

SBE NEWS ALERT

From Civil Engineer to Instant Imprints Franchisee



Anna Shmukler

Everything you need to promote.

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- Digital Printing

By Kate Taylor

Franchise Players is Entrepreneur's Q&A interview column that puts the spotlight on franchisees. If you're a franchisee with advice and tips to share, email ktaylor@entrepreneur.com.

Anna Shmukler graduated from Georgia Tech with a degree in civil engineering – not a typical Instant Imprints franchisee prerequisite. Prior to becoming a franchisee, Shmukler worked as a civil engineer for 28 years, including 18 years as the owner of an engineering and surveying company. However, after retiring from the field of engineering, Shmukler became convinced that Instant Imprints was the perfect fit for her next business venture. Here's why.

Name: Anna Shmukler

Franchise owned:
Instant Imprints in Roswell, Ga.

How long have you owned a franchise?
Six months.

Why franchising?

I like to be part of the bigger community. With franchising, I receive support from like-minded people and reap the benefits of working with talented industry professionals. I'm provided with the latest research on trends, supplies, marketing ideas and so on.

What were you doing before you became a franchise owner?

I am a Georgia Tech graduate with a degree in civil engineering. I spent 28 years as a civil engineer. Eighteen of those years I was an owner of an engineering and surveying company. I thoroughly enjoyed being an engineer. My specialty was transportation design projects. There are roads and trails all over Georgia that were designed and surveyed by my company and me.

When the economy went sour, I decided to retire from the field of engineering.

Why did you choose this particular franchise?

It was fate that brought me to Instant Imprints. The more I learned about their business philosophy,

the training resources provided and their approach to conducting business, the more I knew it was meant to be my next business venture. The pride of the Instant Imprints team helped to reaffirm my decision to join the company. They put a strong emphasis on training to make sure that I, too, could be proud and confident in my new venture. Life presented me with this opportunity and I recognized it and took it.

How much would you estimate you spent before you were officially open for business?

It was an existing store when I came along. I spent about \$125,000 to get the store running properly and smoothly. Where did you get most of your advice/do most of your research?

■ Continued on page 5

SMALL BUSINESS EXCHANGE

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With 1.5 million businesses in our database, SBE is California's #1 source for diversity outreach.

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Will fit right into your proposal, along with a list of interested firms to contact.

Contact Info:

703 Market Street, Suite 1000
San Francisco, CA 94103
Email: sbe@sbeinc.com
Website: www.sbeinc.com
Phone: (415) 778-6250, (800) 800-8534
Fax: (415) 778-6255

Publisher of
Small Business Exchange
weekly newspaper

California Sub-Bid Request Ads

REQUEST FOR DBE SUBCONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS FOR:

**Hwy 29 Overlay and Widen, St. Helena
Caltrans #04-259404**

BID DATE: January 28, 2015 @ 2:00 PM

We are soliciting quotes for (including but not limited to): Trucking, Lead Compliance Plan, Construction Area Signs, Traffic Control System, Portable Changeable Message Sign, SWPPP, Rain Event Action Plan, Storm Water Sampling & Analysis, Sweeping, Temporary Fencing, Health & Safety Plan, Treated Wood Waste, Noise Monitoring, Abandon Culvert, Adjust Utilities, Cold Plane AC, Cleaning, Inspecting & Preparing Culvert, Sand Backfill, Clearing & Grubbing, Develop Water Supply, Roadway Excavation (Type Z-2 Aerially Deposited Lead), Sand Bedding, Imported Borrow, Erosion Control, Hydromulch, Hydroseed, Compost, Crack Treatment, Prime Coat, Data Core, AC Dike, Tack Coat, Jointed Plain Concrete, Structural Concrete, Minor Concrete (Minor Structure), Bar Reinforcing Steel, Roadside Signs, Underground, Drainage Inlet Marker, Inlet Depression, Rock Slope Protection, Detectable Warning Surface, Minor Concrete, Pre/Post Construction Survey, Misc. Iron & Steel, Object Marker, Midwest Guardrail System, End Anchor Assembly, Alt. Flared Terminal System, Striping & Marking, Electrical, Geomembrane Liner and Construction Materials

O.C. Jones & Sons, Inc.

