

California Uniform Construction Cost Accounting Commission

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Auditor-Controller
County of Contra Costa
Counties

George Hicks
Director of Public Works
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Cities

Steven L. Hartwig
Deputy Public Works Director
City of American Canyon
Cities

Jeff Armstrong
Apprenticeship Director
Northern CA Laborers' Union
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Cesar Diaz
Legislative Director
State Building and Construction
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Michael R. Hester
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Subcontractors

David Cruce
Vice President-Estimating, Business
Development and Materials
Papich Construction Inc.
General Contractors

Ken Kayser
Construction Consultant
General Contractors

Special Districts
Vacant

Date:

To: All Public Agencies

Re: Notification of Changes to the Uniform Public Construction
Cost Accounting Act

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to highlight the provisions and benefits of the Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act (Act), which provides public agencies economic benefits and greater freedom to expedite public works projects. If your agency elects to utilize the Act, it will benefit from expanded force-account authority, increased bid limits and a more informal bidding procedure.

Established in 1983, the Act amended the Public Contract Code to provide more flexible, expedited bidding, and contract award procedures to participating public agencies. The Act is unique in that participation and utilization of its provisions are not mandatory. Any city, county, special district, school district or community college district can voluntarily elect to become a participant of the Act. After opting into the Act by resolution or ordinance of its governing body, participants may enjoy the advantage of more streamlined awards process, as well as a reduction in advertising requirements and other reporting paperwork. In return, signatory agencies agree to provide cost accounting information in the format prescribed in the *Cost Accounting Policies and Procedure Manual* and to adhere to the terms of the Act until the agency formally opts out. The Act has been popular and successfully utilized by many public agencies. Thirty-three years after its adoption, there are currently over 1,000 public agencies that have elected to utilize the Act. If your agency has not yet elected to participate in the Act, I hope that you will consider joining these other agencies by electing to do so.

In an effort to further improve the usefulness of the Act as a project delivery tool for participating public agencies, revisions have recently been made. These revisions include additional streamlining of the award process contained in the Act that favors public agencies.

The Act is governed by the California Uniform Construction Cost Accounting Commission (CUCCAC). The CUCCAC membership is comprised of representatives from both public agencies and the private construction industry.

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Every five years, the CUCCAC reviews the bid limits in the Act for inflation and other factors to determine when increases should be made. The most recent increases allow projects costing \$45,000 or less to be performed by employees of a public agency or contracted out without competitive bidding; projects costing up to \$175,000 can be contracted by informal bidding procedures and awarded at the staff level, and projects over \$175,000 are to be contracted by formal bidding procedures.

For more details or information, please contact the Local Government Programs and Services Division at LocalGovPolicy@sco.ca.gov or visit our website at <http://www.sco.ca.gov/ard/local/cuccac>

Sincerely,

Lj Clifford

L. J. CLIFFORD, Chair