

## Supplier Diversity Frequently asked Questions

### Q: What happens after I register?

A: After you've completed your supplier registration, your information will be kept in the Supplier Pipeline. It is your responsibility to keep this information current. In addition to your certifications, a valid email address is probably the most important element of your registration profile.

### Q: Will I receive RFPs/RFQs from American Water on a regular basis?

A: When a sourcing opportunity for your industry-specific business arises, American Water will access this system to search for suppliers. At that point, you may be contacted to submit additional information.

### Q: Does certification ensure that I will be able to do business with American Water?

A: No. If an opportunity presents itself, American Water will contact you to begin the RFP process. At that time, you will be asked to demonstrate your company's value proposition for the product or service you are offering. However, please note that American Water prefers that all MWDVBE's are certified diverse suppliers.

### Q: Can I schedule a meeting with an American Water representative, to tell them about my product/service?

A: American Water representatives will be present at many of the national and region supplier-diversity events that take place across the U.S. The organizations that plan these events often include one-on-one meetings in their agenda. Beyond that, American Water will gladly host a meeting with your business if there is a sourcing opportunity for your industry-specific business.

### Q: I'm not a M/WBE or SDVOSB. I am, however, another designation (8a, HUBZone, etc.). Does that mean that I can't bid on projects or do business with American Water?

A: All diverse businesses may register in our Supplier Pipeline. If an opportunity presents itself, American Water will contact you to begin the RFP process. At that time, you will be asked to demonstrate your company's value proposition for the product or service you are offering. Certified MWDVBE's , 8a, and Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUBZone), etc. are equally recognized as value-add suppliers within the American Water Supply Chain.

### Q: Why is Supplier Diversity important to American Water?

A. A few reasons why Supplier diversity is important to us because...

It represents our diverse customer base

It is important to the growth of our business.

It demonstrates social responsibility.

**Being certified means being visible.**

Here are some of the agencies who can help your company become certified as being an Ethnic Minority, Woman/Women, Veteran or Service Disabled Veteran Owned Business Enterprise.

- City and/or State certifying agencies including Department of Transportation (DoT), Affirmative Action Offices, Economic Development, Civil Rights, Unified Certification Program among others.
- California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) M/WBE Clearinghouse
- Canadian Aboriginal Minority Supplier Council
- Canadian Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (CGLCC)
- National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
- National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC) Regional Councils
- National Women Business Owners Corporation (NWBOC)
- SBA 8(a) Program
- SBA HUBZone Program
- SBA Women-Owned Small Business (WOSB) & Economically Disadvantaged Women-Owned Small Business (EDWOSB)
- US Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce
- VETBIZ-Veteran Owned Small Business (VOSB)/Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB)
- WEConnect International
- WEConnect Canada
- Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC)
- US Business Leadership Network (USBLN)
- Standardized Self Certification Form - Small, Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB), Veteran Owned Small Business (VOSB), and Serviced Disable Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB)

For additional questions please contact [supplierdiversity@amwater.com](mailto:supplierdiversity@amwater.com)