time before bid submission to allow the LPA/Subrecipient and BECO to provide effective assistance. The bidder will not be considered to have made good faith efforts if the bidder failed to contact LPA/Subrecipient and 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-bid 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 bidder 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 bidder should determine with certainty if the 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 goals 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 DBEs in responding to solicitations.

- (5) Negotiating in good faith with interested DBEs. It is the bidder'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.

Mailings to DBEs requesting bids are not alone sufficient to constitute good faith effort.

A bidder 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 bidder'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 bidder 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 bids or quotes, must be submitted.

- (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 bids in the contractor's efforts to meet the project goal.
- (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.

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 bidder when a non-DBE subcontractor was selected over a DBE for work on the contract. A generalized assertion that the contractor has received multiple quotes is not sufficient unless copies of those quotes are provided. The Department may contact rejected DBEs as part of its investigation.

However, nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to require the bidder or prime contractor to accept unreasonable quotes in order to satisfy contract goals.

In determining whether a bidder has made good faith efforts, the LPA/Subrecipient will review the documented efforts of the contractor and will review the performance of other bidders 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 LPA/Subrecipient will evaluate the submittal and make a determination, with BECO concurrence, on whether in fact good faith efforts have been demonstrated consistent with the specifications and the Federal regulations, 49 CFR 26, Appendix A.

### **15.02 Failure to Comply:**

If the apparent low bidder fails to submit the required information by the stated time and in the manner herein specified, or if the submitted information reveals a failure to meet the requirements of the specifications, the apparent low bidder shall be ineligible to receive award of the contract and the bid will be rejected.

### **15.03 Appeal and Protest of Good Faith Effort Determination:**

Any interested party may appeal the determination of LPA/Subrecipient to the State Engineer. That appeal must be in writing and personally delivered or sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the State Engineer. The protest must be received by the State Engineer no later than seven calendar days after the decision of the LPA/Subrecipient. Copies of the protest shall be sent by the protestant to the LPA/Subrecipient and every bidder, at the same time the protest is submitted to the State Engineer. Any bidder whose bid is rejected for failure to meet the goal or make GFE will be given the opportunity to meet in person with the State Engineer, at the bidder'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.

Any interested party may submit a response to the appeal no later than seven calendar days after the appeal. Responses from interested parties must also be in writing and personally delivered or sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the State Engineer. Any interested party submitting such response shall also provide a copy of its response to the LPA/Subrecipient and every bidder, at the same time the protest is submitted to the State Engineer. The State Engineer shall promptly consider any appeals under this subsection and shall notify the LPA/Subrecipient and all bidders in writing of the State Engineer's findings and decision.

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

## **16.0 Rejection of Low Bid:**

If, for any reason, the bid of the apparent low bidder is rejected, a new apparent low bidder will be identified. The LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office will notify the new apparent low bidder.

A bidder may become the apparent low bidder only if it had submitted the information described in Subsection 14.01 or 15.01, as appropriate, no later than five calendar days after bid opening.

## **17.0 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 Prompt Pay and Payment Reporting requirements section \_\_\_\_ of the contract specifications.

## **18.0 Crediting DBE Participation Toward Meeting Goals:**

### **18.01 General Requirements:**

To count toward meeting a goal, the DBE firm must be certified as of the deadline for submission of bids 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 under the Firm Directory. General descriptions of all NAICS codes can be found at [www.naics.com](http://www.naics.com).

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. Work included in a force account item cannot be listed on the DBE Intended Participation Affidavit.

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 LPA/Subrecipient 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 24.0 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, joint venture partner with either a prime contractor or a subcontractor, or as a vendor of materials or supplies. A DBE joint venture partner shall be responsible for a clearly defined portion of the work to be performed, in addition to meeting the requirements for ownership and control.

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.

With the exception of bond premiums, all work must be attributed to specific bid items. Where work applies to several items, the DBE contracting arrangement must specify unit price and amount attributable to each bid item. DBE credit for any individual item of work performed by the DBE shall be the lesser of the amount to be paid to the DBE or the prime contractor's bid price. If the amount bid by the DBE on any item exceeds the prime contractor's bid amount, the prime contractor may not obtain credit by attributing the excess to other items.

Where more than one DBE is engaged to perform parts of an item (for example, supply and installation), the total amount payable to the DBEs will not be considered in excess of the prime contractor's bid amount for that item.

