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**Transbay Joint Powers Authority's Outstanding Small and Disadvantaged
Business Outreach on Display During Visit by SBA Administrator Maria
Contreras-Sweet**

*Transbay Joint Powers Authority hosts Administrator Contreras-Sweet for a small business roundtable to discuss TJPA's
outstanding effort to partner with small, local, disadvantaged and veteran business enterprises*

San Francisco, Calif. (March 2, 2015) – Small Business Administration (SBA) Administrator Maria Contreras-Sweet visited the Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA) today to learn more about the organization's robust small, local, disadvantaged and veteran business enterprise (SBE and DBE) outreach program, which has served as the inspiration for SBE policy changes at the state level.

During her visit, Administrator Contreras-Sweet learned that over 140 small and disadvantaged businesses have been contracted to work on the Transbay Transit Center Project since 2010. Certified small and disadvantaged business enterprises account for more than 17% of construction work at the Transbay Project.

"When I was Secretary of the California Business Transportation & Housing Agency I worked with Maria-Ayerdi Kaplan on the ground-floor planning of the Transbay Transit Center which was destined to become one of the most visionary public works projects in the United States. Ms. Ayerdi-Kaplan shared my passion for creating a project that would improve mobility for Californians, create jobs for small businesses and underserved communities during its construction and ultimately become the 'Grand Central Station of the West.'"

The TJPA's success stems from an inclusive outreach approach. Working with 72 Chambers of Commerce throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, the TJPA has created a strong network that allows opportunities to be shared effectively with a diverse range of business communities.

The TJPA has worked to expand that network further, hosting the first-ever LGBT-focused small business partnership event conducted by a major public works project in September 2013. The successful effort served as the inspiration for California State Assembly Bill 1678, which requires that public utilities extend existing SBE and DBE considerations to LGBT business enterprises.

In addition to these efforts, the TJPA has made it a priority to support veteran and disabled veteran business enterprises working to become involved in the project, and has partnered with its general contractor, Webcor Obayashi Joint Ventures, to provide resources to help qualified veterans find work in the construction trades.

“We are proud to share with Administrator Contreras-Sweet how our culture of giving back to the community with a tax-payer funded project has provided millions of dollars in contracting opportunities to small and disadvantaged businesses, veterans, and disabled veterans.” said Transbay Joint Powers Authority Executive Director Maria Ayerdi-Kaplan.

Administrator Contreras-Sweet ended her visit to the TJPA by participating in a small business roundtable with six of the TJPA’s SBE and DBE partners. During the roundtable, the Administrator heard directly from HT Tran of Anvil Builders, Julie Berry and Micah Wade of Cal-Con Pumping, Diane Leider of City Source and Rental, Vic and Karen Rollandi of SDV Services, Oscar Zavaleta of The Montez Group, and Asad Anwer, a small business banking consultant. The small and disadvantaged business representatives expressed pride in working on such an important project, and their gratitude for the support provided by the TJPA.

“The TJPA has been an excellent partner in this process,” said veteran and small business owner HT Tran. “They have ensured that everyone in this community has a chance to compete on this project, and it has been a pleasure doing business with them.”

The Transbay Transit Center, known as the “Grand Central Station of the West,” is a revolutionary transportation facility that will transform the South of Market neighborhood into the new heart of downtown. The Transit Center will connect eight Bay Area counties and 11 transit systems, including future High Speed Rail. The Transbay Transit Center Phase 1 is scheduled to open in late 2017. To learn more about the project, please visit our website at www.TransbayCenter.org.

The Transbay Transit Center project is made possible in part by the U.S. Department of Transportation, State of California, Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Proposition K Sales Tax dollars provided by the San Francisco County Transportation Authority, City and County of San Francisco, San Francisco Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure, San Mateo County Transportation Authority and AC Transit.