

CALIFORNIA UNIFORM PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION COST ACCOUNTING ACT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

1. Are change orders allowed by the Act, and if so what is allowable?
What if a change order goes over one of the allowed thresholds?

The Act does not address change orders. Please consult with your agency's legal counsel regarding any limitation on change orders that may apply to your agency.

2. Is there any training related to the Act? If so, where can I find a list of where the training is offered?

SCO has information regarding the Act on the SCO/CUCCAC website, including the current Cost Accounting and Procedures Manual. Often, commissioners are willing to provide training, answer questions, and/or give a presentation in order to assist agencies in getting the full benefits of participating in the Act.

3. How can a contractor get on an agency's list of contractors?

The California Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Commission's webpage has a list of agencies that are participating in the California Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act (CUPCCAA). Please contact each agency directly to let them know you would like to be on their list of contractors. For a list of participating agencies, please see the "Participating Agency Lists" header at the following link: https://www.sco.ca.gov/ard_cuccac.html

More detailed instructions for contractors can be found in Section 1.04.01 of the Cost Accounting Policies and Procedures Manual

4. Does a contractor have to be on an agency's contractor list in order to perform projects less than \$60,000?

No, any public project less than the \$60,000 informal bidding threshold can be performed by employees of the public agency, by negotiated contract, or by purchase order. An agency's list of

contractors is only required to be alerted of projects that surpass the informal bidding threshold.

5. The Act states that public projects of sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) or less may be performed by the employees of a public agency by force account, by negotiated contract, or by purchase order. However, the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) states any project over \$1,000 has to pay prevailing wages. How do the Act and DIR guidance work together?

The Act and DIR are completely separate and govern different aspects of public projects. The Act focuses on bidding related to public projects and DIR deals with wages paid by contractors on public projects. However, they may relate in that if prevailing wages are not paid on a public project, that could potentially impact the total cost of a project which would require a different bidding process utilized under the Act.