Bond premiums may be stated separately, so long as the arrangement between the prime contractor and the DBE provides for separate payment not to exceed the price charged by the bonding company.

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.

If a DBE performs part of an item (for example, installation of materials purchased by a Non-DBE), the DBE credit shall not exceed the lesser of (1) the DBE's contract or (2) the prime contractor's bid for the item, less a reasonable deduction for the portion performed by the Non-DBE.

When a DBE performs as a partner in a joint venture, only that portion of the total dollar value of the contract which is clearly and distinctly performed by the DBE's own forces can be credited toward the DBE goal.



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 construction 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, consultant, 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.

#### **18.02 DBE Prime Contractor:**

When a certified DBE firm bids 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 bidder. In most cases, a DBE bidder 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 bidder or any other DBE subcontractors and DBE suppliers will count toward the DBE goal. The DBE bidder 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.

#### **18.03 Effect of Loss of DBE Eligibility:**

If a DBE is deemed ineligible (decertified) or suspended 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 a committed DBE firm or a DBE prime contractor loses its DBE eligibility and 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 firms 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.

#### **18.04 Notifying the Contractor of DBE Certification Status:**

Each DBE contract of 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.

#### **18.05 Police Officers:**

DBE credit will not be permitted for procuring DPS officers. For projects on which officers from other agencies are supplied, DBE credit will be given only for the broker fees charged, and will not include amounts paid to the officers. The broker fees must be reasonable.

#### **18.06 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 LPA/Subrecipient 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 LPA/Subrecipient 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 LPA/Subrecipient 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 LPA/Subrecipient will

determine if the firm is performing a CUF given the type of work involved and normal industry practices.

The LPA/Subrecipient 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 LPA/Subrecipient's decision.

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

The LPA/Subrecipient will 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 LPA/Subrecipient staff will make every effort not to disrupt work on the project.

#### **18.07 Trucking:**

LPA/Subrecipient will use the following factors in determining whether a DBE trucking company is performing a commercially useful function. The DBE must be responsible for the management and supervision of the entire trucking operation for which it is responsible on a particular contract, and there cannot be a contrived arrangement for the purpose of meeting DBE goals.

The DBE must itself own and operate at least one fully licensed, insured, and operational truck used on the contract on every day that credit is to be given for trucking.

The contractor will receive credit for the total value of transportation services provided by the DBE using trucks it owns, insures and operates, and using drivers it employs.

The DBE may lease trucks from another DBE firm, including an owner-operator who is certified as a DBE. The DBE who leases trucks from another DBE receives credit for the total value of the transportation services.

The DBE may also lease trucks from a non-DBE firm, including an owner-operator. The DBE who leases trucks with drivers from a non-DBE is entitled to credit for the total value of the transportation services provided by non-DBE leased trucks with drivers not to exceed the value of transportation services on the contract provided by DBE-owned trucks or leased trucks with DBE employee drivers. Additional participation by non-DBE owned trucks with drivers receives credit only for the fee or commission paid to the DBE as a result of the lease agreement.

Example: DBE Firm X uses two of its own trucks on a contract. It leases two trucks from DBE Firm Y and six trucks from non-DBE firm Z. DBE credit would be awarded for the total value of transportation services provided by Firm X and Firm Y, and may also be awarded for the total value of transportation services provided by four of the six trucks provided by Firm Z. In all, full credit would be allowed for the participation of eight trucks. DBE credit could be awarded only for the fees or commissions pertaining to the remaining trucks Firm X receives as a result of the lease with Firm Z.

The DBE may lease trucks without drivers from a non-DBE truck leasing company. If the DBE leases trucks from a non-DBE leasing company and uses its own employees as drivers, it is entitled to credit for the total value of these hauling services.

Example: DBE Firm X uses two of its own trucks on a contract. It leases three additional trucks from non-DBE Firm Z. Firm X uses its own employees to drive the trucks leased from Firm Z. DBE credit would be awarded for the total value of the transportation services provided by all five trucks.

For purposes of this section, a lease must indicate that the DBE has exclusive use of and control over the truck. This does not preclude the leased truck from working for others during the term of the lease with the consent of the DBE, so long as the lease gives the DBE absolute priority for use of the leased truck. Leased trucks must display the name and identification number of the DBE. Credit will be allowed only for those lease costs related to the time each truck is devoted to the project.

