



Local Union 11-4

International  
Brotherhood of  
Electrical Workers  
AFL-CIO

400 CHATSWORTH DR • SAN FERNANDO, CA 91340 • (818) 361-7774 • FAX (818) 361-0606

Greetings:

Over the past several months, Gary Shekhter has been involved in a lawsuit, **which he initiated**, against the California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR), the California Department of Labor Standards Enforcement, the County of Sacramento, Public Works Department, and the Public Works Compliance Program of Sacramento.

The intent of that lawsuit is to prevent the Public Works Compliance Program of Sacramento, a bonafide Labor Management Compliance Program (LMCC), the ability to obtain "unredacted" certified payroll records (CPR's) as allowed by state law on public works projects. I would *assume* the argument Shekhter would make is that he is protecting "his" employees from the *International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers* [IBEW] and it's efforts to inform and represent Helix employees. Sounds good, but it doesn't hold water. It is not the IBEW which seeks this information. It is a joint labor management committee established pursuant to federal law which seeks this information for the limited purpose of making sure that Helix complies with its legal obligation to pay prevailing wages on public works jobs.

Tens of thousands of dollars are being spent by Shekhter on attorney fees to prevent the LMCC's from verifying payrolls and, when inaccuracies are found, hold cheating contractor's accountable and seeing that their workers receive the wages and benefits that they have earned.

LMCC Prevailing Wage Compliance Programs are utilized to insure that prevailing wage laws are being complied with on public work projects, that is, to insure that every electrical worker (represented by the IBEW, or not) gets paid the wages benefits, etc., as determined by the State. This should be done by the State but, unfortunately, the budget the DLSE has is insufficient to do the job adequately. Because of this, the LMCC's use their own funds to assist the State in this endeavor.

You're aware of the prevailing wage violations from the Concord Legacy project, you know the one where **\$1,000,000.00 plus** was given back to your coworkers when short changed by Shekhter. Sure, he denied any wrongdoing and, unfortunately, some bought his story. Well, the LMCC in San Jose busted him again for cheating 18 of your coworkers out of overtime monies that they rightfully earned, as well as for his failure to pay the correct amount into the required training fund. A complaint was filed by the LMCC in Santa Clara County after reviewing CPR's on the CSU, San Jose project, known as the Campus Village Housing and Retail Project (DLSE Case # 40-17318/218).

DLSE Investigator Rachel Farmer found that Helix Electric failed to pay the correct overtime rates and training fund contributions. Consequently, Helix quietly paid the following amounts:

Unpaid wages - \$7,450.76  
Training Funds - ~~\$9,235.69~~  
**\$16,686.45**

Unfortunately, the claim did not list all of the Helix employees who worked on that project, only the one's that the LMCC could identify from the CPR's received at the time. Those who weren't identified were not part of the case. They have been ripped off and are still owed monies. If you know anyone who is owed money they should contact us and we will put them in contact with the appropriate state officials.

In another part of the state, CPR's were requested from Helix at the Orange County Sanitation District Project but Shekhter, and his high dollar attorney's, refused to comply with State law once again. It wasn't until a lawsuit was threatened by the LMCC that the District forced Shekhter to comply. That project, along with every public works project Helix does, will be monitored on a regular basis to protect you and the standards of our electrical industry.

The LMCC's do not play a part in the IBEW's organizing activities. They stand-alone for their own specific purposes. It seems that Shekhter is under the impression that the IBEW is obtaining workers addresses from them. He is 'mistaken. To be honest, we have compiled our list from other workers, many of whom are interested in knowing their rights under Federal and State laws, while many others are interested in what the IBEW has to offer.

If you have any questions regarding the IBEW, representation, or your rights under Federal and State laws, feel free to contact me at any time. Your call will, as always, be treated as confidential.

If you believe you are being cheated out of your rightful wages and benefits, contact the LMCC Prevailing Wage Compliance Officer who will do everything possible to assist you. There is no fee to you. Their "compensation" is merely the satisfaction of knowing that another electrical worker has been made whole and not exploited by an unscrupulous contractor who is out to line his pockets with monies earned by his own workers!

Sincerely,

*Bob Oedy*  
Bob Oedy  
Organizer  
IBEW, LU 11

Return this confidential form to:

IBEW Local 11 c/o Bob Oedy  
400 Chatsworth Drive  
San Fernando, CA 91340

or call: (818) 361-7774

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Me interesa tener más información sobre la situación de trabajo en los sitios de trabajo de Helix.

Nombre \_\_\_\_\_

Dirección \_\_\_\_\_

Número de Teléfono \_\_\_\_\_

Correo Electrónico \_\_\_\_\_