

TO: Workforce Investment Board

DATE: September 26, 2002

FROM: WIB Executive Committee

For Action

For Information

Meeting Notes

SUBJECT: Dislocated Worker Grant Application

PROPOSED MOTION(S): Ratify the action of August 12, 2002 taken by the WIB Executive Committee, to Authorize the Director, Private Industry Training Department, to submit a grant application [Dislocated Worker 25% Grant]

DISCUSSION: As a result rescissions, other dislocated worker funds cuts and two recent plant closures, the funding provided by our normal dislocated worker allocation would not meet the needs of the people being displaced.

Cal Almonds closed resulting in 80 displaced workers. The Cal Almonds' workers were approximately 90% Spanish speaking monolingual. Only the office staff and some supervisors/managers were bilingual.

Land of Lakes closure in the Gustine cheese processing plant will displace 143 employees. The parent company is building a new plant in another County. Minimum requirements for hire in the new plant are a high school diploma or GED. Many of the laid off employees do not meet minimum requirements.

Employment elsewhere will be extremely difficult for those with limited English and with no high school diploma or GED. These workers will need some academic/technology enrichment training and language training to become competitive for employment. The grant application will request additional funds to provide for this training, plus additional extra help staffing in the PLATO labs and the Employment Resource Centers ERC].

The grant application must also be approved by the Merced County Board of Supervisors. ERC staff is currently working a grant budget, which will be included in the Board Action Item for the Board of Supervisors.

ATTACHMENT(S):