

RESPONSE TO DBE PLAN

BY

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ONLY FOUR OF THE SIXTEEN POINTS OF THE DBE PLAN HAVE ANY CONNECTION WITH IMPROVING THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS FIRMS. THEY ARE THE DESIGNATION OF A DBE LIAISON OFFICER, WITH WHOM WE CANNOT ARRANGE A MEETING; THE ESTABLISHING OF PROCEDURES TO ENSURE THAT DBEs HAVE AN EQUITABLE OPPORTUNITY TO COMPETE FOR CONTRACTS AND SUBCONTRACTS, WHICH IS ABSENT OF ANY STRONG AFFIRMATIVE ACTION TECHNIQUES; THE USE OF BANKS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY MINORITIES AND WOMEN, WHICH HAS NO APPLICATION IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY BECAUSE THERE IS NO BLACK OWNED OR BLACK CONTROLLED BANK IN SAN DIEGO; AND THE COMPILATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A DBE DIRECTORY. AN ESSENTIAL MISSING PART OF THE DBE PLAN IS A PROGRAM DESIGNED TO FOCUS ON EXTENSIVE OUTREACH TO THE ETHNIC AND WOMEN COMMUNITIES AS WELL AS PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO SUBCONTRACTORS WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR LOCATING AND IDENTIFYING MBE/WBE FIRMS.