

TO: Workforce Investment Board

DATE: April 26, 2004

FROM: WIB Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program

PROPOSED MOTION(S): Information Only

DISCUSSION: This is the second year of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program in Merced County located at the Worknet Employment Resource Center in Merced.

In 2004 the program operated only two (2) evenings per week. The program operated 17 days in 2004 compared to 33 days in 2003. The VITA program was run entirely by volunteers, including the training portion of the program. These volunteers prepared 147 returns from February 17th through April 14th. The volunteers prepared 147 returns in 2004 compared to 169 returns in 2003. Refunds in 2004 totaled \$116,666 with Earned Income Credits totaling \$70,142.

Based on the economic impact multiplier of 3.5 provided by the Internal Revenue Service, these refunds generated an economic impact of \$408,331 to the Merced Community.