

N E W S R E L E A S E

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DIR Launches Improved Public Works Contractor Registration System

Oakland—The Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) has improved key features of the online Public Works Contractor Registration ([PWCR](#)) system. Contractors can now print out proof of registration filing, and verify the renewal or application is complete by running a search on the [database of qualified public works contractors](#). A user guide with [instructions](#) has also been posted online.

Improvements to the PWCR system are part of the [ongoing implementation of Senate Bill 854](#). SB 854, which became effective June 20, 2014, established a new [public works program](#) to replace the Compliance Monitoring Unit and Labor Compliance Program requirements for bond-funded and other public works projects. The new program covers all public works in the state rather than just selected categories of projects. The Labor Commissioner's Office continues to monitor and enforce prevailing wage requirements.

“DIR has taken the feedback from the public works community to enhance the PWCR system. Our goal is to make it easier and faster for contractors and agencies to meet their legal requirements,” said DIR Director Christine Baker. The Labor Commissioner's Office, also known as the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE), is a division of DIR.

Contractors must register and meet requirements using the PWCR application before bidding on public works contracts in California. Using any Internet-connected computer, public works contractors can create an account, securely pay the \$300 application or renewal fee and complete the application at their convenience. The registration process is finished when proof of payment is completed with the financial institution. If paying by credit card, the registration process is completed within 24 hours.

“The online PWCR system was first launched nearly one year ago, and has already helped to level the playing field for the public works community. These system improvements show our continued commitment to ensuring public works contracts are awarded fairly and with minimal hassle,” said Labor Commissioner Julie A. Su.

Among its wide-ranging enforcement responsibilities, the Labor Commissioner's Office inspects workplaces for wage and hour violations, adjudicates wage claims, enforces prevailing wage rates and apprenticeship standards in public works projects, investigates retaliation complaints, issues licenses and registrations for businesses and educates the public on labor laws.

The most recent information related to California labor law is available on the Labor Commissioner's [website](#) as well as on Facebook and Twitter pages. "Wage Theft is a Crime," a multilingual [campaign](#) initiated statewide earlier this year, provides detail on how to identify and report wage theft, retaliation and other labor law violations.

Employees with work-related questions or complaints may also call the toll-free California Workers' Information Line at (866) 924-9757 for recorded information in English and Spanish.

For media inquiries, contact Erika Monterroza at (510) 286-1164 or Peter Melton at (510) 286-7046.

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The [California Department of Industrial Relations](#), established in 1927, protects and improves the health, safety, and economic well-being of over 18 million wage earners, and helps their employers comply with state labor laws. DIR is housed within the [Labor & Workforce Development Agency](#). For general inquiries, contact DIR's Communications Call Center at 1-844-LABOR-DIR (1-844-522-6734) for help in locating the appropriate [division or program](#) in our department.