**Business Enterprises Program Report**

**August 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:**

Our Program Manager, Kelly Snow, retired at the end of June. We are actively recruiting to fill this critical leadership role and ensure continued program effectiveness and strategic oversight.

**Northern Field Office:**

The Northern Field Office has successfully filled its vacant Associate Governmental Program Analyst (AGPA), Business Enterprises Consultant (BEC) position. Nia Lutu joined the team in mid-May, bringing valuable food service management experience. She has quickly acclimated to the role and is actively engaging with her assigned vendors.

Recruitment is currently underway for the Staff Services Analyst (SSA), Program and Procurement Analyst position. The selection process will be held in August with the position expected to be filled shortly after. This position will provide review and analysis of financial compliance, and procurement services to BEP in collaboration with the BECs.

**Southern Field Office:**

The BEP Southern Region is currently fully staff. We completed the selection process to fill the Office Technician (OT) vacancy. Yumi Muanpho was selected as the new OT effective July 7, 2025.

**Public Records Requests Overview**

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

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

Reporting Period: May 1, 2025 – July 31, 2025

**Location Announcements:**

* **Primary Location (3-1060-S):** Tani Cantil-Sakauye Sacramento County Courthouse
* **Primary Location (3-1029-S):** Camp Roberts Roadside Rest Area, Shandon Roadside Rest Area, California Men’s Colony, Department of State Hospitals – Atascadero
* **Primary Location (7-864-S), 2nd Round Announcement:** California Institute for Men, California Institute for Women
* **Primary Location (3-817-S), 2nd Round Announcement:** John C. Erreca Roadside Rest Area
* **Interim Location (3-817-S), 3rd Round Announcement:** John C. Erreca Roadside Rest Area
* **Satellite Location (7-1006-F):** SPAWAR Old Town Campus, Navy Government Administration Facility, East County Regional Center Courthouse
* **Interim Location (7-1039-S):** San Diego Central Superior Courthouse

**Awarded Locations:**

* **Primary Location (3-1060-S):** Tani Cantil-Sakauye Sacramento County Courthouse – *Awarded to BEP Vendor, Humberto Carbajal*
* **Primary Location (3-1029-S):** Camp Roberts Roadside Rest Area, Shandon Roadside Rest Area, California Men’s Colony, Department of State Hospitals – Atascadero – *Awarded to BEP Vendor, Andrew Gonzales*
* **Interim Location (3-817-S):** John C. Erreca Roadside Rest Area – *Awarded to BEP Vendor, Stephen Alford*

**Pending Selections:**

* **Primary Location (7-864-S):** California Institute for Men, California Institute for Women
* **Satellite Location (7-1006-F):** SPAWAR Old Town Campus, Navy Government Administration Facility, and East County Regional Center Courthouse
* **Interim Location (7-1039-S):** San Diego Central Superior Courthouse

**Procurement Section Overview**

May 1, 2025 – July 31, 2025

* Four (4) pieces of equipment totaling $21,710.71

 Procurement total for all equipment is $21,710.71 for this period.

**BEP Training Overview**

On March 12th, 2025, BEP hired Raj Basi for the Training Officer role. Over the last four months, Raj has diligently learned the important topics related to BEP. He has spent a week at Orientation Center for the Blind in April, and he attended the NAMA show in Las Vegas in May. Raj is currently in the process of revamping the training curriculum to meet the demands of a 5-hour class day. The Training Class will start in September 2025.

**Other Key Activities**

* BEP currently has one pending Full Evidentiary Hearings (FEH) and is scheduled for September 24, 2025.
* BEP will be hosting a Statewide Vendor Training Conference in Anaheim from

September 3rd – 5th, 2025, for current vendors. One notable training presentation that will be provided is workplace safety training. BEP has collaborated with Barragan Corp International (BCI) and the DGS Office of Risk and Insurance Management (ORIM) to provide the BEP vendors with a worker’s comp training presentation. The presentation will be related to safer work environments, slip and fall, lifting heavy equipment/machinery, common trends that result in claims for restaurant owners, and anything additional the trainer believes will be beneficial for our vendors.

* **CA Prison Vending Bill Paused**

California’s proposal (AB 800) to regulate vending prices in state prisons will not move forward this legislative session. Key concerns remained unresolved and this bill not advancing through the legislative process is the best outcome for operators in California.

* + **Why This Matters to BEP vendors:**

AB 800 could have imposed rigid and unrealistic pricing mandates on vending operators in California state prisons, with vague compliance requirements that may have exposed vending operators to potential liability or contract disputes. With the bill no longer advancing California BEP operators are not subject to unworkable restrictions or mandates.

* + **Real Impact:**

Max Duarte, the elective California Vendor Policy Committee Chairperson (CVPC), along with several BEP vendors, delivered powerful testimony to the legislature, highlighting the true impact that the bill would have had on small business owners operating within the BEP.