

### Vol 40, Edition 35

July 8, 2024

# 'Nothing will be protected' — how California environmentalists killed a plan to fast-track 'green' energy

[Article originally appeared in www.calmatters.org ]

### By Ryan Sabalow, Calmatters

The prospect of massive new electrical towers looming over California's state parks killed the latest effort to reform the state's signature environmental law.

Today the Senate Environmental Committee voted to remove from Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia's Assembly Bill 3238 provisions that sought to speed up California Environmental Quality Act reviews for electrical grid expansions including on state-owned parks and wildlife areas.

Power companies had sponsored the measure that would provide them some relief from CE-QA's bureaucratic delays, arguing they can't upgrade the electrical grid fast enough to meet the state's ambitious climate change goals.

While the committee's chair, Sen. Benjamin Allen, said he supported the intent of the bill to speed up bureaucratic delays, he said he couldn't bear the thought of fast tracking environmental reviews that could put massive transmission towers over Anza-Borrego Desert State Park in San Diego County.

He called the park "a special place" he fondly remembers visiting as a child.

"I'm personally not going to put my stamp on anything if it's going to make it easier for folks to run big transmission lines in the middle of the state park," said Allen, a Democrat from El Segundo. "As written, the bill makes it easier for just that to happen."

Garcia, a Democrat from Coachella, begrudgingly agreed to remove the CEQA provisions in the bill, since the committee wouldn't have advanced the measure if they stayed in.

Garcia wasn't happy about it. He told the committee it was "shooting ourselves in the foot" by not tackling reforms that would quicken the pace to make the grid able to handle the surge in clean electricity from more wind turbines and solar power

"I think we're missing a unique opportunity that requires us to roll up our sleeves," he told the committee. "It requires us to move away from our ideological perspectives that CEQA cannot be reformed "

Supporters say streamlining the state permitting process for electrical grid upgrades is sorely needed since California's sweeping plan to end its dependence on fossil fuels by 2045 would increase electricity consumption by as much as 68%. That would put an immense strain on the state's already blackoutprone energy grid. As it stands, large-scale grid upgrades regularly take five or more years



Power lines in Sacramento on Sept. 20, 2022. Photo by Rahul Lal, CalMatters

to plan and build, due to the lengthy environmental review process, they say

But major environmental groups opposed the bill, citing concerns about parks and other sensitive landscapes. The debate is an example of a broader tension bedeviling California officials and those across the country as they try to get more clean energy projects up and running amid a climate crisis.

The same rules that helped environmental groups fight development and polluters in the past are now often used to delay energy projects

necessary to wean the country - and California off dirty fossil fuels.

Environmentals fear fast-tracking environmental reviews would lead to power companies destroying wildlands in the rush to make the grid bigger. They're particularly concerned about state parks and other undeveloped landscapes that currently have smaller power poles and lines that utilities would like to upgrade into massive, unsightly energy towers.

Continued on page 3

## ABC Members Invested \$1.6 Billion To Upskill 1.3 Million in **Construction Workforce Education**

[Article originally appeared in www.constructionexec.com ]

ABC released its 2024 Workforce Development Survey and found investments into leadership, health and safety education were up from 2022.

### By ABC

Associated Builders and Contractors recently released its 2024 Workforce Development Survey, which found its member contractors invested \$1.6 billion to provide craft, leadership and health and safety education to more than 1.3 million course attendees nationwide in 2023, up from \$1.5 billion in 2022 and on track with \$1.6 billion in 2021.

Other key findings include:

- Safety education accounts for the greatest share of total workforce investment at 59%. which has remained stable since 2022.
- ABC contractors invested an average of 7.5% of payroll on workforce development in 2023, slightly down from 8% in 2022.

- Trade and specialty contractors continued to increase their share of the total workforce development investment, which grew to 50% in 2023 from 42% in 2022.
- 58% of respondents reported a labor shortage that is severe or very severe, citing an exodus of baby boomers as the top contributor.
- 81% of respondents who utilize virtual or augmented reality used it for safety education.

