**Business Enterprises Program Report**

**May 2025**

**Vision:** The California Business Enterprises Program (BEP) is the preferred food service of choice. This self-employment option expands the economic opportunities for the blind while providing an enjoyable experience for the customer. The program’s advances affirm that people with disabilities are integral to the social and economic success of our world.

Below are significant updates that have occurred since the last Blind Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting.

**BEP Staffing Overview**

**Central Office:**

Raj Basi joined the BEP Central Office as our new Training Officer on March 12, 2025. Raj brings a wealth of experience and a diverse background to the training team. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from California State University, Stanislaus.

Raj’s career has been dedicated to improving student outcomes and supporting school communities across California. His professional experience includes roles as a Middle School Classroom Teacher, Curriculum Trainer, and Professional Development Specialist. He is particularly passionate about innovative training methods and frequently explores the latest research in Adult Learning Theory to enhance trainee engagement.

**Northern Field Office:**

As of February 2025, the Northern Field Office successfully filled its vacant Office Technician (OT) position. Michael Nguyen has transitioned into the role and is performing well.

The Associate Governmental Program Analyst (AGPA), Business Enterprises Consultant (BEC) position is currently in the selection process and is expected to be filled soon.

**Southern Field Office:**

The Southern Field Office (SFO) currently has a vacancy for the Office Technician (OT) position, following the resignation of Maisha Garner, effective April 4, 2025. The SFO will advertise the position in the coming weeks. To ensure continuity of services, the SFO team and Northern Region staff will provide interim support for critical OT functions until the position is filled.

**Public Records Requests Overview**

The Central Office processed one (1) request for public records this quarter.

**Location Announcements, Awards, and Selections Overview**

February 1, 2025 – April 31, 2025

**Location Announcements:**

* Satellite Location: Gregory Bateson Building
* Interim Location, 256: South Central Los Angeles Mail Processing Center
* Primary Location, 863: Folsom State Prison and California State Prison Sacramento
* Primary Location, 864: California Institute for Men and California Institute for Women
* Primary Location, 817: John “Chuck” Erreca Safety Roadside Rest Area

**Awarded Locations:**

* Satellite Location: Gregory Bateson Building – Awarded to Jesse Lopez
* Interim Location: South Central Los Angeles Mail Processing Center – Gloria Blanco

**Pending Selections:**

* Primary Location, 863: Folsom State Prison and California State Prison Sacramento
* Primary Location, 864: California Institute for Men and California Institute for Women
* Primary Location, 817: John “Chuck” Erreca Safety Roadside Rest Area

**Procurement Section Overview**

February 1, 2025 – April 31, 2025

* 7 pieces of equipment totaling $5,809.94
* 27 Vending Machines totaling $91,094.03

Procurement total for all equipment is $96,903.97 for this period.

**Other Key Activities**

* **CVPC Professional Services Funding:**

BEP submitted the annual memorandum to the CVPC committee detailing the available funds for professional services in 2025. From January through December 2024, vending machine commissions on state property totaled $149,869.10. In accordance with policy, ten percent (10%), or $14,986.91, will be allocated to the CVPC for contracting professional services in 2025.

* **BEP Vendor Retirement Contributions:**

BEP collaborated with DOR Accounting to complete the annual deposit of vending machine commission funds into individual BEP vendor retirement accounts. These deposits, reflecting 2024 commissions, were finalized by the end of March 2025.

* **BEP Educational Training Conference:**

BEP staff and CVPC members of the training subcommittee, are planning the annual vendor education training conference that will occur this fall. BEP and CVPC will host the 2025, in-person, vendor educational conference, September 3rd, 4th and 5th at the Hilton Hotel, Anaheim, CA. There will be a packed agenda of guests from across the food service industry presenting on various topics. We look forward to a conference that offers something for everyone.

* **Recognition for Excellence in Food Service:**

The Captain Edward F. Ney Memorial Award represents the highest honor awarded to shore and afloat galleys for excellence in food service. We proudly congratulate BEP vendor, Jerry Gann and his team, on receiving the prestigious Five-Star rating for Best Navy Galley in 2025 for the San Diego Naval Base Galley. The award ceremony will take place on May 17-20, 2025, at McCormick Place in Chicago, IL, during the National Restaurant Association Conference.

**State Employees Ordered Back to the Office—What It Means for BEP Businesses**

A Governor’s executive issued memo has directed state agencies to return their employees to the office 4-days a week. These changes are set to take effect on July 1, 2025.

Why It Matters**:** The return of state employees to the office could significantly impact convenience services operators in state buildings and surrounding areas. Increased foot traffic and a more consistent presence of employees may drive higher demand for vending machines, micro-markets, and other convenience services, creating opportunities for growth and revenue recovery for our BEP vendors.