1520 Fourth Street • Berkeley, CA 94710 • Phone: 510-526-3424 • FAX: 510-526-0990

Contact: Jean Sicard

An Equal Opportunity Employer

100% Performance & Payment Bonds may be required. Worker's Compensation Waiver of Subrogation required. Please call OCJ for assistance with bonding, insurance, necessary equipment, material and/or supplies. OCJ is willing to breakout any portion of work to encourage DBE Participation. Plans & Specs are available for viewing at our office or through the Caltrans Website at www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/oe/weekly_ads/index.php.

Seeking MBE, DVBE, DBE, WBE, Underutilized/Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (U/DBE) subcontractors and suppliers for

SR 15 Mid-City Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project

IFB No. 5007000 (CIP No. 1201507)

Project Owner: San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)

Project Location: San Diego, CA

Bid Date: January 28, 2015

Trades: SWPPP, Traffic Control, Striping, Fence, Signage, Landscaping, AC Paving, CIDH, Rebar, Coatings, Glass/Glazing, Jack & Bore, Misc. Metal/Structural Steel, Barrier, Electrical, Elevator, Street Sweeping, Erosion Control, Clear & Grub, Pavement Markings, Irrigation, Architectural Treatment, Staining, Jointed Plain Concrete Pavement, Asphalt Paving, Concrete Barrier, Minor Concrete, Demo, Pavement Grinding, Saw Cutting, Joint Seal, HVAC, Signal/Lighting, Pipe Supply, Aggregate Supply.

Plans are available to download on planetbids.com

Pulice Construction, Inc.

591 Camino de la Reina, Suite 1250 • San Diego, CA 92108

Phone: (619) 814-3705 • Fax: (619) 814-3770

Contact: Arinda Cale, acale@pulice.com; Kimberly Bell, kbell@pulice.com

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TAFT ELECTRIC COMPANY

1694 EASTMAN AVENUE, VENTURA, CA 93003

Contact: Dave Norwine

Phone: (805) 642-0121 • Fax: (805) 650-9015

Invites sub-bids from qualified union DBE businesses for the following project:

07A3661

Electrical System Restoration to As-Built Condition with Multiple Providers, TAS

Location: Ventura County

BID DATE/TIME: 1/22/2015

SEEKING: Traffic Control, Tamper Resistant Pull Box Covers, Stranded Wire, Conduit

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer and intend to seriously negotiate with qualified Disadvantaged Business Enterprise subcontractors and suppliers for project participation.

Payment and performance bonds may be required. Please contact us at the above listed number for further information regarding bidding on this project. To the best of our abilities we will help with bonds/insurance/credit. Plans are available for viewing at our office.

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Pacific States Environmental Contractors, Inc. (PSEC) is preparing a bid as a Prime Contractor for the project listed below:

Site Remediation at

520 John Muir Drive- Pacific Rod and Gun Club San Francisco, CA

Owner: City & County of San Francisco, San Francisco Utilities Commission

BID DATE: January 29, 2015 at 2:00pm.

We hereby encourage responsible participation (Local) Small and Micro-LBEs as well as MBE, WBE and OBE and solicit their subcontractor or materials and/or suppliers for the following types of work including but not limited to:

Tree Removal, Landscaping, Irrigation, Survey, Trucking, Hydroseeding, Fencing

At our discretion, 100% Payment and 100% Performance bonds may be required as a subcontract condition. Please call if you need assistance in obtaining bonding, insurance, equipment, materials and/or supplies for this project.

This will be a PREVAILING WAGE JOB.

