

**South Bay Workforce Investment Board Awarded \$912,177 for
The South Bay Energy Project**

The South Bay Workforce Investment Board was recently awarded \$912,177 in federal Workforce Investment Act funds by the California Employment Development Department for the **South Bay Energy Project**. The purpose of the project is to enhance statewide workforce development efforts addressing emerging labor needs within the region's energy, chemical and advanced manufacturing industries.

The Los Angeles area has a large pool of skilled, dislocated mechanics and machinists resulting from sequential workforce reductions by aerospace and airline companies in California. The pool of dislocated workers includes machinists, mechanics, technicians, and others with specialized training applicable to other industries. At the same time, major employers in the refining, infrastructure, manufacturing, and food processing industries have identified a strong need for workers with related skills including industrial electricians, instrumentation technicians and machinist/millwrights. Such major employers include British Petroleum (BP), Conoco-Phillips, Exxon-Mobil, Shell, General Mills, United Water, and CEMCO Steel.

The Project will provide eligible unemployed workers job screening, skills assessment, occupational training at El Camino College, and referral services to participating employers with openings in skilled craft positions. The project will make a particular effort to train dislocated workers from the airline and aerospace industries who have backgrounds in machining, instrumentation, electrical and mechanical engineering, equipment maintenance, and other specialties for retraining for high-wage positions in energy and advanced manufacturing.

The South Bay Workforce Investment Board, in cooperation with the Airline Mechanics Fraternal Association and participating Workforce Investment Boards and One-Stop Business & Career Centers, will provide outreach, case management, and job placement for project participants. Upon its conclusion, the Project will add approximately 95 new workers to the region's labor pool and provide participants access to jobs with annual earnings ranging between \$70,000 and \$100,000 per year.

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