

N E W S R E L E A S E

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\$900,000 grant will help laid-off farm workers in Fresno, Madera and Merced counties learn new skills, find year-round jobs

SACRAMENTO – A \$900,000 state Employment Development Department (EDD) grant will help 139 unemployed farm workers with no prospects for other seasonal work to learn the skills they need to find year-round jobs with a future in green and renewable energy.

“The downturn in the economy and the reduced water supplies in the Central Valley have dealt blows to agriculture so severe that the prospects for a speedy recovery are bleak,” said EDD Director Pam Harris. “This funding will help workers move quickly forward with their lives and into a broad array of jobs in a region of high unemployment and poverty.”

La Cooperativa Campesina de California will use the grant money to provide employment and retraining services to migrant and seasonal farm workers who live in Fresno, Madera and Merced Counties. Training in the green efficient and renewable energy sector will prepare them to compete for jobs in the industries of the future.

Funding for the program is drawn from the Governor’s 25 percent portion of Dislocated Worker Funds, Title I of the federal Workforce Investment Act, and is under the administrative authority of the Labor and Workforce Development Agency’s EDD.

For more information about this project, please contact Marco Lizarraga, La Cooperativa Campesina de California, at (916) 388-2220.

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