

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA ADVISORY

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**CPUC CO-SPONSORS CHICO SMALL BUSINESS EXPO
AND MATCHMAKING FAIR**

SAN FRANCISCO, October 9, 2009 -- The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) today announced it will co-sponsor a free Chico Small Business Expo and Matchmaking Fair featuring the Mayor of Chico, Ann Schwab, and CPUC Commissioner John A. Bohn, who will moderate a workshop on “Connecting Businesses with State and Utility Contracts” and speak on Opportunities in the New Green Economy.

- WHAT:** Chico Small Business Expo and Matchmaking Fair, co-sponsored by the CPUC and AT&T. The event includes:
- Comments from Chico Mayor Ann Schwab
 - Commissioner Bohn on Opportunities in the New Green Economy
 - Workshop on “Connecting Businesses with State and Utility Contracts” moderated by Commissioner Bohn
 - Matchmaking forum to learn of contracting opportunities firsthand
 - One-on-one meetings with procurement specialist from major utilities, local government, and state agencies
 - Vendor Fair

WHEN: Thursday, October 22, 2009, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

SCHEDULE

- 7 a.m.-8 a.m.: Registration and Matchmaking Signups and Complimentary Continental Breakfast
- 8 a.m.-9 a.m.: Workshop with Q&A Opportunities
- 9 a.m.-3 p.m.: Matchmaking Session and Vendor Visits

WHERE: Manzanita Place
1705 Manzanita Ave., Chico

WHY: Learn how to obtain state and utility contracts and sell goods and services. Obtain valuable information on financial services, bonding/insurance, and pre-paid legal services.

“I am very pleased that the CPUC is co-sponsoring this event. We sponsor or participate in many such events throughout the state in order to connect small businesses to utilities and government procurement specialists,” said Commissioner Bohn. “California agencies are under Executive Order to conduct 25 percent of their procurement and contracts with small businesses and 3 percent with Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Enterprises. These small business programs complement the CPUC’s Supplier Diversity Program, which encourages participating utilities to increase procurement levels with women, minority, and disabled veteran-owned business enterprises.”

Pre-registration is encouraged but not required, as walk-ins are welcome. Those participating in the matchmaking fair are encouraged to register in advance by e-mail at smallbiz@cpuc.ca.gov . Please include company name, contact information, and type of business.

PARTICIPANTS:

Expo Tables:

AT&T
Butte Community Bank
Butte County One Stop
Butte County Procurement
California Public Utilities Commission
California Air Resources Board
California Department of Consumer Affairs
California Department of Corrections
California Department of General Services (DGS)
California Department of Parks
California Department of Rehabilitation
California Department of Veterans Affairs
California Department of Water Resources
California Employment Development Department (EDD)
California Water Association
CalPERS
CalTrans (California Department of Transportation)
Chico Chamber of Commerce
Chico City and Tri-County Development Corporation
Comcast
Galligan Insurance & Bonding
Leadership Transformation
Northeastern California Development Center
PG&E
Pre- Paid Legal Services
Safe Bidco
Sempra Energy Utilities
Superior California Economic Development Corporation
Supplier Clearinghouse
U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)
Verizon
Veterans Business Outreach Center

Matchmaking Tables:

AT&T
Butte County Procurement
California Department of Corrections
California Department of Rehabilitation
CalTrans (Calif. Dept. of Transportation)
California Public Utilities Commission
California Water Association
Comcast
PG&E
Sempra Energy Utilities
Southern California Edison
Verizon

For more information on the CPUC's Small Business Program, please visit www.cpuc.ca.gov/smbus.

For more information on the CPUC, please visit www.cpuc.ca.gov.

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