

## 1. SUB RECIPIENT AND CONTRACTOR 2 CFR §200.330

Pursuant to 2 CFR §200.330, any contract awarded establishes a Contractor relationship with the Department. Such an award shall not establish a Sub-recipient relationship. All terms and conditions required in accordance with 2 CFR §200 et seq, 1200-1201 and its Appendix II shall apply to the Contractor and their subcontractors.

## 2. 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.

### **3. SANCTIONS AND PENALTIES FOR BREACH OF CONTRACT**

Contracts for more than the simplified acquisition threshold currently set at \$250,000, 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.

### **4. 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.

### **5. 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).

### **6. 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.

## **7. 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.

## **8. 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.

## **9. 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 shall comply with 49 CFR Part 26.

It is the policy of the Department to ensure that DBEs, as defined in 49 CFR 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 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, sex or national origin 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 sanctions;
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) **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.
- (C) **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.
- (D) **Non-DBE:** any firm that is not a DBE.
- (E) **Race-Conscious (RC):** a measure or program focused specifically on assisting only DBEs, including women-owned DBEs.

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

**(G) 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.

**(H) 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 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 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](mailto:ContractorCompliance@azdot.gov)  
Website: [www.azdot.gov/bec](http://www.azdot.gov/bec)

##### **4.01 Mentor-Protégé 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 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 or the applicable Arizona Unified Certification (UCP) agency 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 <https://utracs.azdot.gov/Home>.

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 <https://utracs.azdot.gov/Home>. 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 DBE participation.

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 contractor 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 DBE participation.

The Department 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, 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 DBE program that will ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of contracts and subcontracts.

Agreements between the proposer and a DBE in which the DBE promises not to provide subcontracting quotations to other proposers 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 Goal:**

The Department has not established contract goals for DBE participation in this contract.

Contractors are still encouraged to employ reasonable means to obtain DBE participation. Contractors must retain records in accordance with these DBE specifications. The contractor is notified that this record keeping is important to the Department so that it can track DBE participation where only race neutral efforts are employed.

### **11.01 Race Neutral Contract (With No DBE Goal)**

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. ADOT has received



federal financial assistance from the USDOT and as a condition of receiving this assistance, ADOT has signed an assurance that it shall comply with 49 CFR Part 26.

It is ADOT's policy to ensure that DBEs, as defined in 49 CFR Part 26, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in federally-funded contracts.

NO CONTRACT DBE GOAL HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR DBE PARTICIPATION ON THIS CONTRACT.

Contractors are still encouraged to employ reasonable means to obtain DBE participation. Contractors must retain records in accordance with these DBE specifications. The consultant is notified that this record keeping is important to the Department so that it can track DBE participation where only race neutral efforts are employed.

### **12.0 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 when firms register their companies on the Arizona Unified Transportation Registration and Certification System (AZ UTRACS) web portal at <https://utracs.azdot.gov/Home> 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 AZUTRACS. Proposers may verify that their firm and each subcontractor is registered using the AZUTRACS 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 proposals 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.

### **13.0 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://adotdoors.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.

#### **14.0 Crediting DBE Participation:**

##### **14.01 General Requirements:**

To count toward DBE participation, the DBE firms must be certified at the time of offer 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 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.

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 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 DBE participation 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 DBE participation.

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.

#### **14.02 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 count toward DBE participation on a new contract, but may be considered to count toward DBE participation under a subcontract that was executed before the DBE suspension or decertification is effective.

When a 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 DBE participation.

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 DBE participation credit for the firm's work.

#### **14.03 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.

#### **14.04 Commercially Useful Function:**

A prime contractor can credit expenditures to a DBE subcontractor 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 ADOT Chief Procurement Officer (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 CPO no later than seven calendar days after the decision of BECO. BECO's decision remains in place unless and until the CPO 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.

#### **15.0 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 available on BECO website and all of the Uniform Terms and Conditions set forth in this contract.

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 in 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 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 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.

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

DBE participation on the contract 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 and receives final payment.

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.

#### **17.0 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.

### **10. 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 NONDISCRIMINATION 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.

## 11. 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.

## 12. 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.

### **13. PLANNING AND RESEACH FUNDING REQUIREMENTS 23 CFR § 420.121**

**Copyrights.** Federally-funded Projects: Pursuant to 23 CFR § 420.121, the Department may copyright any books, publications, or other copyrightable materials developed in the course of any work project. The funding Federal agency reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive and irrevocable right to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use, and to authorize others to use, the work for Government purposes.

**14. Rights to Inventions Made Under a Contract or Agreement.** Pursuant to 23 CFR § 420.121 (i), patents and inventions developed in the course of the Project are subject to federal standard patent rights as found in 37 CFR §401.14. The Contractor will retain all rights provided for the State in this clause, and the State will not, as part of the consideration for awarding the contract, obtain rights in the Contractor's subject inventions. However, the State and the Federal Funding Agency shall be granted an immediate, irrevocable right to use, without royalty or fee, the subject invention for its purposes related to this project.

### **15. 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.

## 16. 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



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



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.