"ABC member contractors not only build and rebuild structures with excellence, but they also help build lifelong, durable, transferable skill sets for their employees by investing billions to cultivate their career progression in commercial and industrial construction," said Greg Sizemore, ABC's vice president of health, safety, environment and workforce development. "This investment is in response to the need for more than half a million additional construction workers in 2024 alone. Workforce development is part of the culture of ABC member contractors, which continue to choose flexible, competencybased and market-driven methods to upskill their workforces. Construction is among the few industries where an individual can become an apprentice, earn a paycheck while learning the skills needed for their chosen craft and receive a portable, industry-recognized credential that will further their career.'

The annual workforce development survey quantifies the scope of ABC members' education and upskilling initiatives to advance their employees' careers in commercial and industrial construction to build the places where we gather, live, work, learn and heal.

ABC's all-of-the-above approach to upskilling has produced a network of more than 800 apprenticeship, craft, health and safety and management education programs-including more than 450 government-registered apprenticeship programs across 20 different occupations-in order to develop a safe, skilled and productive workforce. ABC chapters also have 328 entrypoint programs in place nationally to welcome all to begin a career in construction. Members contribute about \$500,000 annually to ABC's Trimmer Construction Education Fund to support the development of a skilled, safe and sustainable workforce through grants awarded to its chapters.

Industry consulting firm FMI conducted the 2024 Workforce Development Survey from Jan. 4 to May 20, 2024. Aggregated data was derived by calculating the average amount spent on education by each respondent and multiplying that by the total number of ABC contractor members. By ABC

Associated Builders and Contractors is a national construction industry trade association representing more than 21,000 members. Founded on the merit shop philosophy, ABC and its 69 chapters help members develop people, win work and deliver that work safely, ethically and profitably for the betterment of the communities in which ABC and its members work.

**SOURCE:** 

https://www.constructionexec.com/article/ abc-members-invested-usd1-6-billion-to-upskill-1-3-million-in-construction-workforceeducation



- 51

- H) - SV - TF

# **CALIFORNIA SUB-BID REQUEST ADS**

### DESILVA 7 GATES CONSTRUCTION

lin Boulevard • P.O. Box 2909 • Dublin, CA 94568-2909 Phone: (925) 829-9220 / Fax: (925) 803-4263 Website: www.desilvagates.com ESTIMATOR: PAUL BRIZUELA

An Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action Employer

DeSilva Gates Construction (DGC) is preparing a bid as a Prime Contractor for the project listed below FLORIN ROAD BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - Contract No. 4526

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Goal Assigned is 21% OWNER: COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO – 9660 Ecology Lane, Sacramento, CA 95827 <u>REVISED BID DATE: JULY 11, 2024 @ 2:00 P.M.</u>

DGC is soliciting quotations from certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, for the following types of work and supplies/ materials including but not limited to:

Adjust Iron, Cold Plane, Electrical, Landscaping, Minor Concrete, Roadside Signs, Sawcutting, Striping, Testing, Traffic Control Systems, Underground, Trucking, Water Trucks and Class 2 Aggregate Base Material Plans and specifications may be reviewed at our offices located at 11555 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin, CA or 3855 N Freeway

Blvd Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95834, or at your local Builders Exchange, or reviewed and downloaded from the dropbox site at <a href="https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5rvdc1bwfbasgl9/AABbrd0ba51\_kN3GtAESfBUoa?dl=0">https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5rvdc1bwfbasgl9/AABbrd0ba51\_kN3GtAESfBUoa?dl=0</a> or from the Owner's site at <a href="https://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/ee/weekly\_ads/all\_adv\_projects.php">www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/ee/weekly\_ads/all\_adv\_projects.php</a>