DBE credit for supplying paving grade asphalt and other asphalt products will only be permitted for standard industry hauling costs, and only if the DBE is owner or lessee of the equipment and trucks. Leases for trucks must be long term (extending for a fixed time period and not related to time for contract performance) and must include all attendant responsibilities such as insurance, titling, hazardous waste requirements, and payment of drivers.

### **18.08 Materials and Supplies:**

LPA/Subrecipient will credit expenditures with DBEs for material and supplies towards the DBE goal as follows. If the materials or supplies are obtained from a DBE manufacturer, 100 percent of the cost of the materials or supplies is credited. A manufacturer is defined as a firm that operates or maintains a factory or establishment that produces, on the premises, the materials, supplies, articles, or equipment required under the contract, and of the general character described by the specifications.

If the materials or supplies are purchased from a DBE regular dealer, 60 percent of the cost of the materials or supplies is credited. A DBE regular dealer is defined as a firm that owns, operates, or maintains a store or warehouse or other establishment in which the materials, supplies, articles, or equipment of the general character described by the specifications and required under the contract are bought, kept in stock, and regularly sold or leased to the public in the usual course of business. To be a regular dealer, the firm must be an established,

regular business that engages, as its principal business and under its own name, in the purchase and sale or lease of the products in question. A firm may be a DBE regular dealer in such bulk items as petroleum products, steel, cement, stone or asphalt without owning, operating, or maintaining a place of business, as provided above, if the person both owns and operates distribution equipment for the products. Any supplementing of regular dealers' own distribution equipment shall be by a long-term lease agreement, and not on an ad-hoc or contract-by-contract basis. Packagers, brokers, manufacturers' representatives, or other persons who arrange or expedite transactions are not regular dealers within the meaning of this paragraph and the paragraph above.

With respect to materials or supplies purchased from a DBE which is neither a manufacturer nor a regular dealer, the LPA/Subrecipient will credit the entire amount of the fees or commissions charged by the DBE for assistance in the procurement of the materials and supplies, or fees or transportation charges for the delivery of materials or supplies required on a job site, toward DBE goals, provided the fees are determined to be reasonable and not excessive as compared with fees customarily allowed for similar services. The cost of the materials and supplies themselves may not be counted toward the DBE goal.

The LPA/Subrecipient will credit expenditures with DBEs for material and supplies (e.g. whether a firm is acting as a regular dealer or a transaction expeditor) towards the DBE goal on a contract-by-contract basis. The fact that a DBE firm qualifies under a classification (manufacturer, regular dealer or supplier) for one contract does not mean it will qualify for the same classification on another contract. The bidder shall be responsible for verifying whether a DBE qualifies as a DBE manufacturer, regular dealer or supplier. The bidder may contact the LPA/Subrecipient for assistance in this determination.

#### **19.0 Effect of Contract Changes:**

If for any reason it becomes apparent that the DBE goal will not be met then the contractor shall: (1) immediately notify the LPA/Subrecipient of the potential or actual decrease in DBE compensation, and (2) make good faith efforts to obtain DBE participation to meet or exceed the DBE contract goal. Good faith efforts required under the provisions of this section may vary, depending on the time available, the nature of the change, who initiated the change, and other factors as determined by LPA/Subrecipient.

LPA/Subrecipient will approve or deny the contractor's good faith efforts with BECO concurrence.

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.

#### **20.0 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 race neutral DBE with another DBE subcontractor if the race neutral DBE fails to perform. Therefore these DBEs are treated as any other subcontractor on the project.

### **21.0 Required Provisions for DBE Subcontracts:**

All subcontracts of any tier, all supply contracts, and any other contracts in which a DBE is a party shall include, as a physical attachment, DBE Subcontract Compliance Assurances available from the LPA/Subrecipient.

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 LPA/Subrecipient and ADOT deem appropriate as outlined in DBE Subsection 2.0.

LPA/Subrecipient 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.

The Contractor shall provide electronic copies of signed subcontract agreements for all DBE Subcontracts listed on the DBE Intended Participation Affidavit Summary by uploading them within 15 calendar days of an approved contract to the LPA DBE System.

