

TO: Executive Committee

DATE: 12/07/09

FROM: WIB Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Innovation Hub (iHub) Letters of Support

PROPOSED MOTION(S): For Information Only

DISCUSSION: Letters were sent to Mr. Mark J. Hendrickson, Director Merced County Dept of Commerce, Aviation and Economic Development, and Mr. Michael Dozier, Director Office of Community and Economic Development California State University, Fresno, expressing the Workforce Investment Board's support and commitment to participate in California State University, Fresno/Central Valley Business Incubator Proposal for designation as an iHub by the State of California. iHub is intended to promote collaboration and commercialization of technology to stimulate job creation.

Commerce, Aviation and Economic Development in conjunction with UC Merced (for renewable energy); Alliance Worknet, Stanislaus County (for bio-tech and agribusiness); and the San Joaquin Valley Partnerships of which Fresno is the lead (focusing on a broader array of sectors including the Cities of Merced, Atwater, Los Banos and the County of Merced). There are no dollars involved, but it comes with a designation that will be helpful in future opportunities.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Letter to Mr. Michael Dozier

Letter to Mr. Mark Hendrickson



**WORKFORCE
INVESTMENT BOARD**
MERCED COUNTY

Albert Montejano, Chair
Alfonse Peterson, 1st Vice Chair
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Date November 17, 2009

Mr. Mark J. Hendrickson, Department Director
Merced County Dept of Commerce, Aviation and Economic Development
2507 Heritage Drive
Atwater, CA 95301

Dear Mr. Hendrickson,

This letter is to confirm the Workforce Investment Board of Merced County support and participation in the proposed Central California Renewable Energy iHub/Castle Green Technology Incubator designation by the State of California Department of Business, Transportation & Housing.

The Workforce Investment Board of Merced County further supports the proposed iHub mission to promote the effective transfer and commercialization of innovation in renewable energy technologies by attracting and nurturing entrepreneurs, and empowering them to create sustainable businesses. The proposed Central California Renewable Energy iHub/Castle Green Technology Incubator will provide a platform for renewable energy research clusters, young technology companies, government entities, venture capital investors and nonprofit economic development organizations to work together to foster innovation and job creation throughout California.

The Workforce Investment Board of Merced County agrees to work in cooperation with the University of California, Merced, the economic development divisions from the Cities of Atwater, Livingston and Merced, the Greater Merced Chamber of Commerce, Merced County Economic Development Corporation and the iHub Coordinator to promote the iHub and assist businesses within the renewable energy clusters. Please consider the Workforce Investment Board of Merced County a partner in the proposed Central California Renewable Energy iHub/Castle Green Technology Incubator.

Respectfully,

Andrea T. Baker
Director



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November 16, 2009

Mr. Michael Dozier, Director
Office of Community and Economic Development
California State University, Fresno
5010 N. Woodrow, Suite 200, M/S WC142
Fresno, CA 93740

Dear Mr. Dozier,

This letter is to express the Workforce Investment Board of Merced County's support and commitment to participate in the California State University, Fresno/Central Valley Business Incubator Proposal for designation as an iHub by the State of California.

We understand the geographic designation will include the Counties of Fresno, Kings, Madera, Merced (to include Castle Commerce Center) and Tulare. We further understand the iHub is intended to promote collaboration and commercialization of technology to stimulate job creation. Companies and research institutions within the iHubs will benefit from enhanced partnership opportunities, national and international exposure, and increased marketing opportunities. The iHub will target young, innovative companies that have been in business for less than eight years in one of the following technology clusters: Agribusiness, Water Technology, Energy, and Healthcare.

The Workforce Investment Board of Merced County will work in cooperation with the iHub Coordinator, Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED) and the Central Valley Business Incubator (CVBI) to promote the iHub and assist businesses within the clusters identified above. Please consider the Workforce Investment Board of Merced County as a partner in the above-mentioned iHub Proposal.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at abaker@co.merced.ca.us or (209) 724-2002.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrea T. Baker".

Andrea T. Baker
Executive Director