Fax your bid to (925) 803-4263 or email to docestimating@desilvagates.com to the attention of Estimator Paul Brizuela. If you have questions for the Estimator, call at (925) 829-9220. When submitting any public works bid please include your DUNS number and DIR number. For questions regarding registration for DIR use the link at <a href="http://www.dir.ca.gov/Public-Works/">www.dir.ca.gov/Public-Works/</a>. PublicWorks.html

If you need DBE support services and assistance in obtaining bonding, lines of credit, insurance, necessary equipment, materials and/or supplies or related assistance or services, for this project call the Estimator at (925) 829-9220, or contact your local Small Business Development Center Network (http://californiasbdc.org) or contact the California Southwest Transportation Resource Center (www.transportation.gov/osdbu/SBTRCs). DGC is willing to breakout portions of work to increase the expectation of meeting the DBE goal.

At our discretion, 100% Payment and 100% Performance bonds may be required as a subcontract condition. This will be a PREVAILING WAGE JOB. DGC is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.



11555 Dublin Boulevard • P.O. Box 2909 • Dublin, California 94568-2909 • (925) 830-4333 ESTIMATOR: Keith Donahue • <u>www.pacificstates.net</u> CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE NO. 723241

Pacific States Environmental Contractors, Inc. (PSEC) is preparing a bid as a Prime Contractor and requesting sub-bids for: San Francisco Trail at Pt. Molate – Richmond, CA Project# 567.04.55

### **OWNER: East Bay Regional Park District** BID DATE: July 11, 2024 @ 2:00 P.M

PSEC is soliciting quotations from certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprise subcontractors, suppliers, man ers for the follow

	e ronowing, but not infinted to, work.	
IGNAGE/STRIPING	- SURVEY/STAKING	- FENCING
YDROSEEDING	- TREE REMOVAL	- LANDSCAPE/PLANTING
WPPP PREPARATION	- CONRETE FLATWORK	
RUCKING	- UNDERGROUND UTILITIES	

Plans and specifications may be reviewed at our offices located at 11555 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin, CA, or you can email our Estimator at <u>kdonahue@pacificstates.net</u>

Fax your bid to (925) 803-4334 to the attention of Estimator Keith Donahue. If you have questions for the Estimator, call at (925) 803-4333. When submitting any public works bid, please include your DUNS number and DIR number. For questions regarding registration for DIR use the link at <u>www.dir.ca.gov/Public-Works/PublicWorks.html</u>

If you need support services and assistance in obtaining bonding, lines of credit, insurance, necessary equipment, materials and/or supplies or related assistance or services, for this project call the Estimator at (925) 803-4333, or contact your local Small Business Development Center Network (http://californiasbdc.org) or contact the California Southwest Transportation Resource Center (<u>www.transportation.gov/osdbu/SBTRCs</u>). PSEC is willing to breakout portions of work to increase the expectation of meeting the goal.

At our discretion, 100% Payment and 100% Performance bonds may be required as a subcontract condition. This will be a PREVAILING WAGE JOB. PSEC is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

# **Diversity Outreach Services**

SBE's nationwide 1,000,000+ database of certified businesses provides the basis for targeted outreach utilizing a powerful IBM Power9 platform for completedated and timed reporting, customized to match client needs.



BID DATE: July 11th, 2024 at 3:00 pm

PLEASE EMAIL US YOUR BID PROPOSAL NO LATER THAN July 10th, 2024 at 3 pm. THANK YOU!

