

Teamster Apprenticeship Program Approved in Southern California

Under the California prevailing wage law, contractors who employ journeymen or apprentices in any “apprenticeable craft” are required to make training contributions in the amount reflected on the applicable prevailing wage determination either to the California Apprenticeship Council or to a state-approved apprenticeship program. Generally, such payments cannot be made paid to the worker, unless he/she is working in a “non-apprenticeable” craft. Until recently, teamsters were not recognized by the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations as an apprenticeable craft and, as such, any training contribution listed in the teamsters general prevailing wage determination could be paid to the worker.

However, the Division of Apprenticeship Standards recently approved a teamster apprenticeship program in Southern California and has indicated that the Department of Industrial Relations now recognizes “teamster” as an apprenticeable craft. It is anticipated that future prevailing wage determinations for the teamster craft will include the # symbol designating it as an apprenticeable craft. Contractors working under such determinations will no longer be able to pay the teamster training contribution directly to the worker; instead, such contributions will have to be paid to the California Apprenticeship Program or to the Teamsters JAC. Also, contractors working on public works jobs in Southern California will be required to request the dispatch of teamster apprentices from the Construction Teamsters Apprenticeship Fund of Southern California JAC.

If you have any questions, please call attorney Carrie Bushman with Cook Brown, LLP at (916) 442-3100.