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08-ALT-1

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December 3, 2008

James D. Boyd, Vice Chair and Presiding Member
California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Re: Docket No. 08-ALT-1
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Dear Vice Chair Boyd:

Since the summer of 2006, the Los Angeles Valley College Job Training Office has partnered with the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and the Wilshire Metro WorkSource Center to provide a unique, effective workforce development training and job placement program to meet the transportation industry's employment needs. The collaborating partners have now formed the Green Transportation Working Group (GTWG), committed to innovative program design and implementation, essentially upgrading the training curriculum by incorporating energy efficiency modules, including alternative fuels and practices.

In 2006, the MTA faced enormous personnel challenges. Lacking qualified candidates, MTA found itself in the un-enviuous position of having to fill 340 bus operator positions by relying upon current employees to work at over time rates, ultimately costing approximately \$5 million a year. In an effort to diagnose the cause and find appropriate solutions to this dilemma, MTA contacted the Job Training Office at Los Angeles Valley College (LAVC), known for its achievements in providing customized vocational training to jobseekers throughout the City and County.

LAVC Job Training established a working partnership and began the process of defining critical issues, diagnosing problems, and instilling a team approach to finding effective solutions while leveraging an abundance of resources. The partners, WorkSource Centers, Community Development Agencies and Community Colleges, worked cohesively to create measures that would deliver a substantial number of qualified candidates to fill these Metro positions.

MTA has institutionalized this training model, currently implementing the program two times per quarter. MTA places recruitment advertisements for the training program on buses throughout the County, highlighting the success of a former trainee/graduate. This model program has received attention from transit authorities across the nation and serves to strengthen other workforce training programs by providing a replicable map for success.

To address the need for conversion and energy efficiency, the GTWG is now developing a training program for *GREEN MECHANICS* to serve the MTA as well as other agencies and the transportation sector in Greater Los Angeles. Attached is a draft of that proposal for your review.

Thank you for your interest in our work and for the opportunity to submit this proposal draft. Your comments and questions are most welcome. Please feel free to contact me.

Best regards,

Lennie Ciuffo, Director
Los Angeles Valley College Job Training

Alternative Fuels Green-Collar Workforce Development Green Transportation Working Group Proposal

Overview:

In building upon the successful Metro Bus Operator Training Academy model, in which 217 individuals have been hired as Bus Operators, the Green Transportation Working Group (GTWG) proposes a new alternative fuels training and placement program within the Workplace Advancement Academy for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro). The **Green Mechanic Certification of Completion** will be developed for the training of incumbent Metro Bus Service Attendants to promote from within to Alternative Fuels Bus Mechanic. Another component is proposed for a separate option that will launch simultaneously for **Green Truck Mechanic Training** which will be for new employees. The proposed training programs will initially focus on the workforce requirements of Metro, then with the goal of expanding to the surrounding public transportation agencies and private transportation companies. GTWG includes: Wilshire-Metro WorkSource Center/Community Career Development, Inc. (CCD), East Los Angeles College (ELAC), and Los Angeles Valley College (LAVC).

Program Management:

CCD shall administer the program including orientation, participant tracking and outcome measurements. Recruitment and assessment will be included for the Green Truck Mechanic Training. CCD will assign a program manager to directly work with Metro and GTWG partners to coordinate and schedule all aspects of this training, including case management. Metro will recruit the 20 Bus Attendants anticipated for the Alternative Fuels Bus Mechanic Training.

Green-Collar Training:

ELAC and LAVC will provide contextualized curriculum development and continual program customization of the training with each class. ELAC will provide credit Automotive Technology courses while LAVC will provide not-for-credit/non-credit courses in Workplace Skills. Classes will be taught at Metro Headquarters and ELAC. The program will lead to a Workplace Advancement Attached is a flow-chart detailing the trainings.

The training will be nine months beginning June 2009, consisting of in-class and laboratory time. Class will meet three times a week, for four hours each meeting. Class would meet during the day time, allowing for the majority of Bus Attendants who have evening work schedules. After graduating with the *Green Mechanic Certificate of Completion*, Bus Attendants will be prepared for taking the Metro-administered Bus Mechanic Entry Exam, which upon passing, places candidates into the pool of bus mechanics and on-the-job-training.

Marketing and Future Projects:

LWG would like to consider this academy as the launch of their “green-collar job” trainings. According to the Apollo Alliance, “Green-collar jobs... are well-paid, career track jobs that contribute directly to preserving or enhancing environmental quality. Like traditional blue-collar jobs, green-collar jobs range from low-sill, entry-level positions to high-skill, higher-paid jobs, and include opportunities for advancement in both skills and wages.”

It could be reasoned that any position within Metro is a green-collar job, because public transportation contributes to preserving environmental quality. Developing green-collar job trainings is advantageous to the GTWG in terms of seeking funding for sustaining our current projects, and developing future trainings.

Open to the Public

Bus Service Attendant – incumbent workers

Green Truck Mechanic Training
by the GTWG Partnership
(WorkSource Center, LAVC & ELAC)

Approximately:
288 hours, 15 units - 4 hour classes, 3 x week

Wilshire-Metro WorkSource:
Program Management

Los Angeles Valley College:
Workplace Skills - non-credit/not-for-credit courses
English for Transportation
Math for Transportation
Critical Thinking
Test taking
Customer Service

East Los Angeles College:
Automotive Technology – credit courses
Green Automotive
Diesel
Fuel Cell/ Hybrid
Clean Natural Gas
Electrical
Logic Control Systems
Computer Technology
Smog Certification
Forklift Mechanics
Directed Study (6 units)
Co-Op Education (4 units)

Green Bus Mechanic Training
by the GTWG Partnership
(WorkSource Center, LAVC & ELAC)

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Green Automotive
Diesel
Fuel Cell/ Hybrid
Clean Natural Gas
Electrical
Logic Control Systems
Computer Technology
Smog Certification
Directed Study (6 units)
Co-Op Education (4 units)

**Green Mechanic
Certificate of
Completion**

**Green Mechanic
Certificate of
Completion**

Pass the Mechanic Entry Exam and qualify for
Mechanic Pool and On the Job Training