

TO: Workforce Investment Board

DATE: 03/10/05

FROM: WIB Executive Committee

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Request for Proposal (RFP) for Basic Education Services for PLATO Labs

PROPOSED MOTION(S): Ratify the Executive Committee's approval to let a Request for Proposal for PLATO Basic Education Services at the Worknet Employment Resource Centers in Merced and/or Los Banos.

DISCUSSION: The Worknet Employment Resource Centers in Merced and Los Banos have PLATO Laboratories to provide basic education services to enrolled Workforce Investment Act participants. The Lab in Los Banos also provides these services to enrolled CalWORKs clients.

Presently, and since 1994, the Merced Adult School provides these services in the Merced One-Stop. In Los Banos, since 1997, Merced College has been the program provider. Both contracts are due to expire June 30, 2005.

The Workforce Investment Act and Merced County's Procurement Procedures dictate that all contracts should be competitively bid. The original PLATO contracts were negotiated under the Job Training Partnership Act and have been continued as sole source agreements. Since that time, the capabilities of educational organizations have grown to the extent that competition for the PLATO contracts now exists.

Bidders will be asked to bid on services at either or both Labs. The Merced Lab requires an instructor 3 hours per day, 5 days a week. The Los Banos Lab requires an instructor(s) 40 hours per week. It is estimated that the combined cost of the contracts will be approximately \$83,000. It is hoped that competition will reduce that cost.

Because of the lengthy process to develop and complete the RFP process, the Executive Committee authorized Department of Workforce Investment and Merced County General Services to let the RFP. The BOS approved that action during its February 22, 2005 meeting. The RFP opened March 8, 2005 and will close April 19, 2005. The Workforce Investment Board could approve the contract May 12, 2005, with the Board of Supervisors signing during June 2005. The new contracts will begin July 1, 2005.

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A