

TO: Workforce Investment Board

DATE: 09/03/09

FROM: WIB Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Grant Opportunity – Department of Labor – California Clean Energy Workforce Training Program

PROPOSED MOTION(S): That the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) approves partnering with Merced College to develop and deploy a California Clean Energy Retraining Partnership grant. Also, the Department of Workforce Investment negotiate the WIB's role in the grant and, if successful, bring the agreements on implementation back to the WIB for approval.

DISCUSSION: Working closely with local, regional and State partners, Merced College continues to selectively pursue American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) sourced funds to support targeted activities that lead to job creation and retention. ARRA-sourced funds help underwrite costs of vital training equipment; classroom-based, distance and on-the-job education and training in the areas of allied health, industrial technologies, and science; and counseling, skills development and other supportive services that contribute to academic and employment success. Targeted beneficiaries of these efforts include dislocated workers, unemployed and/or underemployed adults and youth, and nontraditional and underrepresented populations.

Working together, Merced College and the Merced County Department of Workforce Investment/WIB strive to leverage ARRA funding to develop a skilled workforce that can attract industry and jobs to successfully compete in the new global marketplace. If awarded, the role of the WIB would be to provide assistance in outreach, recruitment, screening/assessment, determination of WIA eligibility, provision of wraparound services to eligible participants, program-specific and labor market data development and reporting, in-kind/financial match.

Merced College will provide foundational classroom and hands-on training on solar photovoltaic energy in residential and commercial applications, with more extensive, specialized education, training and fieldwork in utility-scale solar energy generation, transmission, distribution and installation principals and construction skills.

If successful, agreements between Merced College and the Department of Workforce Investment for services, will be brought back to the WIB for approval.

Due Date: September 16, 2009

Merced College will apply under Category 1b, Clean Energy Retraining Partnership.

Amount: Maximum grant award of \$1 million.

Time Frame: 18-month period of performance beginning October 1, 2009.

Funding: 80% Energy Commission funds (i.e., \$800,000) and 20% WIA Governor's Discretionary (i.e., \$200,000).

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A