Plans and specifications may be reviewed at our office located at 11555 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin, CA, or viewed at: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/xdlebt0ainxuroj/AABL3Del2NYAqfxIynCM6Naxa?dl=0> or be obtained at 525 Golden gate Avenue, 1st Floor, Customer Service Desk, San Francisco, CA 94102 for a nonrefundable \$210.00 fee paid by cash or by check payable to "SFPUC" Call (415) 551-4603 for further information. A CD Version is available for a fee of \$10.00. Visit <http://sfwater.org/contracts> for updates. PSEC is willing to breakout any portion of work to encourage Local Business Enterprises, and solicit their subcontractor or materials and/or suppliers and trucking quotation. If you require any assistance, please contact Estimator, Cory Divers email him at cdivers@pacific-states.net or call at (925) 803-4333 and bids may be faxed to us at (925) 803-4334. We are an equal opportunity employer

Pacific States

Environmental Contractors, Inc.

CAL LIC. NO. 723241

11555 Dublin Boulevard • Dublin, CA 94568-2909

Phone: (925) 803-4333 • FAX: (925) 803-4334

ESTIMATOR: Cory Divers

EMAIL: cdivers@pacificstates.net

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California Sub-Bid Request Ads

RGW Construction Inc. is seeking all qualified DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprises) for the following project:

State Highway in Marin and Sonoma Counties Near Petaluma From 0.8 Miles South to 2.0 Miles North of the Marin-Sonoma County Line
Contract No. 04-264094
Federal Aid Project No. ACNHP-Q101(261) N
Engineer Estimate: \$51,000,000 - 480 Working Days
Goal: DBE 8%
Bids: February 11th @ 2:00 PM

Requesting Sub-quotes for (including but not limited to): Oils, Construction Area Signs, Traffic Control, Cold Plane, Demolition/Bridge Removal, Clear and Grub, Landscaping, Hydroseeding, Erosion Control, Irrigation, Aggregate Base, AC Dike, Grinding, Pile Driving, CIDH Piles, Pre-stressing Concrete Cast-in-Place, Joint Seal, Reinforcing Steel, Sign Structure, Signs Roadside, Concrete Curb & Sidewalk-Misc., Fencing, Object Marker, MBGR, Metal Railing, Concrete Barrier, Thermoplastic & Painted Traffic Stripe & Marking, Signal and Lighting, Ramp Metering System, SWPPP Planning, Water Truck, Sweeper, Hazardous Substance Removal, Trucker, Painting Structures, Storm Drain (Underground) & Lean Concrete Base.

Scope of Work: Realign highway and construct new bridge.

RGW is willing to breakout any portion of work to encourage DBE participation. Contact us for a specific item list.

Plans and Specs are available to view and copy at our office or the Caltrans website www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/oe/. Contact Dave Czech 925-606-2400 david.czech@rgwconstruction.com for any questions, including bonding, lines of credit, or insurance or equipment or material suppliers. Subcontractors should be prepared to submit payment and performance bonds equal to 100% of their quotation. For bonding and other assistance, please call.

RGW Construction, Inc.

Contractors License A/B 591940

550 Greenville Road • Livermore, CA 94550 • Phone: 925-606-2400 • Fax: 925-961-1925

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RGW Construction Inc. is seeking all qualified DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprises) for the following project:

Roseville Road Bridge Replacement Project
City Project No. T15068500
Engineer Estimate: \$4,940,000 - 140 Working Days
Goal: DBE 7%
Bids: January 21st, 2015 @ 2:00 PM

Requesting Sub-quotes for (including but not limited to): Electrical Material, Construction Area Signs, Traffic Control, Cold Plane, Demolition/Bridge Removal, Clear and Grub, Roadway Excavation, Structure Excavation/backfill, Landscaping, Hydroseeding, Erosion Control, Irrigation, Aggregate Base, Asphalt Paving, AC Dike, Grinding, CIDH Piles, Structural Concrete, Precast Concrete Girders, Joint Seal, Reinforcing Steel, Signs Roadside, Rock Slope Protection, Fencing, MBGR, Metal Railing, Concrete Barrier, Thermoplastic and Painted Traffic Stripe & Marking, Pavement Marking, Signal and Lighting, Message Signs, Lighting & Sign Illumination, SWPPP Planning, Water Truck, Sweeper, Hazardous Substance Removal, & Trucker.

