

**Workforce Investment Board  
Program Planning and Development Committee  
Department of Workforce Investment  
1880 West Wardrobe Avenue, Merced, CA  
February 25, 2004, 3:00 – 4:30 P.M.  
Working Group Notes**

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**Members Present:** Andrea Baker, Sharon Cresswell, Harry Dull, Peter Fluetsch (Vice Chair), John Fowler

**Members Absent:** Paul Alderete, Don Bergman, Scott Galbraith, Carol Greenberg, Gisela Malone, Anne Newins, Rick Osorio (Chair), Ana Pagan, Al Romero, Thomas Tsubota

**WI Staff Present:** Dave Davis, Dee Knight, Joanne Presnell

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**1. Call to Order and Roll Call:** It was noted at 3:15 p.m. that the regular meeting would be canceled due to lack of a quorum, and the Vice Chair would convene a working group of those present to discuss the Contractors' Forum.

**2. Discussion:**

**a. The January 29, 2004 Contractors' Forum:** Staff noted, as directed by the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Chair, a telephone survey of 20 contractors who did not attend the forum was conducted, with 7 responding—Maxwell Construction, John Rohrer Construction, Wickum Construction, Valley Electric Company, Thomas E. Williams Construction, Brett Baker Construction and Merced Roofing.

Those who responded had similar issues with finding good employees; i.e., lack of training and experience, and good work ethic. The majority of contractors train on the job.

It was noted that a legitimate contractor must be licensed, have workers' compensation and liability insurance, and be bonded. To obtain or qualify for one of the UC Merced contracts, a contractor must have at least 4 months of salaries and benefits in ready cash.

There are good training programs already established in the community that the Workforce Investment Board could collaborate with through the Building Industry Association or local contractors in providing the needed on-the-job training programs. It was recommended that staff contact the Building Industry Association president to discuss this issue and ask for input. There have been discussions with Merced County Office of Education and Firm Build about the possibility of expanding its training program to include adults and dislocated workers.

It was recommended that if in the future a WIB committee is interested in having a forum, it should go to the full WIB for approval and everyone associated with the WIB would participate in the processes of the forum. It was suggested that focus groups would be more productive than a forum.

It was announced the Merced Chamber is sponsoring an Automotive Forum on March 4, 2004, but no other information was available at this time.

**3. Adjourn:** Working group adjourned at 4:02 p.m., and the next committee meeting will be March 24, 2004, 3:00-4:00 p.m., in the Merced Chamber of Commerce Conference Room.

Notes prepared by Devilla D. Knight.

*"Merced County's Workforce Investment System will keep pace with new growth, the emerging economy, and the ever-changing needs of the employers by creating a better educated, highly skilled workforce, that's capable, prepared, and thoroughly knowledgeable."*