

TO: Workforce Investment Board

DATE: 09/14/06

FROM: WIB Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Application to Employment & Training Administration (ETA)/Dept of Labor (DOL) for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Opportunities in the Workforce System Initiative

PROPOSED MOTION (S): Approve the Workforce Investment Board's (WIB) support and commitment to the Department of Workforce Investment's application for STEM grant.

DISCUSSION: The Employment and Training Administration and US Dept of Labor have announced the availability of competitive grant funds for H-1B Job Training Grants. ETA intends to fund approximately 5-7 grants ranging from \$1.5 to \$2 million over a three-year period. The Merced County application is for \$2 million.

The Merced County Department of Workforce Investment in collaboration with Stanislaus and San Joaquin Local Workforce Investment Areas (LWIAs) will collaborate on the grant proposal.

The grant funding will be used to coordinate with existing and potential biotech businesses to build a skilled workforce in the Northern San Joaquin Valley. This project will help to develop, enhance, and expand strategic partnerships to include education, workforce development, economic development and employers. Grant funds will be used for training, marketing, scholarships, development of websites, STEM coaches and mentors, and other related functions.

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A