THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

July 25, 2007
8:45 a.m.

Civic Center Plaza
1200 Third Avenue, Fourteenth Floor Large Conference Room
San Diego, CA 92101

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT	BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT
Auday Arabo	Kurt Chilcott
Faith Bautista	Ruben Garcia
Scott Cummins	Chi Tran
Warren Simon	
Richard Sims	
Spencer Skeen	

CITY STAFF
Steve Bal, Office of Small Business
Meredith Dibden Brown, Office of Small Business
Ron Halbritter, Development Services Department
Scott Kessler, Economic Development Division
Michael Neumeyer, City Attorney's Office
Luis Ojeda, Economic Development Division

OTHERS PRESENT
Joni Low, Asian Business Association
Gunnar Schalin, San Diego Contracting Opportunities Center
Emily Yanushka, San Diego County Water Authority

Introduction

- Chair Mr. Richard Sims called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. A quorum was not present until 9:10 a.m.

Public Comment

- Mr. Gunnar Schalin of the San Diego Contracting Opportunities Center (SDCOC) provided a preliminary report on outcomes for Fiscal Year 2007. Over $52 million was attributed to SDCOC by the small businesses they support in contract awards. Eighty percent (80%) of the contract awards went to disadvantaged businesses; thirty-five percent (35%) went to women-owned businesses; and three percent (3%) were awarded to service-disabled veteran businesses. Mr. Schalin thanked the Board for their support of the SDCOC.

- Mr. Sims stated that he would like to see veterans being assisted in establishing, maintaining, and growing their businesses, particularly disabled veterans. He would like to see an organization set up in the near future to assist disabled veterans, similar to the council that had once existed.

- Ms. Faith Bautista commented that she will be attending a conference next month in San Francisco to meet with suppliers, diversity directors of financial institutions, and utility companies. Their focus will be upon small businesses, primarily minority-owned and veteran-owned businesses.

- Ms. Emily Yanushka of the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) announced that the "Ninth Annual Paths to Partnerships" will be held on Thursday, September 20th from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina East Tower, located at 1380 Harbor Drive in San Diego. Interested attendees may register via the online registration page available at www.pathsreg.org. The focus this year is on regional collaboration. All of the public agencies that were successful in passing the bond measures are ready to issue their contracts now.

- Mr. Sims asked what types of business opportunities would be available. Ms. Yanushka replied that opportunities will be in building construction, along with heavy civil construction and transportation. There will be opportunities for suppliers and subcontractors in different disciplines. Third tier opportunities for small businesses will depend upon each agency and how they structure their outreach and reporting requirements, adding that the SDCWA is looking at restructuring their outreach and reporting requirements for third tier business opportunities.

- Ms. Bautista remarked that she would like to see the main supplier provide twenty (20%) to thirty percent (30%) of their business in the first year to third tier small and minority-owned businesses. Ms. Yanushka respectfully reminded the Board that State law prohibits public agencies such as the SDCWA from imposing set aside goals and quotas based upon minority status. However, they do provide targeted and focused outreach to small, disabled veteran and minority-owned businesses.

- Ms. Yanushka added that the event is not just about construction. There will be trickle down opportunities for all kinds of businesses, including for consultants, vendors, and suppliers.

Meeting Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m. as a result of a mandatory fire drill, which resulted in a full evacuation of the building.