Scope of Work: Removal and reconstruction of the Roseville Road Bridge over Arcade Creek between Marconi Ave. and Watt Ave.

RGW is willing to breakout any portion of work to encourage DBE participation. Contact us for a specific item list.

Plans and Specs are available to view and copy at our office or Planet Bids: <http://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=15300>. Contact Tim Ross 925-606-2400 tim.ross@rgwconstruction.com for any questions, including bonding, lines of credit, or insurance or equipment or material suppliers. Subcontractors should be prepared to submit payment and performance bonds equal to 100% of their quotation. For bonding and other assistance, please call.

RGW Construction, Inc.

Contractors License A/B 591940

550 Greenville Road • Livermore, CA 94550 • Phone: 925-606-2400 • Fax: 925-961-1925

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REQUESTING SUB-QUOTES FROM QUALIFIED LBE/ SLBE / VSLBE SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS FOR:

Latham Square Streetscape Improvements
City Project No: C464560
Owner: City of Oakland
Engineers' Estimate: \$3,150,000.
BID DATE: January 22, 2015 @ 2:00 PM

Items of work include but are not limited to: Trucking, Traffic Control, Asphalt Milling, Clearing & Grubbing, Class I and II Material Disposal, Concrete Pavement, Stone Paving, Water Proofing, Concrete Pavers, Brick Paving, Minor Concrete, Drainage Structures, Underground Utility Work, Landscaping, Irrigation Systems, Electrical, Lighting, Traffic Signals, Street Furnishings, Roadside Signs, Remove Striping, Install New Striping, Remove Trees, Remove Concrete and Adjust Utilities to Grade.

Granite Rock Company 'Graniterock' is signatory to Operating Engineers, Laborers, Teamsters, Carpenters and Cement Masons unions. 100% performance and payment bonds will be required from a qualified surety company for the full amount of the subcontract price. Bonding assistance is available. Graniterock will pay bond premium up to 1.5%. In addition to bonding assistance, subcontractors are encouraged to contact Graniterock Estimating with questions regarding obtaining lines of credit, insurance, equipment, materials and/or supplies, or with any questions you may have. Subcontractors must possess a current contractor's license, insurance and worker's compensation coverage. Subcontractors will be required to enter into our standard contract. Graniterock intends to work cooperatively with all qualified firms seeking work on this project. Granite Rock Company is an equal opportunity employer.

Granite Rock Company

7700 Edgewater Drive, Building B, Suite 300
 Oakland, CA 94621

Phone (408) 574-1400 Fax (408) 365-9548

Contact: Bob Williams

Email: estimating@graniterock.com

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PANORAMA ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.

Request for Minority-Owned, Women-Owned, and White-Men Owned Subcontractors

Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Alameda North Bay Island Pipeline Crossings Project, Alameda, CA
Bid Date: January 21, 2015 at 4:00 PM

Proposals requested for the following technical and professional services: air quality and greenhouse gas specialist, noise specialists, traffic specialists, biological specialists, cultural specialists, and hydrologic and hazardous materials specialists.

Panorama Environmental, Inc.

