

N E W S R E L E A S E

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**Governor Announces Grants to Train Unemployed Workers and
Gang-Involved Youth in Green Industries of the Future**

SACRAMENTO - Nearly \$1.5 million in job training grants announced today by Governor Schwarzenegger advance three of the governor's key goals: stimulating the economy, leading the way to a green economy and combating gang violence.

"When the California economy needs it the most, these grants will help at-risk youth and provide job training and employment opportunities in California's emerging green industries," said Governor Schwarzenegger.

There are two separate grants that will help fill green jobs – one aimed at youth who are gang-involved or at risk of gang involvement, and one to help unemployed Los Angeles-area workers.

Laney College in Oakland will receive a \$500,000 grant to serve 75 youth who are gang-involved or at risk of gang involvement. This initiative, titled "The Oakland Green Jobs Corps," will provide a career pathway to high-wage green jobs with solar and construction employers, and is a partnership of employers, Laney College, Cypress-Mandela and Growth Sector, with support from the Oakland Mayor's office. The Oakland Green Jobs Corps program provides college credited training in construction skills, solar installation and energy auditing, combined with intensive social support. Program graduates will receive a Laney College certificate and move directly to paid internships or on-the-job training at wages of \$15 - \$18 per hour.

"Our ability to provide education and job skill development for at-risk youth is a key component of the Governor's initiative to combat gang violence," said Paul Seave, director of the Governor's Gang and Youth Violence Policy Office. "The opportunity to obtain new job skills in programs like the Oakland Green Jobs Corps provides an alternative to gang-involvement, creating a path to financial self-sufficiency."

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In addition, the South Bay Workforce Investment Board will utilize a \$995,500 grant to train 180 unemployed Los Angeles-area workers and help them find jobs with companies that are actively producing environmentally sustainable products and services, including solar panels, energy audits, energy efficient heating and ventilation systems. Workers will receive training in interview techniques, resume writing and job search skills as well as on-the-job training, computer skills workshops, labor market information, and vocational training.

Funding for these programs is drawn from the Governor's 15 percent Discretionary Workforce Investment Act Funds and the 25 percent portion of Dislocated Worker Funds under the administrative authority of the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency's Employment Development Department.

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