

## **Gratuities**

As a government entity, the County of Los Angeles has a policy against improper solicitation to secure favorable treatment in the contracting process. On August 6, 1997 the Board of Supervisors' instructed County departments to include the following language in all contract solicitations:

“It is improper for any County officer, employee or agent to solicit consideration, in any form, from a Bidder/Proposer with the implication, suggestion or statement that the Bidder's/Proposer's provision of the consideration may secure more favorable treatment for the Bidder/Proposer in the award of the Contract or that the Bidder's/Proposer's failure to provide such consideration may negatively affect the County's consideration of the Bidder's/Proposer's submission. A Bidder/Proposer shall not offer or give, either directly or through an intermediary, consideration, in any form, to a County officer, employee or agent for the purpose of securing favorable treatment with respect to the award of the Contract.

A Bidder/Proposer shall immediately report any attempt by a County officer, employee or agent to solicit such improper consideration. The report shall be made either to the County manager charged with the supervision of the employee or to the County Auditor-Controller's Employee Fraud Hotline at (800) 544-6861. Failure to report such a solicitation may result in the Bidder's/Proposer's submission being eliminated from consideration.

Among other items, such improper consideration may take the form of cash, discounts, services, the provision of travel or entertainment, or tangible gifts.”