Employment Development Department
State of California

NEWS RELEASE

Date: June 15, 2012 **News Release No: 12-22A**

185 laid-off workers in Monterey County to be retrained as a result of a $1 million state grant

SACRAMENTO – A $999,847 grant from the state Employment Development Department (EDD) will help retrain 185 workers who were laid off from two major employers in Monterey County.

Workers who lost their jobs as a result of Chiquita Fresh Express transferring its Salinas operations to North Carolina and workers affected by Capital One's phased closure of its facility in Salinas will receive retraining funded by the grant.

"As part of these major company restructurings related to the economic downturn, the local workforce has been significantly impacted from these multiple layoffs," said EDD Director Pam Harris. "In April, the unemployment rate in Monterey County stood at 11.6 percent, and local workforce services are in dire need of assistance to adequately serve these affected workers."

The Monterey County Workforce Investment Board and its partners have created two programs to address this need. The first program will raise workers' technical skills and certification training levels to fill positions in the manufacturing and banking industries. The second program will work directly with local businesses to hire and retain laid-off workers and offer them on-the-job training.

Funding for the programs comes from the Governor's 25 percent portion of Dislocated Worker Funds from Title I of the federal Workforce Investment Act and is under the administrative authority of the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency's EDD.

For more information, contact Joyce Aldrich, Interim Assistant Director of the Monterey County Workforce Investment Board, at (831) 759-6644.

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For news media inquiries only, contact the California Employment Development Department (EDD) Communications Office, at (916) 654-9029. TTY users, please call the California Relay Service at 711.