Adoption of Prevailing Wage Rates

Presented by
Riley Wood, Senior Staff Attorney
Government Code 2258

• Requires governmental entities to adopt prevailing wage rates for public works projects:
  – Conduct a survey
  – Use Davis-Bacon Act Rates
Meeting Date: April 30, 2018

Brazos River Basin of Texas

Basin Facts:
- More than 42,000 square miles
- Second largest drainage area in Texas
- Brazos River stretches almost 950 miles
- Home to more than 3,000,000 people
- Highest elevation is 4,360 feet
Recommend using Davis-Bacon Act rates, because the rates are generally updated annually and by locality (county)
“WHEREAS, Texas Government Code Chapter 2258 requires the Brazos River Authority to determine the general prevailing rate of per diem wages in the locality in which a public work is to be performed for each craft or type of worker needed to execute the contract by:
1) conducting a survey of the wages received by classes of workers employed on projects of a character similar to the contract work in the political subdivision of the state in which the public work is to be performed; or

2) using the prevailing wage rate as determined by the United States Department of Labor in accordance with the Davis-Bacon Act, and its subsequent amendments;
WHEREAS, the territory comprising the Brazos River Authority includes all or part of 71 counties, with projects situated across the region in various environments ranging from very rural to metropolitan, making determination of a single prevailing wage rate to be utilized for the entirety of the basin impractical;
WHEREAS, the territory comprising the Brazos River Authority includes all or part of 71 counties, with projects situated across the region in various environments ranging from very rural to metropolitan, making determination of a single prevailing wage rate to be utilized for the entirety of the basin impractical; and

WHEREAS, the prevailing wage rate as determined by the United States Department of Labor, in accordance with the Davis-Bacon Act, establishes prevailing wage rates by locality.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Brazos River Authority shall determine prevailing wage rates for public works projects of the Brazos River Authority by using the prevailing wage rates as determined by the United States Department of Labor, in accordance with the Davis-Bacon Act.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Brazos River Authority shall determine prevailing wages in accordance with the most recent Davis-Bacon Act prevailing wage rate information available for the locality in which the particular project is located.”