

TO: Workforce Investment Board

DATE: 01/12/06

FROM: WIB Staff

Action

For Information

For Discussion

**SUBJECT: Partnering in Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development
(WIRED) Dept of Labor Grant**

PROPOSED MOTION(S): That the Workforce Investment Board support participating in the San Joaquin Valley's unified application for the Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) grant from the Department of Labor (DOL).

DISCUSSION: The DOL recently offered grant opportunities to the states for plans optimizing workforce innovation in regional economic development. The responses had to be received within an extremely short time frame, and the governors of each State could submit only three proposals each.

Faced with these constraints, the WIA Administrative Entities from Merced, Kings, Fresno, Madera, Kern, Tulare, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus Counties formed a collaboration to develop a regional strategy. The result was a grant application sent through the newly formed California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley. The grant application was approved by the Governor and forwarded to DOL in the week following Christmas. The total amount requested is \$15,000,000 over a period of three years.

The application committed the Merced County Department of Workforce Investment, and stated that the final participation in the application was contingent upon action to be taken by the Merced County Workforce Investment Board (WIB) in January 2006. The WIB is asked to commit to the following:

- a. Actively participate in the WIRED collaboration**
- b. Participation in the occupational demand assessment to determine where additional training resources are most needed in the region to serve target industries –**
 - 1) Goods Movement/Logistics**
 - 2) Healthcare**
 - 3) Manufacturing/Food Processing**
 - 4) Information Services**
- c. Providing a minimum of 25% of matching funds to any of the WIRED funds accessed.**

It is estimated that the WIB's annual investment of training dollars and in-kind contributions for participation in the WIRED partnership and services to co-enroll participants in training is approximately \$125,000 for the WIRED program.

ATTACHMENTS: N/A