1 Embarcadero Center, Suite 240

San Francisco, CA 94111

Phone (650) 373-1200

Contact: Tania Treis

Email: tania@panoramaenv.com

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Visit www.sbeinc.com to download a PDF version of the latest SBE Newspaper and SBE Newsletter

California Sub-Bid Request Ads

REQUESTING BIDS FROM QUALIFIED DBE SUBCONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECT:

Roseville Road Bridge Replacement Project

City of Sacramento, Project No. T15068500, Bid Date: January 21, 2015 at 2:00 pm

We hereby encourage responsible participation of local Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (7% Goal), and solicit their subcontractor or material quotation for the following types of work. This is a highway project with the typical items of work associated, but not limited to: Preconstruction Photographs, Temporary Fence, Type III Barricade, Portable Changeable Message Sign, Signal Modifications, Pollution Controls, SWPPP, Storm Water Reports, Temporary Hydraulic Mulch, Erosion Control, Temporary Earthen Dam and Diversion System, Temporary Fiber Roll, Temporary Silt Fence, Temporary Construction Entrance, Street Sweeping, Remove MBGR, Remove Stripe and Markers, Remove AC Pavement, Remove AC Dike, Bridge Removal, Planed Pavement Conforms, Clear & Grub, Roadway Ex and Grading, Imported Borrow, Class 2 Aggregate Base, HMA, Rock Slope Protection, Midwest Guardrail System, In-Line Terminal System, Stripe and Markers, Structure Excavation, CIDH, Structural Concrete, Precast Prestressed Concrete, Joint Seal, Rebar, Concrete Barrier, Tubular Hand Railing, Tubular Bicycle Railing, Structure Backfill, Wall Gutter, Irrigation Systems, Landscaping, Construction Equipment and Rentals, Trucking.

C.C. Myers, Inc. is willing to break down items of work into economically feasible units to encourage DBE participation. If you are interested in any of this work, please provide us with a scope letter or contact us immediately. Plans and Specifications are available from C.C. Myers, Inc.'s Sharepoint site, please contact us for log in information.

Conditions or exceptions in Subcontractor's quote are expressly rejected unless expressly accepted in writing. Subcontractor and Supplier quotes are required 24 hours prior to the bid date to enable thorough evaluation.



C.C. Myers, Inc.

3286 Fitzgerald Rd. • Rancho Cordova, CA 95742 • 916-635-9370 • Fax 916-635-1527

Each Subcontractor shall be prepared to submit faithful performance and payment bonds equal to 100% of their quotation. The Contractor will pay standard industry rates for these bonds.

Contact C. C. Myers, Inc. for assistance with bonds, insurance, lines of credit, equipment, supplies or project plans and specifications. C.C. Myers, Inc., is a Union Contractor.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

REQUESTING BIDS FROM QUALIFIED DBE SUBCONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECT:

Rt. 29 Troutdale Creek Bridge near Calistoga Project

Napa County, Caltrans Project No.04-4A0904, Bid Date: January 21, 2015 at 2:00 pm

We hereby encourage responsible participation of local Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (11% Goal), and solicit their subcontractor or material quotation for the following types of work. This is a highway project with the typical items of work associated, but not limited to: Lead Compliance Plan, Construction Area Signs, Traffic Control, Striping and Markers, Channelizers, Portable Changeable Message Signs, K-Rail, Temporary Crash Cushion, Temporary Traffic Screen, SWPPP, Temporary Erosion Control, Street Sweeping, Temp Concrete Washout, Temp Active Treatment System, Temp Creek Diversion System, Water Quality Monitoring, Temp Wildlife Exclusion Fence, Remove Traffic Stripe, Work Area Monitoring, Remove Fence, Remove Guardrail, Remove Painted Traffic Stripe, Remove Pavement Marking, Remove Pavement Markers, Remove Roadside Sign, Remove Culvert, Remove Headwall, Remove Asphalt Concrete Surfacing, Remove Base and Surfacing, Reset Gate, Relocate Gate, Bridge Removal, Clear & Grub, Develop Water Supply, Dust Palliative, Roadway Excavation, Structure Excavation, Structure Backfill, Concrete Backfill, Lean Concrete Backfill, Imported Borrow, Soil Amendment, Landscaping, Erosion Control, Rolled Erosion Control Product, Hydromulch, Fiber Rolls, Hydroseed, Compost, Hot Mix Asphalt, Tack Coat, Steel Solider Pile, Structural Concrete, Minor Concrete, Ashlar Stone Texture, Precast Prestressed Concrete Girder, Joint Seal, Rebar, Furnish Single Sheet Aluminum Sign, Roadside Sign, Timber Lagging, Clean and Paint Steel Solider Piling, Prep and Stain Concrete, Stain Galvanized Surfaces, Anti-Graffiti Coating, Alternative Pipe Culvert, Plastic Pipe, Corrugated Steel Pipe, Permeable Material, Corrugated Steel Pipe Inlet, Welded Steel Pipe, Alternative Flared End Section, Rock Slope Protection, Misc. Iron and Steel, Misc. Metal, Fence, Temp Fence, Temp Gate, Delineator, Object Marker, Special Marker, Midwest Guardrail System, Tubular Bicycle Railing, End Cap, Concrete Barrier, Stripe and Markers, Construction Equipment and Rentals, Trucking.

