

TO: Workforce Investment Board

DATE: 09/15/05

FROM: WIB Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: California Rapid Response Grant – Special Project Funding

PROPOSED MOTION(S): Information only.

DISCUSSION: The Department of Workforce Investment has been awarded EDD Special Projects Rapid Response funding of \$175,000. The grant funds the following activities:

- 1. Rapid Response Redesign. Program will be proactive rather than reactive. The efforts will involve the Department of Workforce Investment, Employment Development Department, SCORE, City and County Planning Departments and others. Goal is to provide tools to keep businesses in business, not to just support those who have closed.**
- 2. Development of an “Early Warning System”. Designed to predict how Merced County businesses, by industry, will be influenced by changes in the economy, and thus, how labor force needs will shift. Will be designed to be an ongoing tool. If changes to industry can be predicted, then employers can be helped to possibly modify business operations to maximize benefits and minimize negative effects of change.**
- 3. Development of a computerized Business Services Tracking System. It tracks business contacts and interventions, allowing for continued program planning and resource allocation.**
- 4. New materials will be developed to convey the services available under the redesigned Rapid Response system. The planning, development, production and dissemination of these marketing materials are critical to the success of redesign.**
- 5. An Internet website to serve the business owners of Merced County. The initial design of the website will be done with input from all partners in the Rapid Response redesign.**

Grant funds must be expended by March 31, 2006.

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A