

**TO: Finance Committee**

**DATE: January 28, 2004**

**FROM: WIB Staff**

**For Action**

**For Information**

**For Discussion**

**SUBJECT: Fund-raising Efforts for Central Valley Agri-Food Research Institute**

**PROPOSED MOTION(S): None**

**DISCUSSION:** The Great Valley Center proposes a project to develop a business plan to create a Central Valley Agri-Food Research Institute at UC Merced. The purpose of the institute is to expand the economic diversity of the Central Valley around its primary agricultural base, create high paying jobs, provide training opportunities for the local workforce, and enhance economic growth in a region that is underserved, has high unemployment, low paying jobs, and the fastest projected growth rate in the state.

At the Workforce Investment Board meeting on January 8, 2004 a motion was passed to support fund-raising efforts to develop a Central Valley Agri-Food Research Institute at UC Merced. There was some discussion regarding fund-raising by the WIB, and whether it can be done and/or supported.

**ATTACHMENT(S): Creating the Central Valley Agri-Food Research Institute**