

N E W S R E L E A S E

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Laid-off Odwalla plant workers offered employment assistance

Tulare County receives needed job-training funding for unemployed individuals

TULARE – The California Employment Development Department (EDD) today awarded Tulare County a \$950,000 grant to retrain 474 recently laid-off individuals, including the 164 who lost their jobs in April with Odwalla, Inc. The fund will assist the displaced workers obtain new employment through retraining, skills development, and job placement.

“This grant will not only help the employees who lost their jobs at the Odwalla juice production plant in Dinuba, but it’s also an investment in the community that was affected by the mass layoff,” said EDD Director Patrick Henning Jr. “The funds will provide the resources necessary to retrain and transition the Odwalla displaced workers and other unemployed individuals into new career opportunities.”

The Tulare Workforce Development Board will use the funds to collaborate with local businesses, training providers, community colleges, the Tulare County Office of Education, and regional locations of the America’s Job Center of CaliforniaSM. The group will identify jobs in the region’s top industries and prepare job seekers for those opportunities by providing on-the-job and vocational training. Some of the business growth in the area includes advanced manufacturing, healthcare, renewable energy, logistics/transportation, and agribusiness.

Funding for the grant 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. The allocation is part of the Dislocated Worker Fund which enables dislocated workers to transition to new employment as quickly as possible following either a permanent closure or mass layoff.

For more information about this project, please contact Adam Peck at the Tulare County Workforce Development Board at (559) 713-5200.

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