

California Energy Commission

Economic Stimulus & Recovery E-NEWS Blast

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California Recovery Task Force Announces Regional Road To Recovery Conferences Co-Hosted by the California Jobs Commission

SACRAMENTO -- The <u>California Recovery Task Force</u> today announced upcoming regional **Road to Recovery Conferences** being held in Southern, Central, and Northern California to provide practical and technical guidance on how local communities -- including government entities, private employers, and non-profits -- can apply for and access funding available through the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) to stimulate job creation and the California economy. The conferences are co-hosted by the <u>California Jobs Commission</u>.

"We want to create a straight line between federal Recovery Act funding and the local agencies and employers who are positioned to put this funding to work immediately to create jobs and stimulate the California economy," said Cynthia Bryant, director of the Governor's California Recovery Task Force. "Our job is to demystify the process, help local employers identify opportunities, and help clear any obstacles."

Recovery Act funding is distributed by the federal government directly to applicable organizations including local, state, and federal government entities as well as private businesses, non-profits, and other organizations. California's share of the federal stimulus package is estimated to be approximately \$85 billion over three budget years - including an estimated \$30.2 billion in federal tax relief and an estimated \$55 billion in spending for federally designated purposes.

Put on at no cost to taxpayers, full-day conferences are scheduled to take place in the following regional locations:

• Central Valley: July 8, 2009, at California State University, Fresno

If you have not received registration materials to date, please visit the Road to Recovery Conference registration website www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevaid=185157

(Information for reporters interested in covering the conference will be distributed Tuesday, July 7, 2009).

• Southern California: July 22, 2009, at the Anaheim Convention Center

Registration details will soon be available at the Road to Recovery Conference registration website www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?
bevaid=185157

Northern California: July 23, 2009, at San Jose State University

Registration details will soon be available at the Road to Recovery Conference registration website www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?
bevaid=185157

Set up as a series of focused workshops, the conferences will convene federal, state, local, and regional experts from various industry sectors for which Recovery Act funding is available - including transportation, education, broadband development, workforce training, energy, and others.

"Getting accurate and complete information to public agencies and other employers about the stimulus money, what opportunities exist and how they can take advantage of those opportunities is critical to getting our economy back on track," said Mark Mosher, executive director of the nonprofit Jobs Commission. "Many public agencies and other employers are unsure about what's available or how to access funding and these conferences will help answer those questions."

Transparency and accountability will also figure prominently during the conferences. Laura Chick, the Inspector General appointed by Gov. Schwarzenegger in April to act as watchdog over the disbursement of Recovery Act funding in California, will lead a discussion at all three conferences to help employers understand the accountability measures that accompany the federal funding and also to outline how the state is working to protect the Recovery Act money from waste and fraud.

Road to Recovery Conferences are being put on at no cost to the taxpayer. In addition to donations from various sponsors, use of conference facilities has been generously donated by the campuses and convention center.

Governor Schwarzenegger created the California Recovery Task Force to track the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding coming into the state; work with President Barack Obama's administration; help cities, counties, non-profits, and others access the available funding; ensure that the funding funneled through the state is spent efficiently and effectively; and maintain a website that is frequently and thoroughly updated for Californians to be able to track the stimulus dollars.

California's share of the federal stimulus package is estimated to be approximately \$85 billion over three budget years - including an estimated \$30.2 billion in federal tax relief and an estimated \$55 billion in spending for federally designated purposes.

The Task Force can be reached through its website, www.recovery.ca.gov <u>www.recovery.ca.gov</u>, or by telephone at (916) 322-4688.

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