



C A L I F O R N I A

Labor & Workforce Development Agency

N E W S R E L E A S E

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Date: October 22, 2009
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News Release No.: 09-07

California Labor and Workforce Development Agency Announces \$2 million Grant to Help Bridge Training Gap That Keeps Good Jobs Unfilled in San Joaquin Valley

SACRAMENTO - A \$2 million grant announced today by the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA) will help train workers for well-paid jobs with bright futures that are going unfilled despite high unemployment rates in the San Joaquin Valley.

"The national recession and the severe water shortage have dramatically worsened the San Joaquin Valley's decades-long struggle with high unemployment," Acting Secretary Doug Hoffner said. "Despite the current high unemployment rates, employers cannot find workers with the skills needed to fill them. This grant aims to bridge this gap and train workers for demand jobs in the growing industries of the future."

The California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley will use this grant to help create sustainable recovery strategies that will offer San Joaquin Valley residents not only jobs, but an improved economic outlook and an enhanced quality of life.

The Partnership will bring local experts and leaders together to develop a demonstration project to better coordinate education and training efforts in the San Joaquin Valley. Workers will receive increased training in basic job skills, English and computer literacy. The project will target jobs in water technology, renewable energy, food processing, agricultural technology and biotechnology - industries that are closely tied to agribusiness, the heart of the regional economy.

In 2005, Governor Schwarzenegger issued an executive order creating the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley to improve the economic conditions of the region. The

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Partnership includes nine local Workforce Investment Boards that match job seekers and employers with job openings throughout the Valley.

Funding for the grant comes from the Governor's Discretionary 15 Percent Workforce Investment Act funds under the administrative authority of the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency's Employment Development Department.

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