

**TO: Workforce Investment Board**

**DATE: 09/03/09**

**FROM: WIB Staff**

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

**SUBJECT: Summer Youth Program**

**PROPOSED MOTION(S): For Information Only.**

**DISCUSSION:** On August 19, 2009, participants in the Youth@Work Program (summer youth employment participants) were recognized at the Boys and Girls Club gymnasium. The Merced County Department of Workforce Investment provided summer employment opportunities to 560 youth, ages 18-24. Additionally, the Merced County Office of Education served 140 youth. Youth worked on average 20-32 hours per week for 6 weeks and were paid \$8.00 per hour.

The activities designed for youth encompassed the following:

1. Community projects throughout the County;
2. Placement with both public and private employers;
3. Job readiness, including green jobs informational and hands-on training.

The targeted groups provided "priority of service" included:

1. Low income youth;
2. Foster youth;
3. Veterans; and
4. Disabled youth.

As emphasized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), interested youth were provided exposure to green jobs (Merced College Green Jobs Exploration Course and Green Technologies in Automobile Basics Course). Two of the community projects exposed youth to the County's Water and Water Treatment Authority. Youth in these projects installed water meters, learned the importance of water conservation, and learned about the computer systems related to water treatment processes.

As of August 19, 2009, 560 youth worked a total of 44,807 hours and earned \$409,067.00 in wages. The Community Project participants worked 55,364 hours. The total wages paid to participants in both the Department of Workforce Investment and the Merced County Office of Education is estimated to be \$1,159,923.

**ATTACHMENT(S): N/A**