## **Equal Employment Opportunity: Policy Statement**

SunLine Transit Agency is committed to equal employment opportunity. This commitment starts with the Board of Directors, which supports a results oriented program aimed at achieving equal employment opportunity throughout all organizational levels at SunLine. The mission of SunLine is "To provide safe and environmentally conscious public transportation services and alternative fuel solutions to meet the mobility needs of the Coachella Valley." Fundamental to SunLine's mission is our obligation to honor the diversity of our workforce and ensure all employees are treated with dignity and respect.

SunLine is committed to the principle of equal employment opportunity for all employees and to providing employees with a work environment free of discrimination and harassment. All employment decisions at SunLine are based on business needs, job requirements and individual qualifications, without regard to race, color, religion, sex, disability, age, national origin, ancestry, genetic information, gender, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, medical condition, national origin, sexual orientation, victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking, protected veteran status, or any other legally protected status. This policy applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including, but not limited to, hiring, placement, promotion, disciplinary actions, termination, layoff, recall, transfer, leaves of absence, compensation and training. Any applicant or employee who believes they have been discriminated or harassed has the right to file a complaint alleging such with the appropriate official.

SunLine will not tolerate discrimination or harassment based on any of the listed characteristics. Every employee has an obligation to ensure the work place is free of discrimination and harassment. Any employee, who has knowledge of or witnesses, discrimination or harassment must report it to their supervisor, manager, EEO Officer. Additionally, SunLine expects its contractors to embrace the principles of EEO and to provide workplaces free of discrimination and harassment.

Equal opportunity can best be achieved through programmed recruitments and personnel practices aligned with Title VII and the Agency's Affirmative Action Plans. Continued efforts to achieve and sustain equal employment opportunities for every employee and applicant requires participation from all levels throughout the Agency, especially at the management and supervisory levels. SunLine will remain proactive in ensuring compliance with its Affirmative Action Plan.

SunLine employees are critical in promoting SunLine as an employer of choice. All current employees of SunLine are requested to encourage qualified disabled persons, minorities, women, special disabled veterans, and Vietnam Era veterans to apply for employment.

SunLine prohibits retaliation against anyone through harassment, intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination because they have engaged or may engage in filing a complaint, assisting in a review, investigation, or hearing or have otherwise sought to obtain their legal rights to any

federal, state or local law regarding EEO, Title VII for qualified individuals with disabilities, or qualified protected veterans.

Our employees have a right to work in an environment free from discrimination and it is the responsibility of every manager and supervisor to assure that a non-discriminatory environment exists. All department heads, managers and supervisors are assigned specific tasks in relation to SunLine's EEO/AA plan and understand that their work performance will be evaluated on the basis of the compliance with and support of the EEO/AA policies and practices, among other Agency policies.

The assignment of the operational task and accountability for implementing the program as the EEO/AA Officer is the responsibility of the Compliance Officer. All applicants and employees have a right to file complaints alleging discrimination with their direct supervisor, manager, department head or the Compliance Officer who is the EEO/AA Coordinator. In addition, our expectation is that all employees will lend their active support to EEO principles and practices.

The successful achievement of SunLine's EEO/AA program goals will benefit all employees by creating a more diverse working environment.

Lauren/L. Skiver

CEO/General Manager

SunLine Transit Agency

Date

For questions or to file an EEO Complaint, please contact SunLine's EEO Officer:

Tamara Miles
DBELO/EEO/Compliance Officer
(760) 343-3456 ext. 1407
tmiles@sunline.org