American Modular Systems, Inc. 787 Spreckels Avenue, Manteca, CA 95336 Attn: Justin Torres • Email: justin.t@americanmodular.com

Phone: (209) 825-1921



Request for Qualification (RFO) RFQ Period: July 1, 2024 - July 17, 2024

Turner Construction Company (Turner) is seeking qualified Subcontractors for the following project: Moffitt Library – University of California, Berkeley

UCB Project No. 12738A

Turner has been awarded the UCB Moffitt Library project designed by BNIM Architects and MEP by Introba, locat-ed at the UC Berkeley Campus along University Drive, with Memorial Glade and Doe Library to the east, California Hall to the south, and Valley Life Sciences Building to the west. This is a renovation of 3 full floors and upgrades to an additional 2 floors totaling 102,000 square feet within the existing Moffitt Library. These renovations will bring upgrades to the currently underutilized floors of the library, expanding the student's study and collaboration spaces. This project is seeking LEED certification and is subject to Buy Clean California regulation.

Trade Subcontractors who do not submit the pre-qualification information and are not pre-qualified will not be allowed to propose on the project.

Turner is currently seeking RFQs for the following Trade Packages:

Bid Package #	Trade Package	Approximate Value
BP-02	FINAL CLEANING	\$99,000
BP-02	DEMOLITION	\$900,000
BP-02	CONCRETE	\$338,000
BP-02	MASONRY	\$24,000
BP-02	MISC METAL	\$136,000
BP-02	MILLWORK	\$938,000
BP-02	WATERPROOFING	\$20,000
BP-02	DOORS, FRAMES, HARDWARE	\$365,000
BP-02	GLAZING	\$418,000
BP-02	DRYWALL / PLASTER	\$1,400,000
BP-02	TILE	\$250,000
BP-02	ACOUSTICAL CEILING TILE	\$1,800,000
BP-02	FLOORING	\$538,000
BP-02	PAINTING	\$284,000
BP-02	SPECIALTIES	\$130,000
BP-02	SIGNAGE	\$46,000
BP-02	TOILET PARTITIONS / ACCESSORIES	\$150,000
BP-02	FOOD SERVICE EQUIPMENT	\$73,000
BP-02	WINDOW TREATMENTS	\$51,000
BP-02	CONVEYING	\$69,000
BP-02	FIRE PROTECTION	\$1,300,000
BP-02	PLUMBING	\$667,000
BP-02	HVAC	\$2,700,000
BP-02	LANDSCAPING	\$47,000
BP-02	SITEWORK	\$243,000

Turner has a 20% UBE [MBE/WBE/DVBE/LGBTQ+] goal for this project.

University Project Reference: https://www.lib.berkeley.edu/about/news/moffitt-fall-2022

For information on how to Pre-Qualify with Turner, please contact Crystal Chang - Subject: UCB Moffitt at the following email address: cchang@tcco.com

### SBE OUTREACH SERVICES

With 1.5 million businesses in our database, SBE is California's #1 source for diversity outreach. Advertisements - Placed in the Small Business Exchange newspaper, SBE Today newsletter, and online at www.sbeinc.com Faxed and Eblast Solicitations - Targeted mailings sent to businesses per your criteria. Telemarketing - Telephone follow-up calls that follow a script of 5 questions you create. Computer Generated Reports - Will fit right into your proposal, along with a list of interested firms to contact.

Contact Info: 1160 Battery Street East, Suites #100, San Francisco, CA 94111 Email: sbe@sbeinc.com · Website: www.sbeinc.com Phone: (415) 778-6250, (800) 800-8534 Fax: (415) 778-6255

Publisher of Small Business Exchange weekly newspaper



# **CALIFORNIA SUB-BID REQUEST ADS**



# 'Nothing will be protected'

### Continued from page 1

"We know how imperative it is for our state and planet to transition to clean energy as quickly as possible," Kim Delfino, a lobbyist representing Defenders of Wildlife and the California Native Plant Society told the Senate's Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee last week. "However, efficiencies should not equal weakening core environmental protections."

### Reforming CEQA isn't easy

The opposition to Garcia's bill, which had 12 bipartisan co-authors, also illustrates the fierce pushback to even small reforms to the California Environmental Quality Act – something that's befuddled the Legislature and governors for years.

