



Supervisor Keith Carson

District 5 News and Updates

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Opportunities for Small Local and Emerging Businesses

Alameda County is committed to developing and promoting economic growth, particularly for the people it serves. The Small Local Emerging Business (SLEB) Program was created to encourage a broad and competitive process for businesses within Alameda County, while ensuring that the process of contract procurements is inclusive for all residents. The SLEB Program has been running for approximately ten years and roughly 800 businesses are certified.

The County follows the U.S. Small Business Administration (U.S. S.B.A.) standards to define "small business." The U.S. S.B.A. standard is specific to industry and classification and determined by the number of employees or average annual revenue over three years.

A "local business" is a business having a

fixed office with a street address in Alameda County, and having a valid business license issued by the County or a City within Alameda County.

An "emerging business" is a business which has been certified by the County as local and meets one half the U.S. S.B.A. size standards for its classification and has been in business less than 5 years.

SLEB certified businesses will have the opportunity to work with the Federal Technology Center (FTC) and the Alameda County Small Business Development Center (SBDC) that provides panels, seminars and workshops taught by seasoned business experts on strategies to access Government contracts, ways to improve marketing, preparing for audits and more

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The County gives a 5% bid preference for local businesses and a 5% bid preference for certified small or emerging businesses except with respect to those contracts which state law requires be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. A maximum 10% bid

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New Program Aims to Help Small Businesses Gain Contracts

Small local contractors may qualify for a new program designed to help them get their first bond, make bids, and work on projects in Alameda County.

The Contractor Bonding Assistance Program (CBAP), sponsored by Alameda County's Office of Risk Management, aims to help small contractors enhance their credit worthiness while minimizing risk for, and increasing the number of bids on County projects.

Public works projects such as infrastructure, road, and transportation, require what are called "bid bonds." Difficulty in obtaining credit and capital prevents many small businesses from qualifying for such bonds.

Services offered by CBAP may help change that. This new program offers classes, one-on-one consultation, and other

business services to assist small contractors in efforts to qualify for and participate in County projects. CBAP also works in close collaboration with agencies responsible for certifying small, local and emerging businesses.

Addressing the bonding challenge is one of the key strategies identified in Alameda County as a way to maximize opportunities for small and minority contractors.

For more information on CBAP, contact Sharron Drake at (510) 740-6922, via e-mail at sdrake@imwis.com, or visit Public Works projects at ebidboard.com.

Mark your calendar! Attend the **kick-off** of the CBAP at the Oakland Zoo, Monday, **July 15th, 4p.m. to 7 p.m.**, at the Snow Building, 9777 Golf Links Road. Participating agencies include: County Board of Supervisors, The Risk Management Unit, General Services Agency and Public Works.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (BOSS)

Indian Tamasha*

*Tamasha = An Indian word meaning show, spectacle, or commotion

Friday, June 19, 2009
6:00-8:00 PM

First Congregational Church of Berkeley
2345 Channing Way, at Dana

A Tribute to the Courage of Homeless Women, Children, and Men

A Celebration of boona cheema's 30 Years as Executive Director

Tickets \$40 (\$75 for 2)
Call 510.649.1930 or buy online at:
www.self-sufficiency.org

All proceeds support BOSS programs to help families and individuals overcome homelessness.

COME OUT & PLAY!



Alameda County Fair

July 1 -19
(closed on Mondays)

www.alamedacountyfair.com/2009fair

Piedmont Fourth of July Parade

Parade theme:
"American Optimism"

Saturday, July 4, 2009
11:00 A.M.

The parade begins at Highland Avenue and Park Way, ending at Piedmont Park where the celebration will continue throughout the afternoon.

Pardee Patriotic Picnic
Saturday, Jul 4, 2009
12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Pardee Home Museum
672 11th Street
Oakland, CA 94607

Admission: Adults \$12; Children \$5

Special family activities: Children's craft table, and Cakewalk
Play: Croquet, Badminton, and Volleyball

(510) 444-2187
pardeehome.org

All proceeds benefit the preservation of the historic Pardee Home and Gardens.



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preference is available to local certified small or emerging businesses that contract directly with the County. If the prime contractor is not SLEB certified then they are encouraged to subcontract 20% of the contract to SLEB certified businesses.

Businesses wishing to become certified and take advantage of all the SLEB Program components may obtain a Certification Application by calling (510) 891-5500, visiting the website at www.acgov.org/auditor/sleb, or visiting the Auditor Controller Agency-Office of Contract Compliance at 1221 Oak Street, Room 249, Oakland, California.

Public Garden Gives Community A Learning Opportunity

Master Gardeners are frequently asked about which plants grow well in Alameda County and don't require a lot of special care. From beginning gardeners to seasoned gardeners, all are seeking to grow attractive and interesting gardens, conserve water, reduce pesticide usage and attract helpful wildlife to their garden.



The Master Gardeners at the Lake Merritt Trials Garden have spent two years developing the garden and are now ready for visitors and volunteers. Gardeners of all skill levels are welcome to participate in learning how to grow tasty organic vegetables, save water, grow plants that will thrive in a summer-dry climate, new techniques to enhance successful growing, and attract butterflies, bees, beneficial insects and birds

that will pollinate plants and control pests.

It is important to keep in mind that in Alameda County there are many climate zones or micro-climates. For example, a plant that tolerates full sun in bayside Berkeley

may require afternoon shade if planed in warmer areas such as Livermore.

Master Gardeners will be on site to assist visitors **every Wednesday and the 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** The Lake Merritt Trials Garden is located in Lakeside Park at 666 Bellevue Avenue in Oakland.

For more info call (510) 639-1371 or visit: http://groups.ucanr.org/ACMG/Lakeside_Trials_Garden