

November 19, 2008

James D. Boyd
Vice Chair and Presiding Member
Transportation Committee

Karen Douglas
Commissioner and Associate Member
Transportation Committee

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Re: Docket No. 08-ALT-1
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

DOCKET	
08-ALT-1	
DATE	Nov 19 2008
RECD.	JAN 16 2009

RE: Docket Number 08-ALT-1 – AB118 Implementation

For your and the staffs' consideration of programs that could be funded under AB 118, I would like to highlight the need for renewable energy and energy efficiency education and training.

The landmark legislation (AB 32) designed to curb greenhouse gases, will have a significant impact on how California businesses and residents operate. It will also change the landscape of business opportunities in the state by creating new industries, rapidly expanding and contracting established businesses, while changing the dynamics of the state's workforce. According to an August 2008 study, AB32 will greatly impact jobs in California. It will create opportunities for job growth in the construction trades, including those in retrofitting and development of new buildings, in expanding the infrastructure for renewable energy, and in efficiency improvements in manufacturing.

In addition, Governor Schwarzenegger has signed legislation to promote the deployment of alternative fuels and renewable energy and to reduce climate change. As part of the new stimulus package, the President Elect plans to invest 126 billion dollars in the "green" sector over the next two years. It is anticipated that 5 million new green jobs will be created in the next four years.

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to utilize existing relationships to create a public/private collaboration between West Valley Community College, local universities, utilities, and energy industry. The program is designed to identify and close the educational and awareness gaps, not only in the transportation and energy sector, but also for emission reduction strategies and climate change. The West Valley College Economic & Workforce Development programs offer education and training solutions along with educational awareness and information programs needed to fill this gap. Time is of the essence and the time to act is now.

In addition to training technicians to meet the growing demand for green collar jobs, the community has to be aware of and understand the consequences of new "green" technologies and how they may impact their way of life. They must also understand the implications of sticking with the status quo – or no change. The educational process has to begin at an early age; concepts must be introduced by grammar school, developed in middle school, and continued with ladders programs that take students from high school to becoming employment ready technicians or on to four year colleges for additional training.

The program would develop a multi faceted project that uses multiple and varied outreach methods to involve populations of varied age, gender, education, and socio-economic status. To reach the largest audience, online materials and resources, as well as traditional outreach methods will be utilized. It will include web resources, a blog, an interview series, online classes and tutorials, a speaking series, outreach to K-12 system, educational support services for the K-12 system, the development of educational materials, and attendance at regional and local events.

Project Description: The project will provide specialized educational service to improve knowledge based on current technology, while preparing a look at future trends. The primary focuses will be around, but not limited to transportation, alternative fuels, and energy:

- Compressed Natural Gas
- Hybrid / Electric / Hybrid Electric
- Transit
- Intelligent Transportation / Transportation Demand Management
- Biofuels
- Renewable Energy
- Energy Efficiency
- Green Building

Objectives: The programs objectives are:

1. Community Outreach and Education: Provide the community, businesses, and individuals with more than a basic understanding of the issues associated with energy and energy efficiency. This will foster the knowledge needed to make an educated decision on issues that may impact their personal lives or working environment.
2. Workforce Development: The creation of curriculum and training services that increase the skills, knowledge, and experience needed in the development of a workforce capable of effective participation in the energy industry. The Institute will utilize flexible, traditional and non-traditional teaching methods to reach both new and incumbent workers.
3. Economic Development: Provide technical assistance and business development services with an emphasis on regional industry needs. Utilizing existing business development programs on campus to increase business management skills, identify and develop regional and international markets, and gain access to financial, legal, and regulatory compliance services.

I ask for your serious consideration in funding this program. The ATTE program has a proven and successful track record in developing workforce and economic development training programs.

Sincerely,

David Esmaili
Director, ATTE
West Valley College

Peter Davis
Statewide Director ATTE
Economic & Workforce Development
California Community Colleges

