



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## **DBE Reevaluation Overview:**

**The US DOT Interim  
Final Rule (IFR)**

**Executive Industry  
Briefing**

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Rights

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# Agenda



- Welcome & Introduction
- Purpose of This Briefing
- IFR issued by The US DOT
- What Changed under the IFR
- What DBE Firms Must Submit (Reevaluation Process)
- California CUCP Response
- Where We Are Now
- Reevaluation Phases
- Timeline after Submission
- Industry Role
- Q & A's

# Purpose of Today's Briefing

- Provide an update on the federally mandated DBE reevaluation issued by The US DOT
- Clarify current program status
- Outline the timeline moving forward
- Explain what this means for industry partners



# The US DOT Interim Final Rule Updates

- Effective October 3, 2025
- Eliminated race- and gender-based presumptions
- Requires individualized determinations of disadvantage
- Mandates reevaluation of all certified DBE firms nationwide
- Implemented under 49 CFR Part 26 – Federal DBE Program

Regulations





# Required Submission Components for DBEs

- Personal Narrative describing individualized disadvantage
- Updated Personal Net Worth (PNW) documentation
- Declaration of Eligibility
- Business tax and financial records
- Updated ownership and control documentation

# Who Must Participate

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- All DBEs certified before October 3, 2025, must complete the reevaluation package
- Firms who were not certified as of this date are not included but may apply after the reevaluation program is federally approved.
- Reevaluation does not automatically result in decertification; it is a compliance and documentation update process.



# California Unified Certification Program (CUCP)



9 certifying agencies statewide



Coordinated implementation across California



Approximately 3,200 Caltrans-certified DBEs subject to review.



Phased, standardized statewide process



# Where We Are Now



## What Has Started

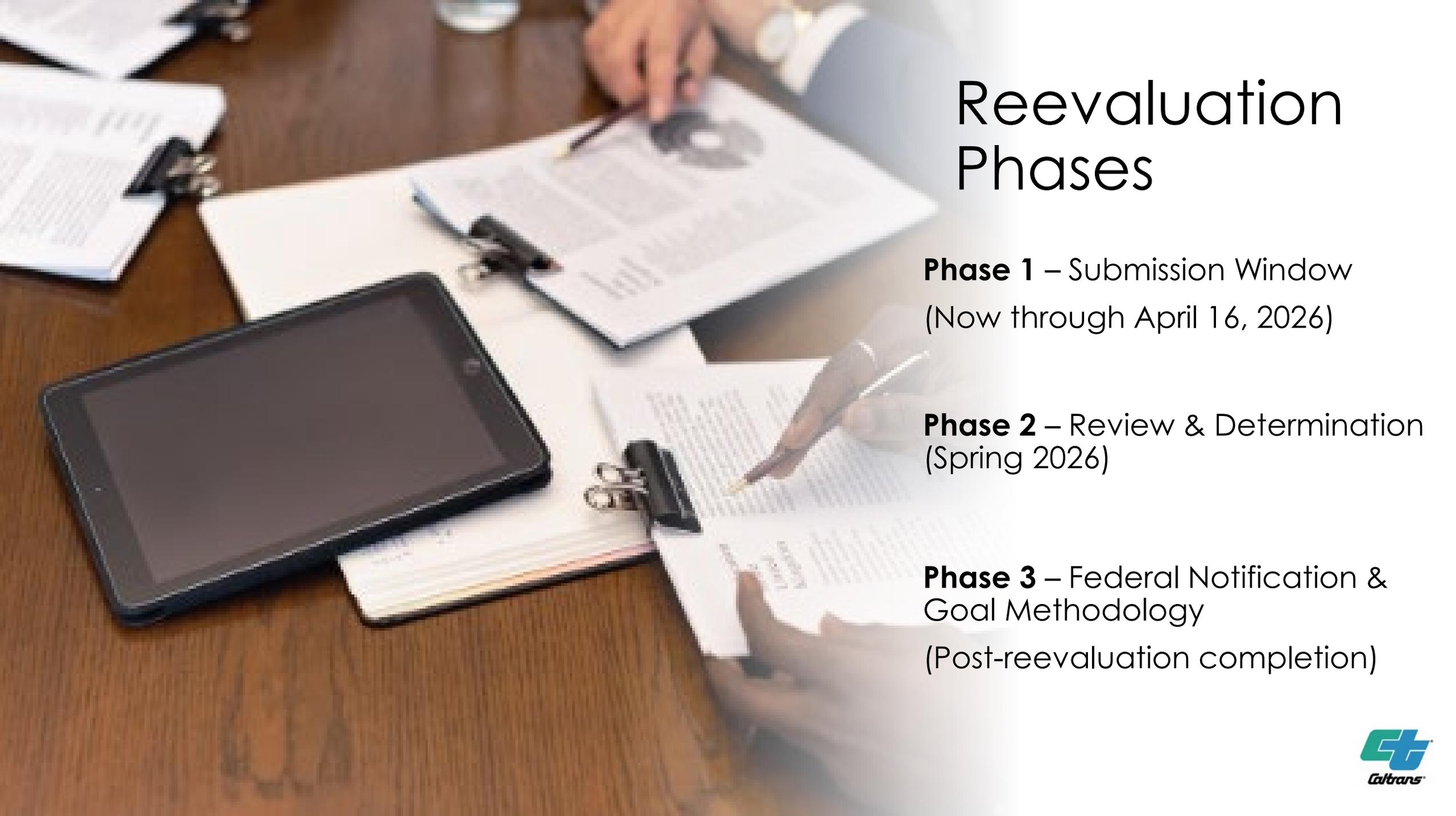
- Reevaluation notices issued March 2, 2026
- 45-calendar days submission window (through April 16, 2026)
- Caltrans actively processing reevaluation packages

## What Has NOT Started

- DBE goal setting on new contracts
- DBE participation counting toward goals
- Full program restart

# What This Means for Industry

- Existing contract DBE commitments remain enforceable
- Prompt Payment and substitution requirements remain in effect
- No new DBE goals may be set at this time

A person's hands are seen reviewing documents on a wooden desk. A tablet is open to the left, and a notebook is open in the foreground. The person is pointing at a document with a pen. The background shows more papers and a glass of water.

# Reevaluation Phases

**Phase 1** – Submission Window  
(Now through April 16, 2026)

**Phase 2** – Review & Determination  
(Spring 2026)

**Phase 3** – Federal Notification &  
Goal Methodology  
(Post-reevaluation completion)

# What Happens After Submission Window Closes?

- CUCP completes review of submitted packages
- Certification determinations finalized
- Formal notification to The US DOT
- Development of updated goal-setting methodology
- The US DOT/FHWA approval required before goals resume



# Industry Role During Reevaluation

- Continue meeting DBE commitments on existing contracts
- Avoid representing that the program has restarted
- Encourage DBE firms to respond promptly to notices
- Direct firms to OCR for official guidance for our website or

Contact Caltrans DBE Reevaluation email at:

[dbereevaluation@dot.ca.gov](mailto:dbereevaluation@dot.ca.gov)



# Next Steps

## Caltrans will provide additional Communication:

- Periodic updates on progress
- When federal approvals are in place
- When DBE goals are to resume and participation is counted



# Questions?

For more information visit the Caltrans DBE Reevaluation Informational Web page:

<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/civil-rights/dbe-reevaluation>



# Thank You

