

TO: Executive Committee

DATE: 06/07/2010

FROM: WIB Staff

For Discussion

For Action

For Information

**SUBJECT: Commerce, Aviation, and Economic Development (CAED) Support for Hiring
Local Support Letter "Hiring 50% Local"**

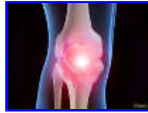
PROPOSED MOTION(S): None – Information Only

DISCUSSION: On May 13, 2010 the WIB voted to approve support of The Merced County Department of Commerce, Aviation and Economic Development's (CAED) Board Agenda Item (BAI) to recommend all County Departments that issue Requests for Qualifications, Proposals, Sole Source projects, and/or competitively bid construction road, and housing projects of all types to encourage the successful lowest responsible bidders or recipients to hire 50 percent of all project workforce within the legal boundaries of Merced County, when not precluded by law.

The BAI was accepted by the Merced County Board of Supervisors on May 22, 2010. The resulting news article is attached from the Merced Sun Star.

The Director of CAED will monitor this effort to determine the results of this voluntary program and will report findings to the Board of Supervisors 12 months from the enactment date.

ATTACHMENT(S): Merced Sun Star Article



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News - Local
Wednesday, May. 26, 2010

Merced County wants local labor on projects

Contractors will be asked to hire workers here.

By DANIELLE E. GAINES
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Merced County's unemployed might find it easier to get work after the Board of Supervisors voted Tuesday to encourage contractors to hire local workers on county projects.

The new guidelines passed 4-0.

District 1 Supervisor John Pedrozo was absent.

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"We face a number of challenges here in the county, and this is just one step in the right direction," said Mark Hendrickson, the county's director of commerce, aviation and economic development. "This will be a voluntary program but aims to assist local residents to return to full employment in the construction and development trades, reducing our unemployment."

Hendrickson said he got the idea for the program from District 4 Supervisor Mike Nelson.

The Workforce Investment Board backed the

plan earlier this month.

Now the lowest bidders on county construction, road and housing projects will be asked to hire at least 50 percent of all project work force within the boundaries of Merced County, when not precluded by law.

"The least that we can do is encourage those contractors to hire within the boundaries of the county," Hendrickson said. "We can't require this, but we do plan to demonstrate to our contractors that this is a strong preference."

Hendrickson said there wasn't a specific goal for salaries or work hours generated through the guidelines. He will track the results of the voluntary program and report to the supervisors in one year.

Also at Tuesday's meeting:

A performance evaluation of Merced County Executive Officer Larry Combs was postponed until a later meeting.

A \$35 million contribution to the Merced County Employees' Retirement Association was approved. The county will be obligated to pay 30.23 percent of its annual payroll, which totals about \$115 million. Employees will have to contribute between 7.27 and 10.28 percent of their salaries.

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