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Labor & Workforce Development Agency

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Victoria L. Bradshaw

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Labor Secretary Announces Additional Federal Funds to Assist Fire Victims in Recovery

Sacramento -- Labor and Workforce Development Agency Victoria Bradshaw announced today that the U.S. Department of Labor has approved California's request for an additional \$9.8 million for temporary disaster assistance jobs in the areas affected by last year's Southern California wildfires.

"This continues our commitment to help communities recover from last October's disaster and also provide hard-working Californians with jobs during a difficult economic time," Bradshaw said. "The work of rebuilding neighborhoods and businesses goes on and this assistance will help put communities affected by the fires on the track to recovery."

During last October's fires, Governor Schwarzenegger wrote to U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao and within days secured a \$16.7 million National Emergency Grant to provide disaster assistance jobs.

Today's supplemental award is for \$9.8 million and will create approximately 815 additional temporary jobs, bringing the total number of jobs to 2,200. Jobs include debris removal, rebuilding, transportation services and humanitarian work.

The assistance is going to workforce investment boards and project operators in counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Ventura, the areas most affected by the wildfires.