C.C. Myers, Inc. is willing to break down items of work into economically feasible units to encourage DBE participation. If you are interested in any of this work, please provide us with a scope letter or contact us immediately. Plans and Specifications are available from the Caltrans website at http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/oe/contractor_info/.

Conditions or exceptions in Subcontractor's quote are expressly rejected unless expressly accepted in writing. Subcontractor and Supplier quotes are required 24 hours prior to the bid date to enable thorough evaluation.



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3286 Fitzgerald Rd. • Rancho Cordova, CA 95742 • 916-635-9370 • Fax 916-635-1527

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

REQUEST FOR DBE SUBCONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS FOR:

Hwy 101 Petaluma – Realign & Bridge Caltrans #04-264094

BID DATE: February 11, 2015 @ 2:00 PM

We are soliciting quotes for (including but not limited to): Trucking, Lead Compliance Plan, Construction Area Signs, Traffic Control System, Type III Barricade, Portable Changeable Message Sign, SWPPP, Rain Event Action Plan, Storm Water Sampling & Analysis, Water Quality Sampling & Analysis, Temporary Fence, Health & Safety Plan, ADL Burial Location Report, Treated Wood Waste, Abandon Culvert, Destroy Well, Adjust Utilities, Cold Plane AC, Cap Inlet, Culvert Slurry-Cement Backfill, Bridge Removal, Clearing & Grubbing, Develop Water Supply, Dust Palliative, Roadway Excavation (Type Y-1 Aerially Deposited Lead), Settlement and Monitoring, Shoulder Backing, Structure Excavation, Structure Backfill, Pervious Backfill Material, Rammed Aggregate Columns, Imported Biofiltration Soil, Underground, Erosion Control, Hydromulch, Hydroseed, Compost, Lean Concrete Base, Crack Treatment, Prime Coat, AC Dike, Data Core, Tack Coat, Steel Casing, CIDH Concrete Piling, Prestressing CIP Concrete, Structural Concrete, Minor Concrete, Steel Sheet Piling, Architectural Treatment, Joint Seal Assembly, Bar Reinforcing Steel, Sign Structure, Roadside Signs, Bat Habitat, Prepare & Paint Concrete, Temp. Access Pad, Rock Slope Protection, Detectable Warning Surface, Misc. Iron & Steel, Rigid Rail Fall Protection System, Isolation Casing, Bridge Deck Drainage System, Fencing, Delineator, Object Marker, Midwest Guardrail System, Double Thrie Beam Barrier, Cable Railing, End Anchor Assembly, Type SCI 100GM Crash Cushion, Concrete Barrier, Striping & Marking, Traffic Operations System and Construction Materials

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Contact: Jean Sicard

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Unemployment Dips To 5.6 Percent As Economy Adds 252K Jobs



Former student Nathaniel Simmons operates a crane during a day of training at Georgia College of Construction. The Department of Labor says construction was one of several sectors that showed job gains in December. Branden Camp/AP

By Scott Neuman

The U.S. economy added 252,000 jobs in December, capping a 12-month stretch of job growth unmatched since 1999, according to the Labor Department. In a separate survey, the department says that the unemployment rate dipped to 5.6 percent from 5.8 percent the previous month.

