The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Planning Bench was developed to create opportunities for small and disadvantaged businesses to participate in SANDAG Planning On-Call Contracts. These contracts will support transportation planning projects, which include transportation and land use planning, active transportation planning, and transportation demand management (TDM).

The Bench is a pool of certified small and disadvantaged firms that Prime Consultants are able to access and add to their teams to work on SANDAG task orders. The benefit for small and disadvantaged firms is fostering these new business and partnership opportunities with Prime Consultants that will ultimately help their businesses grow.

These are the requirements to become a Planning Bench firm:

- Must be a planning firm that can provide one or more of the On-Call Planning services listed in the procurement(s)
- Must be certified as one or both of the following:
  - Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firm certified by the California Unified Certification Program (CUCP)
  - Small Business (SB) firm certified by the California Department of General Services (DGS)

The Planning Bench firm is not required to initially be on a Prime’s team and can be added to any task order upon review and approval by the Prime and SANDAG and completed the simplified procurement process. Any Planning firm that meets the certification requirements can apply to be added to the Planning Bench throughout the proposed five-year contract period of performance.

SANDAG encourages On-Call Planning Prime Consultants to use Planning Bench firms that are certified as either DBE or SB. Only firms certified as DBE may be used by the Prime Consultant to meet a DBE goal set by SANDAG on a Planning task order.