

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



**FILED**

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Order Instituting Rulemaking for the Purpose of Reviewing and Potentially Amending General Order 156 and to Consider Other Measures to Promote Economic Efficiencies of an Expanded Supplier Base and to Examine the Composition of the Utilities' Workforce.

R.09-07-027

**DISABLED VETERANS BUSINESS ENTERPRISE ALLIANCE  
REPLY COMMENTS IN RESPONSE TO ORDER INSTITUTING RULEMAKING**

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December 4, 2009

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Order Instituting Rulemaking for the Purpose of Reviewing and Potentially Amending General Order 156 and to Consider Other Measures to Promote Economic Efficiencies of an Expanded Supplier Base and to Examine the Composition of the Utilities' Workforce.

R.09-07-027

**THE DISABLED VETERANS BUSINESS ENTERPRISE ALLIANCE'S  
REPLY COMMENTS TO ORDER INSTITUTING RULEMAKING**

The Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Alliance (DVBE Alliance) respectfully files the following Comment pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE DVBE ALLIANCE**

The DVBE Alliance is a nonprofit (501 (c) (3) California Corporation of Disabled Veteran Business Owners and supporters of Veteran Owned Businesses. The Alliance formed in 1994 following the establishment of the Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) program by the California legislature in 1989. The California DVBE program set a 3% goal for DVBE participation in state contracts for goods and services. It also required eligible DVBEs to obtain certification of their capabilities by the state's Department of General Services before they could participate in the program.

The DVBE Alliance formed in 1994 following the establishment of the Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) program by the California legislature in 1989. The California DVBE program set a 3% goal for DVBE participation in state contracts for goods and services. It also required eligible DVBEs to obtain certification of their capabilities by the state's Department of General Services before they could participate in the program.

Our purpose is to support member businesses in their quest for success by:

- Creating business opportunities (With Government Agencies, private companies and other Alliance members);
- Linking members with appropriate and timely information;
- Collaborating to solve problems;
- Providing ongoing educational opportunities.

Our Differentiators: We maintain an active and involved Corporate Advisory Board. We are the only non-profit corporation with recognized representation on the California Utilities Diversity Council. We are the largest State DVBE organization formally recognized by the National Association of Service Disabled Veterans. Business practices are constantly changing, requiring the DVBE Alliance provides continued support and advocacy of all present and future DVBEs.

## I.

### **DVBE ALLIANCE'S INTEREST IN THIS PROCEEDING**

For purposes of participating in the proceedings of the California Public Utility Commission ("CPUC") concerning its review of General Order 156, the DVBE Alliance's experience and DVBE support creates a direct interest that brings voice to Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises presently operating in California. Many of the more than 1,100 DVBEs will be impacted by recommended changes of the Order.

The DVBE Alliance believes it can provide valuable input through comments and reply comments on the proposed and alternate changes, further rulings and additional *Alternate Proposed Decision(s)* that have now been proposed/issued in this proceeding.

The DVBE Alliance, therefore, seeks party status to provide these written comments and participate in any further *all-party* meetings or oral argument on these proposed decisions, as well as any and all other Commission related actions and future phases of this proceeding. The

DVBE Alliance's interest in the General Order 156 proceeding emerged because of the proposed changes. The DVBE Alliance's participation in this proceeding will not prejudice any existing party its contentions will be reasonably pertinent to the issues already presented in this proceeding.

## II.

### DVBE ALLIANCE'S COMMENTS

The California Disabled Veterans Business Alliance *supports* the GO 156 rule requiring utilities to do business with disabled veteran owned business that are residents of California. Sections 1.3.10 and 4.3 dictate that only disabled veterans residing in California will be eligible to receive DVBE certification from the California State Department of General Services. **That is as it should be.** Most California certified DVBEs are underutilized by the Investor Owned Utilities (IOU) but there are adequate resources to help bridge the gap between the IOU's and the DVBE community. As an example, our Alliance offers tailored searches to IOU's to help them find DVBE. Unfortunately, this free service has not been taken advantage of and that needs to change.

The DVBE law is very explicit in its goal to "rehabilitate" **California** veterans through entrepreneurship. IOU will have to assist this effort by establishing relationships with these DVBE businesses and grooming them to be corporate ready. This is an easy task and we can identify numerous DVBE that would cherish this opportunity. With very clear increase in numbers of disabled veterans returning from combat including large numbers of California National Guard members, the "rehabilitation" needs are paramount. We have all the assets we need in California without spending California rate payer dollars with out of state companies.

### **III.**

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

On behalf of the DVBE Alliance, the following name and information should be included in the service list identified at the end of this document for R.09-07-027:

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#### IV.

#### CONCLUSION

The DVBE Alliance has a pertinent and substantial interest in, and would be affected by, the proposed and alternate changes, further rulings and additional *Alternate Proposed Decision(s)* that have now been proposed/issued in this proceeding. The DVBE Alliance respectfully submits the comment on these proposed decisions and the further Alternate Proposed Decision(s) and seeks to participate in all aspects of the proceedings.

Respectfully submitted,

December 4, 2009

/s/ RICHARD DRYDEN

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Re: *PROCEEDING R 09-07-027*

Public Utilities Commission of the State of California

V.

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Richard Dryden, declare:

I am a citizen of the United States, employed in the City and County of Sacramento, California. My business address is 1611 S Street, Suite 102, Sacramento, California 95811. I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the within action.

I hereby certify that I served by electronic mail the within document '**THE DISABLED VETERANS BUSINESS ENTERPRISE ALLIANCE'S REPLY COMMENTS TO ORDER INSTITUTING RULEMAKING**' in R.09-07-027, with service on the R.09-07-027 service list and by Overnight Mail to the Assigned Commissioner (Michael R. Peevey) and Assigned ALJ (Melanie Darling), in the manner prescribed by the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

Executed on December 9 2009 at Sacramento, California

/s/ RICHARD DRYDEN

Richard Dryden

## Service List for R. 09-07-027

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