

N E W S R E L E A S E

News Release

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\$1.7 million state grant will retrain 267 Central Valley farmworkers impacted by the drought

SACRAMENTO – La Cooperativa Campesina de California has been awarded a \$1,734,699 grant by the California Employment Development Department (EDD) to retrain 267 farmworkers whose employment has been adversely affected by the state’s ongoing drought.

La Cooperativa Campesina de California, a Sacramento-based consortium of five nonprofit organizations, will use the funding to provide the farmworkers with the job skills necessary to find work in emerging industries in the Central Valley, including the energy efficiency and renewable energy field. Most of the individuals receiving training have limited job skills and occupational options, and reside in regions with higher unemployment levels.

“While California’s economy is continuing to make great gains overall, the drought has impacted the work opportunities for these workers,” said EDD Director Patrick W. Henning, Jr. “This grant is an important investment in our local communities and their economies because it will provide these workers with the new job skills they need to get back into the workforce.”

By offering job training and supportive services to workers impacted by the state’s drought, this funding supplements a recent National Emergency Grant of up to \$18 million from the U.S. Department of Labor to EDD that provides 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 farmworkers and their families.

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Funding for the program is drawn 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 about this project, please contact Marco Lizarraga, La Cooperativa Campesina de California, at (916) 388-2220.

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