

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CPUC CO-SPONSORS SAN BERNARDINO
SMALL BUSINESS EXPO AND MATCHMAKING FAIR**

SAN FRANCISCO, April 16, 2009 -- The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) today announced it will co-sponsor a free San Bernardino Small Business Expo and Matchmaking Fair, with Commissioner John A. Bohn moderating a workshop on “Connecting Businesses with State and Utility Contracts”.

- WHAT:** San Bernardino Small Business Expo and Matchmaking Fair, co-sponsored by the CPUC and Sempra Energy Utilities (San Diego Gas and Electric and Southern California Gas). The event includes:
- 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, April 30, 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:** Hilton San Bernardino - Ballroom
285 East Hospitality Lane
San Bernardino
- 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.

“The CPUC participates in small business events throughout the state to help connect small businesses to utilities and government procurement specialists,” said Commissioner Bohn.

“Through our Small Business Program we hope to educate businesses on the benefits of becoming certified as a small business, woman-owned, minority owned, and/or disabled veteran-owned business. We also provide networking opportunities to show small businesses how to get in the door with utility companies.”

California State 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.

PARTICIPANTS:

Expo Tables:

Small Business Administration (SBA)
Employment Development Department (EDD)
The Federal Technology Center
Veterans Business Outreach Center
CalTrans (California Department of Transportation)
California Department of Veterans Affairs
Department of General Services (DGS)
Inland Empire Small Business Development Center (SBDC)
Cal State University San Bernardino
California Highway Patrol
Inland Empire Women Business Center
Inland Empire Center for Entrepreneurship
CalPERS
Pacific American Indian Development
San Bernardino International Airport
Department of Corrections
Department of Water Resources
San Bernardino Unified School District
San Bernardino City Economic Development Council.
San Bernardino Valley Enterprise Zone
San Bernardino Employment & Training Agency
AT&T
Verizon
Southern California Edison
Sempra Energy Utilities (SDG&E, SoCalGas)
California Water Association
Asian, Inc. Supplier Clearinghouse
California Public Utilities Commission
Liatti & Associates Commercial Insurance
Pre-Paid Legal Services

Matchmaking Tables:

CalTrans
Cal State University San Bernardino
AT&T
Verizon
PG&E
Southern California Edison
Sempra Energy Utilities
California Public Utilities Commission
California Water Association

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.

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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