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Supplemental Letter for FY2014 Semi-Annual HUB Report for Agency 327

The Employees Retirement System of Texas (ERS) is actively committed to promoting contract opportunities to certified Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB). Below is a brief summary of ERS' "good faith efforts" in the State of Texas HUB program during the period of 9/1/2013 through 2/28/2014.

Participation in HUB Related Meetings and Forums:

- Sponsored an exhibitor booth at the "13th Annual Texas Association of African American Chambers of Commerce Conference" on September 26 through September 28, 2013 in Austin.
- Sponsored an exhibitor booth at the Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce' "38th Annual Convention and Business Expo" on October 2 through October 4, 2013 in Houston.
- ERS registered for some additional events that were ultimately canceled due to the unusual number of inclement weather events during this reporting period. Once these events are rescheduled, ERS fully plans to participate.

Regular HUB Outreach Activities:

- ERS regularly communicates with vendors to consider becoming certified as HUB vendors with the State of Texas. ERS directs potential HUB vendors to resources available from TPASS to help them determine whether the vendors are qualified to become certified HUB vendors.
- When requested, ERS meets with certified HUB vendors to discuss the products and/or services that vendors provide and the potential opportunities available at ERS. In addition, ERS provides assistance to HUB vendors by directing them to other State Agencies who may also be interested in the vendors' products and/or services.
- On all agency requests, ERS first contacts eligible HUB vendors to ensure that the contract opportunities are made available to them.
- On jobs requiring the informal bidding process, ERS regularly contacts more than the minimum of two (2) HUB vendors to request pricing.

The Employees Retirement System of Texas will continue our goal to increase HUB vendor participation. For additional information, or if you have any questions about ERS's efforts in the HUB program, please feel free to contact the following Purchasing Team Leader:

Christopher E. Wood
Phone: (512) 867-7160
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Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Mike Wheeler, CPA
Chief Financial Officer