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**“The South Bay Workforce Investment Board Partners with West Basin Water District”**

The South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) recently secured funding in the amount of \$25,000.00 from the West Basin Water District in support of the SBWIB’s second year of its Turf Maintenance program. Additional funds will be provided through the Department Of Labor from SBWIB’s successful Bridge to Work Program that Congresswoman Maxine Waters started with SBWIB two years ago. The turf maintenance program proposes an education and training program to meet the growing demand for a skilled and agile workforce in the turf maintenance and landscape industry and to increase awareness of many opportunities for trained workers. The turf industry currently employs more than 150,000 workers in California with projected growth at 49% by 2010.

In order to meet the growing demand in the industry the program will educate and train young adults with the basic turf maintenance skills, provide training on the latest water-efficiency technologies and practices and provide mechanisms for entry-level employment in turf maintenance, landscaping and related occupations. SBWIB will operate in partnership with California State Dominguez Hills, Extended Education Department and West Basin Municipal Water District to combine classroom training with hands-on subsidized work experience so that trainees develop apprenticeship level skills. “We are very please to partner with West Basin Water District and look forward to exploring more collaborations in the future,” stated Jan Vogel, Executive Director of the South Bay Workforce Investment Board.

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