

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
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**IMPORTANT NOTICE
TO AWARDING BODIES AND INTERESTED PARTIES REGARDING
THE PREVAILING WAGE RATES BELOW THE CALIFORNIA MINIMUM WAGE**

In accordance with Labor Code Sections 1770, 1773, and 1773.1, the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations is responsible for determining the prevailing wage rates for each worker employed on public works projects of more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

Effective January 1, 2026, the minimum wage in California will increase to \$16.90 per hour. The Director's prevailing wage determinations shall not be below the California minimum wage. Each employer is required to pay at least the California minimum wage for the basic hourly rate in all cases where the published prevailing wage rate is below the California minimum wage. Any and all employer payments required by these determinations must also be paid.

If the California minimum wage is increased in the future to an amount above that shown in a prevailing wage determination, the basic hourly rate in that determination automatically increases to the new minimum wage.