What Does Certification Mean? (continued)

Upon approval of a SLEB Program Certification Application package the County will issue the business a certification letter indicating the type of certification granted and the certification period. Certified businesses will receive a 90 day written renewal notification prior to the expiration of their certification period.

Certified small and emerging businesses may be eligible for a 5% SLEB bid preference and a 5% local bid preference. The total maximum bid preference is 10%.

Businesses wishing to become certified and take advantage of all the SLEB Program components may obtain a Certification Application by calling (510) 891-5500 or visiting our web site at http://www.acgov.org/auditor/sleb.

The Auditor-Controller Agency, SLEB Certification Unit certifies small local and emerging businesses and maintains a database of local businesses and certified small and emerging businesses which is available online at http://www.acgov.org/sleb_query_app/gsa/sleb/query/slebmenu.jsp.

The County of Alameda works with community businesses and County procurement staff to provide guidance and information on the utilization of small and emerging local businesses.

Vendor informational meetings, training and outreach events are held to provide an opportunity for SLEBs to become acquainted with the County's procurement processes. For information about vendor events, see the online Calendar of Events (from http://www.acgov.org, under Stay Connected, click on the calendar icon).

Also see Current Contracting Opportunities posted online (from http://www.acgov.org, under Doing Business With Us, Business Opportunities).

Subscribe to receive information via email about the contracting opportunities and outreach/training events you are interested in at http://www.acgov.org/government/connected/esubscribe.htm.
Contracts Over $25,000
Businesses not meeting the definition of a small or emerging local business are required to subcontract a minimum of 20% of the contract award to a certified small or emerging local business in order to be eligible for contract award.

Certification Process
Alameda County certifies small and emerging local businesses to participate in the SLEB Program using U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) size standards.

Local Vendor Database
Developed to provide a source of local certified small and emerging businesses interested in participating in County contracts.

Compliance
Compliance with the SLEB Program is monitored by County departments and administered by the Auditor-Controller Agency Office of Contract Compliance using the online web-based Elation Systems.

First Source Program
Cooperative efforts and partnerships with other local agencies in developing regional solutions that facilitate utilization of local unemployed or underemployed County residents.

SLEB Program Benefits
For Small and Emerging Local Businesses
Provides a method of inclusion for small and emerging local businesses and creates an opportunity for growth, capacity building, and participation in County contracting and procurement activities. A maximum 10% bid preference may be available to local certified small or emerging businesses that contract directly with the County.

For Local Businesses
Local businesses that contract directly with the County and meet the criteria for the Local Bid Preference described in this brochure may be eligible for a 5% bid preference.

For the Community at Large
Inclusion of all businesses in County contracting processes and activities leads to a healthy business environment, which promotes a healthy economy, lower regional unemployment and a higher standard of living.

SLEB Program Benefits (continued)
For the County
The County benefits by the inclusion of all size businesses in the bidding process. SLEB Program certified businesses increase the vendor base from which County departments may choose. Inclusion leads to increased competition and better contracts with lower costs. The SLEB Certification Unit will attempt to certify qualified vendors that departments identify in order to create a larger base for the department’s bidding advantage.

SLEB Program Definitions/Glossary of Terms
Small Local Emerging Business - A local business that is certified either small or emerging and which, when contracting directly with the County, may be eligible for a maximum 10% bid preference (5% for being small or emerging plus 5% for being local).
- Small Business - A business which has been certified by the County, is local and meets the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) size standards for its classification.
- Emerging Business - A business which has been certified by the County, is local and meets less than one half the U.S. SBA size standards for its classification and has been in business less than 5 years.

Local Business - 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.

5% Local Business Preference - Any local business located within the County at least 6 months prior to date upon which a request for sealed bids or proposals is issued may be eligible for a 5% local bid preference.

What Does Certification Mean?
In an effort to ensure that the County is doing business with bona fide SLEBs, the County will certify businesses to participate in the SLEB Program using U.S. SBA Standards. The County may also collect information regarding minority and women-owned businesses in order to track and report on their participation.