

N E W S R E L E A S E

News Release

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**\$6.4 million state grant will retrain 1,108 unemployed farmworkers**

*California's drought-affected workforce to receive assistance*

**SACRAMENTO** – The California Employment Development Department (EDD) today awarded a \$6.4 million grant to La Cooperativa Campesina de California, a Sacramento-based non-profit consortium serving farmworkers statewide. The funds will assist 1,108 individuals in 31 counties prepare for employment in new fields.

La Cooperativa Campesina de California will provide retraining and employment services so that workers displaced by the ongoing drought can find jobs in emerging industries, especially in the energy-efficiency and renewable-energy fields. Most of the individuals targeted by the grant have limited job skills and reside in regions of the state with higher levels of unemployment and poverty.

“This grant will provide training for these workers to acquire the new job skills they need to get back to work in growing industries,” said EDD Director Patrick W. Henning, Jr. “This funding is also an important investment in many local communities that have seen their economies affected by the ongoing drought.”

The counties to be served by the grant are Butte, Contra Costa, Fresno, Imperial, Inyo, Kings, Kern, Lake, Los Angeles, Monterey, Mendocino, Merced, Madera, Mono, Napa, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Joaquin, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tulare, Ventura, Yolo and Yuba.

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

Today’s \$6.4 million grant supplements a recent National Emergency Grant award of \$18 million provided to EDD by the U.S. Department of Labor to provide temporary employment for drought-affected workers.

La Cooperativa Campesina de California’s member organizations include: California Human Development; Center for Employment Training; Central Valley Opportunity Center; Employers’ Training Resource; and Proteus. Together these agencies provide retraining and employment services to migrant and seasonal agricultural workers and their families.

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

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