The department's Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that job gains occurred in professional and business services, construction, food and drinking establishments, health care and manufacturing.

NPR's John Ydstie, reporting on Morning Edition ahead of this morning's announcement, says that it's been 15 years since job growth was so strong.

"[You] have to go all the way back to 1999, when companies were rapidly hiring IT workers to deal with the Y2K threat to computer systems. That year the economy added about 3.2 million new jobs," John says.

The number of jobs created in October and November was also revised upward by 50,000 for the two months combined, according to BLS.

"Data from the quarterly census of employment and wages suggests that once all the revisions are incorporated, the gains will be even higher for the year," says Sophia Koropecyk, a senior economist and managing director at Moody's Analytics, says. She said Moody's "ex-

pects the momentum to continue with monthly job gains accelerating through 2015 and exceeding 300,000 by year end."

Jason Furman, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers called the results a "milestone" for the U.S. labor market.

He said the president "has been laying out his vision to build on this progress by increasing access to community college, supporting the recovery in the housing sector and investing in U.S. manufacturing.

"On top of these steps, the President looks forward to working with Congress and taking action on his own authority to invest in America's infrastructure, close tax loopholes and encourage job creation in America, support working families, expand overseas markets for American goods and services, make common sense reforms to the immigration system, and raise the minimum wage," Furman said in a statement.

In a foreshadowing of today's new figures, a report out on Thursday showed fewer Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits.

Labor's Household Survey, which determines the official employment rate, showed 383,000 fewer people were considered unemployed, bringing that number to 8.7 million.

According to BLS: "Among the major worker groups, the unemployment rate for adult women (5.0 percent) decreased by 0.2 percentage point in December, while the rates for adult men (5.3 percent), teenagers (16.8 percent),

whites (4.8 percent), blacks (10.4 percent), and Hispanics (6.5 percent) showed little change. The jobless rate for Asians, at 4.2 percent (not seasonally adjusted), changed little from a year earlier."

The number of so-called "discouraged workers" — those who have given up looking for work — stood at 740,000, down by 177,000 the year before.

Despite the good news, wage growth remains weak, with hourly pay actually slipping by 5 cents, the department says.

As The Associated Press notes:

"American businesses have been largely shrugging off signs of economic weakness overseas and continuing to hire at healthy rates. The U.S. economy's steady improvement is especially striking compared with the weakness in much of the world.

"Europe is barely growing, and its unemployment rate is nearly double the U.S. level. Japan, the world's third-largest economy, is in recession. Russia's economy is cratering as oil prices plummet. China is straining to manage a slowdown. Brazil and others in Latin America are struggling."

Source: © 2014 NPR

From Civil Engineer to Instant Imprints Franchisee

Continued from page 1

I receive a lot of help from other Instant Imprints franchisees. The home office does a lot of research on industry topics that allows us to remain a leader in the industry. This is the beauty of being part of this wonderful organization: I can pay full attention to my business while having the newest industry information and technology provided to me.

What were the most unexpected challenges of opening your franchise?

I am a free spirit. I have to remind myself that there is no reason to experiment with business practices when Instant Imprints has a model that is already proven.

What advice do you have for individuals who want to own their own franchise?

Make sure your values are matched by the franchise. It has to be a good fit not only financially, but in all other ways too.

What's next for you and your business?

I am growing my business now. I am planning on learning more in the next year about logistics of our production and then helping our franchise grow and open more stores in Georgia and in the Southeast.