Former Gov. Jerry Brown once called reforming the act "the Lord's work," but he wasn't able to pass substantial reforms. His successor, Gov. Gavin Newson, has made cutting delays from "green tape" a priority, and he also has tried to tackle CEQA. Last year, his office supported a package of bills and created a "strike team" with a goal of speeding up CEQA. Advocates for CEQA reform say that since former Gov. Ronald Reagan signed it, the law intended to protect the environment from harmful pollution and large-scale industrial development is now regularly used to kill or delay for years much-needed projects, from affordable housing to green-energy infrastructure.

As it stands, CEQA (pronounced "see-kwa") requires developers to pay for an environmental impact report that can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars and take years to complete.

The analyses, sometimes thousands of pages of impenetrable legal and scientific jargon, have to consider a number of potential harms to wildlife and people. That includes pollution, construction traffic, noise, urban blight and a project's impact on recreation. The reports must offer a range of alternatives that would mitigate any possible damage.

If an agency approves a report and moves the project forward, the law allows environmental groups, local organizations and other opponents to then comb through the document looking for flaws that can be used in a lawsuit. Those lawsuits can take years to make their way through the courts.

### Are state parks threatened?

Garcia's office said CEQA reviews have become a major barrier to upgrading the state's energy grid. His office cited one 117-mile Southern California powerline project that took five years for officials to review. It had an 11,000-page impact report that evaluated over 100 project "alternatives." That same project required 70 permits issued by more than two dozen different agencies.

But a key sticking point for environmentalists was how the bill would have exempted power grid upgrades from CEQA on state owned-lands, particularly at California's parks.

Garcia's bill would have eliminated CEQA reviews for infrastructure upgrades that require a utility to acquire state lands immediately adjacent to existing "right of way" already used for power lines and other energy infrastructure. His office said the actual construction of new transmission towers and other electrical equipment on state property would have still required a CEOA review. Environmentalists such as Brianna Fordem, executive director of the Anza-Borrego Foundation, feared that the upgrades would destroy Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

Fordem told the utilities committee last week "hundreds of miles of existing rights of ways" will be "the path of least resistance for hundreds of 200-foot towers permanently scarring our campgrounds, our hiking trails, our sacred cultural preserves, endangered wildlife habitat, dark night skies and more."

"Nothing," she said, "will be protected."

The bill also sought to codify a settlement reached last year between the state's three largest investor-owned public utilities – Pacific Gas and Electric, Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas and Electric — and some environmentalists and clean-energy groups. The settlement called for changes to the way the California Public Utilities Commission and other agencies issue permits for electrical transmission lines.

Visit link for the full article: https://calmatters.org/politics/2024/07/ceqa-california-energy-grid-state-parks/

# CALIFORNIA SUB-BID REQUEST ADS



**Plans and Specifications:** Email your request to: <u>elizabeth.pettus@jfshea.com</u>. Plans may also be viewed at our Walnut Office. J.F. Shea Construction, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer and intends to negotiate in good faith with interested DBE firms and intends to utilize the lowest responsive bidder. J.F. Shea expects potential subcontractors to be bondable. J.F. Shea will pay for up to 1% for subcontractor bond costs. Subcontractors and Suppliers are expected to bid per plans and specifications, including requirements for warranties. Standard manufacturer's warranties, if not in conformance with owner's specifications, will not be accepted.

Skanska-Coffman a JV is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer EEO/AA/Vet/Disability Employer Estimating Department: 1995 Agua Mansa Rd, Riverside, CA 92509 Phone: (951) 684-5360 · Lead Estimator: Dan Hirsh · Email: bids.socal@skanska.com

provide weekly, one original and one copy of all certified payrolls, including non-performance and fringe benefit statements if required by law or by the Prime Contract. All Contractors and Subcontractors must be registered with the DIR (Department of Industrial Relations). Include CSLB License Number and DIR Number on All Quotes Submitted.

This was bid previously advertised under Skanska USA Civil.