### **22.0 Contract Performance:**

Contract items of work designated by the contractor to be awarded to DBEs shall be performed by the designated DBE or a LPA/Subrecipient, with BECO concurrence, approved DBE substitute. DBE contract work items shall not be performed by the contractor, or a non-DBE subcontractor without prior approval by the LPA/Subrecipient, with BECO concurrence. 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 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.

LPA/Subrecipient will conduct reviews to ensure compliance with 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 LPA/Subrecipient in advance when each DBE will be working on the project to help facilitate reviews.

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

The contractor shall provide to the LPA/Subrecipient, at the pre-construction conference, copies of all completed, approved, and signed subcontracts, purchase orders, invoices, etc., with all committed DBEs. These documents shall include the AZ UTRACS Registration number for the subcontractor or materials supplier.

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 Intended Participation Affidavit Summary unless the contractor obtains written consent from the LPA/Subrecipient with BECO concurrence. The contractor shall not be entitled to any payment for work or material that is not performed or supplied by the listed DBE, unless the contractor obtains written consent from the LPA/Subrecipient with BECO concurrence.

## **23.0 Joint Checks:**

### **23.01 Requirements:**

A DBE subcontractor and a material supplier (or equipment supplier) may request permission for the use of joint checks for payments from the prime contractor to the DBE subcontractor and the supplier. Joint checks may be issued only if all the conditions in this subsection are met.

1. The DBE subcontractor must be independent from the prime contractor and the supplier, and must perform a commercially useful function. The DBE subcontractor must be responsible for negotiating the price of the material, determining quality and quantity, ordering the materials, installing (where applicable), and paying for the material. The DBE subcontractor may not be utilized as an extra participant in a transaction, contract, or project in order to obtain the appearance of DBE participation.
2. The use of joint checks will be allowed only if the prime contractor, DBE subcontractor, and material supplier establish that the use of joint checks in similar transactions is a

commonly recognized business practice in the industry, particularly with respect to similar transactions in which DBE's do not participate.

3. A material or supply contract may not bear an excessive ratio relative to the DBE subcontractor's normal capacity.
4. There may not be any exclusive arrangement between one prime and one DBE in the use of joint checks that may bring into question whether the DBE is independent of the prime contractor.
5. Any arrangement for joint checks must be in writing, and for a specific term (for example, one year, or a specified number of months) that does not exceed a reasonable time to establish a suitable credit line with the supplier.
6. The prime contractor may act solely as the payer of the joint check, and may not have responsibility for establishing the terms of the agreement between the DBE subcontractor and the supplier.
7. The DBE must be responsible for receiving the check from the prime contractor and delivering the check to the supplier.
8. The prime contractor cannot require the DBE subcontractor to use a specific supplier, and the prime contractor may not participate in the negotiation of unit prices between the DBE subcontractor and the supplier.

### **23.02 Procedure and Compliance:**

1. BECO must approve the agreement for the use of joint checks in writing before any joint checks are issued. The prime contractor shall submit a DBE joint check request form, available from the BECO website, along with the joint check agreement, to LPA/Subrecipient and BECO through email within seven calendar days from the time the subcontract is executed.
2. After obtaining authorization from BECO for the use of joint checks, the prime contractor, the DBE, and the supplier must retain documentation to allow for efficient monitoring of the agreement by the LPA/Subrecipient.
3. Copies of canceled checks must be submitted, with the payment information for the period in which the joint check was issued, electronically through email to LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office and made available for review at the time of the onsite CUF review. The prime contractor, DBE, and supplier each have an independent duty to report to the LPA/Subrecipient in the case of any change from the approved joint check arrangement.



4. Any failure to comply will be considered by the LPA/Subrecipient, with ADOT concurrence to be a material breach of this contract and will subject the prime contractor, DBE, and supplier to contract remedies and, in the case of serious violations, a potential for termination of the contract, or other remedies which may prevent future participation by the offending party.

#### **24.0 DBE Termination/Substitution:**

##### **24.01 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 LPA/Subrecipient. Reasonable methods to resolve performance disputes must be applied and documentation provided to LPA/Subrecipient before attempting to substitute or terminate a DBE.

##### **24.02 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 the LPA/Subrecipient, with BECO concurrence. The contractor shall contact the LPA/Subrecipient within 24 hours from the first sign of any reason for potential DBE termination/substitution.

