

Bickmore Secures Significant Contract with the California Department of Insurance, Office of Self-Insurance Plans (DIR/OSIP)

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (August 20, 2013) – Sacramento-based Bickmore, the leading independent risk management, program administration, and actuarial consulting firm in the United States, has secured a two-year contract with the California Department of Industrial Relations, Office of Self Insurance Plans (DIR/OSIP) to provide actuarial and financial consulting services.

"We won this contract because of our history providing trusted services to DIR/OSIP and because of the wealth of expertise we have in our firm," says Gregory L. Trout, CEO of Bickmore. "Whereas other firms might subcontract portions of the contract or assign junior staff to the work, Bickmore will provide all the major services requested by DIR/OSIP with senior staff including fully credentialed actuaries, certified public accountants, and self-insurance regulatory experts," says Trout.

The Office of Self-Insurance Plans is a department within the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) responsible for the oversight and regulation of workers' compensation self-insurance within California. It is also responsible for establishing and insuring that required security deposits are posted by self-insurers in amounts sufficient to collateralize against potential defaults by private self-insured employers and groups.

California has the largest self-insurance workers' compensation market in the nation with one out of every four workers covered by a self-insured employer. Self-insured payroll totals more than \$177 billion, covering more than 4 million workers of 7,000 self-insured employers.

Throughout Bickmore's nearly 30 year history, the firm has been a strong supporter of DIR/OSIP and its efforts to effectively regulate the self-insurance sector in California. Bickmore staff, including certified actuary Mark Priven, FCAS, MAA, who will lead the project, have been subject matter experts on issues impacting the self-insurance market in California.

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Bickmore was the clear winner for this project for the following key reasons:

- Experts have successfully performed many services for DIR/OSIP and the California Self-Insurer's Security Fund for over 10 years.
- Services would be performed by consultants located in Sacramento and the San Francisco Bay Area, thereby increasing their availability and access to DIR/OSIP staff.
- Experienced professionals, each with over ten years of relevant experience and familiarity with California self-insurance, would perform the majority of the work.
- Bickmore provides piece of mind to the DIR/OSIP knowing that our expertise and understanding of the issues will eliminate the learning curve and produce immediate results in a cost effective manner.

"We've assigned an experienced team of ten professionals and support staff, including two certified public accountants, three certified actuaries and are excited to get started," says Mark Priven, FCAS, MAAA, who will serve as the lead actuary and project director. Bickmore is also contracting a part of the project to a disabled veteran's business owner who will provide review services in support of the firm's commitment to equal opportunities and small business inclusion.

Services will begin in fall 2013 and will include actuarial review, analysis, and peer review, peer review of financial statements and audits, forensic accounting and regulatory consulting.

About Bickmore

Bickmore is the nation's largest independent, employee-owned risk management and actuarial consulting firm. The firm manages joint powers authorities and consults with public and private entities in 37 states. Bickmore's 110 employees include credentialed insurance and safety professionals, experienced self-insurance program managers, certified public accountants, attorneys, credentialed actuaries, and certified workers' compensation specialists. Bickmore's main office is in Sacramento, California, with satellite offices in Oakland, Orange, Dana Point, and El Dorado Hills, California; in Ashland and Portland, Oregon; and in Providence, Rhode Island. Visit www.bickmore.net for more information.

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