



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, June 30, 2011

For more information:

Kristy Fairfax, 559.713.5200, kfairfax@tularewib.org

Central Valley Awarded \$3,435,544 for Workforce Development

Funds will help train laid-off workers for 'high-demand, high-wage' careers

Visalia, CA —Today, the U.S. Department of Labor announced the award of the second increment of \$3,435,544 for a Regional Economic Impact National Emergency Grant to continue to provide re-employment and training services to dislocated workers in the Central Valley. The funding comes from the U.S. Department of Labor's National Emergency Grant (NEG) allocation. The Workforce Investment Board of Tulare County (WIB) announced in March of 2010 the award of up to \$8,197,644 for the San Joaquin Valley to provide re-employment and training services to laid-off workers in "high-demand, high-wage" industries. The funding was initially issued as an increment of \$4,762,120 with the rest of the award pending the success of the first portion of the project. Today's award is the remaining increment.

The funds were awarded to the Central California Workforce Collaborative (CCWC), a partnership comprising all the WIB's of the Central Valley. The CCWC meets regularly to discuss common issues, develop strategies to address regional problems, and collaborate on projects of mutual benefit, such as this National Emergency Grant (NEG). The Workforce Investment Board of Tulare County is the fiscal agent for this Regional Economic Impact NEG on behalf of the CCWC.

"This grant increment will ensure that these workers continue to have the support they need to prepare for good jobs," said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. "The Labor Department is committed to helping these workers build up their skills and knowledge, and in doing so, rebuild the economy of the San Joaquin Valley."

"The additional increment awarded by the Department of Labor is evidence that the workforce investment efforts in the central valley are working and are recognized. While there is a long way to go for economic recovery, the extra funds for the Valley will be a tremendous help. Only through the teamwork of the CCWC were we able to make this happen," said Adam Peck, Executive Director of the WIB. "Helping dislocated workers shift into high-wage, high-demand careers will provide a long-term benefit to the Central Valley."

The grant will continue to focus on providing training and transition services to workers impacted by widespread layoffs resulting from the economic downturn. Funding will help workers prepare for careers in growing areas of the regional economy including agri-business, renewable energy, logistics/distribution, health care, and advanced manufacturing.

#####