The contractor shall not terminate a DBE subcontractor listed on the DBE Intended Participation Affidavit or complete the work contracted to the DBE with its own forces or with a non-DBE firm without the LPA/Subrecipient written consent and BECO concurrence. Before submitting a formal request to the LPA/Subrecipient for DBE termination/substitution, the contractor shall give written notice to the DBE subcontractor with a copy to the LPA/Subrecipient of its intent to terminate or substitute the DBE identifying the reason for the action. The notice shall include the deadline for the DBE to submit a written response advising the contractor, LPA/Subrecipient of its position which shall be a minimum of five calendar days after the notice is given. Before making a determination for approval regarding the contractor's termination and substitution request, the LPA/Subrecipient, with BECO concurrence, will consider both the contractor's request and the DBE firm's response.

##### **24.03 Contractor Request for 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 with supporting documentation to the LPA/Subrecipient; form is available from the LPA/Subrecipient. 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 projected date that the contractor requires a substitution or replacement DBE to commence work, if consent is granted to the request.
- 7) The DBE's response to the notice of intent to terminate. If there is no response from the DBE within the time allowed in the notice of intent to terminate, the contractor shall state that no response was received.

Written consent for terminating 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 Affidavit Summary will not be allowed based solely on a contractor's ability to negotiate a more advantageous contract with another subcontractor. Prior to making a determination for approval regarding the contractor's termination and substitution request, the LPA/Subrecipient, with BECO concurrence, will consider both the contractor's request and the DBE firm's response.

#### **24.04 Good Cause:**

The LPA/Subrecipient, with BECO concurrence, 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 bond/insurance 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 BECO determines compels the termination or substitution of the DBE subcontractor.

#### **24.05 DBE Termination/Substitution Good Faith Effort:**

If the LPA/Subrecipient 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 15.0 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. If a replacement DBE is not identified for the original DBE's work, the good faith efforts shall be documented and provided, upon request, to the LPA/Subrecipient 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 prospective 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 LPA/Subrecipient 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 LPA/Subrecipient will review the quality, thoroughness, and intensity of those efforts and give consideration to when the change was made, the nature of the change, and other factors as determined by the LPA/Subrecipient.

When a DBE substitution has been approved by the LPA/Subrecipient and concurred by BECO, the contractor shall submit an amended DBE Intended Participation Affidavit and Intended Participation Affidavit Summary to LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office for approval with the substitute DBE's name, description of work, NAICS code, AZ UTRACS registration number, and dollar value of work. Approval from LPA/Subrecipient with BECO concurrence must be obtained prior to the substituted DBE beginning work.

#### **24.06 Sanctions:**

Failure by the contractor to carry out the requirements of these DBE Termination/Substitution specifications is a material breach of contract and will result in such remedies as the LPA/Subrecipient deems appropriate, with ADOT concurrence, which will include, but are not limited to the assessment of liquidated damages. The LPA/Subrecipient will deduct from monies due or becoming due to the contractor, the dollar amount of the wrongfully

substituted/replaced DBE subcontract plus 25 percent 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.

## **25.0 Certification of Final DBE Payments:**

The contractor's achievement of the goal is measured by actual payments made to the DBE. 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 LPA/Subrecipient no later than 30 days after the DBE completes its work.

The LPA/Subrecipient and ADOT will use this certification and other information available to determine applicable DBE credit allowed to date by the 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 LPA/Subrecipient.

## **26.0 Sanctions for Not Meeting Contract DBE Goal:**

If the LPA/Subrecipient determines, with BECO concurrence, that the contractor has, without justification, not met the established DBE goal the LPA/Subrecipient will, at its discretion, deduct up to two times the amount of the unattained portion of established DBE goal from monies due or becoming due the contractor as liquidated damages, based on the circumstances of the noncompliance.

The LPA/Subrecipient, with BECO concurrence, will determine whether liquidated damages will be assessed and the amount of the liquidated damages. The LPA/Subrecipient 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.

The contractor may, within 15 calendar days of receipt of the decision of the LPA/Subrecipient escalate the decision to the State Engineer. If the contractor does not escalate the decision of the LPA/Subrecipient, in writing, within 15 calendar days of receipt of the decision, the contractor will be deemed to have accepted the decision and there will be no further remedy for the contractor.

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 and LPA/Subrecipient's projects.

**27.0 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.