Source: www.entrepreneur.com/article/241682

California Sub-Bid Request Ads

REQUESTING SUB-QUOTES
FROM QUALIFIED
LBE/SLBE/VSLBE/DBE/WBE
SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS FOR:
I-880 / SR-92 Reliever Route – Phase 1 Project
City Project No.: 5197
Alameda CTC Project No. 615
Owner: City of Hayward
Engineers' Estimate: \$11,960,000.
BID DATE: January 20, 2015 @ 2:00 PM

Items of work include but are not limited to: Minor Concrete, Asphalt Dike, Electrical, Erosion Control, Fencing, Landscape, Lime Treatment, Masonry, Metal Beam Guard Rail, Road Signs, Sheet Pile Shoring, Striping, Tree Removal, Clearing, Underground Sewer / Storm Drain / Water, Joint Trench, SWPPP, Sweeping, Trucking Base Rock, Asphalt, Concrete Off Haul, Dirt Off Haul.

Granite Rock Company 'Graniterock' is signatory to Operating Engineers, Laborers, Teamsters, Carpenters and Cement Masons unions. 100% performance and payment bonds will be required from a qualified surety company for the full amount of the subcontract price. Bonding assistance is available. Graniterock will pay bond premium up to 1.5%. In addition to bonding assistance, subcontractors are encouraged to contact Graniterock Estimating with questions regarding obtaining lines of credit, insurance, equipment, materials and/or supplies, or with any questions you may have. Subcontractors must possess a current contractor's license, insurance and worker's compensation coverage. Subcontractors will be required to enter into our standard contract. Graniterock intends to work cooperatively with all qualified firms seeking work on this project. Granite Rock Company is an equal opportunity employer.

Granite Rock Company

120 Granite Rock Way, San Jose, CA 95136
Phone (408) 574-1400 Fax (408) 365-9548

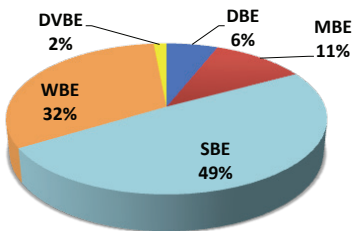
Contact: Randy Bonino

Email: estimating@graniterock.com

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AUDIENCE PROFILE

Small Business Exchange, Inc.



CDM Smith, an environmental, engineering, and consulting firm is seeking qualified White Men, White Women and Ethnic Minority owned firms for consideration to join our proposed team for the East Bay Municipal Utility District Sobrante & Upper San Leandro Water Treatment Plants Ozone System Improvements Project.

Services potentially needed include:

- Electrical power quality and harmonics testing
- Constructability review
- Drafting
- Acoustical modeling, analysis, and design
- Corrosion protection testing and design
- Architecture
- Landscaping and irrigation
- HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning)
- Fire protection
- Geotechnical field investigation and laboratory testing
- Surveying

Interested firms should review the RFP, which can be downloaded here: <https://www.ebmud.com/business/professional-and-general-services/design-services-for-ozone-system-improvements>

Interested firms should also send written verification of your interest via email to Sandy Isaacson at isaacsonsm@cdmsmith.com. Please submit your qualifications on or before **January 15, 2015** in order for your firm to be considered for the project. Your submission should include:

- Key staff resume, one page maximum, including:

- o Years of employment with firm
- o Total years of experience
- o Project role
- o Availability on this project (%)
- o Phone, fax and email contact information
- o Education
- o Relevant experience
- o Certifications and/or merits

- Documentation of local, small and/or micro business status

- Description of services to be provided (from the list of potential requested services)

- Description of experience providing these services at water or wastewater treatment plants, in particular for plants with ozonation facilities, and/or for EBMUD.

- Exceptions to the sample contract provided in the RFP

- Copy of DBE/MBE/WBE/DVBE/OBE certifications
- Your firm must be registered or eligible for registration as an EBMUD Vendor

If you are not interested in joining our team, please send an email stating such by January 14, 2015.

For further information about the EBMUD Request for Proposal, please contact Sandy Isaacson by email at isaacsonsm@cdmsmith.com or by phone at 760-710-4678.

Small Business Exchange

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