Executive Survey of Findings on Green Economy
Suggestions for Riverside Community College District (RCCD)

Background

President Obama projects that the $787 billion American Recovery and Investment Act will create over 400,000 jobs in the state and thousands of these jobs will be in the green sectors. Also, California’s Air Resources posits that the passage of AB 32, the state’s global warming solutions law, will create 100,000 jobs in the state. In light of the anticipated funding, various institutions and agencies have discussed how they might prepare workers to remain employed, enter or transition in green sectors. In order to access green employment opportunities, the definitions must be examined. The Centers of Excellence, a research group that partners with Economic & Workforce Development through the California Community Colleges, defines green jobs as:

1. “jobs that work directly with policies, information materials and/or technologies that contribute to minimizing environmental impact and
2. requires specialized knowledge, skills, training or experience in these areas” (Centers of Excellence, 2009, 9).

RCCD Green Economy Matched with Curricular Offerings

Based on these definitions and an analysis utilizing a crosswalk developed by Employment Development Department and California Community College Chancellor’s Office, RCCD can prepare students in five areas of the green economy. (RCCD does not offer curriculum in Water, Wastewater & Waste Management.) The 21 programs with the potential of educating students to enter the five major areas of the green economy are:

**Biofuels**
- Biotechnology

**Environmental Compliance and Sustainability Planning**
- Logistics Management

**Green Building and Efficiency**
- Architecture
- Drafting Technology
- Electronics Technology
- Engineering Software Applications
- Construction Technology
- Welding Technology

**Renewable Energy**
- Air Conditioning and Refrigeration
- Business Administration: Accounting General Business, Human Resources, Logistics, and Management
- Engineering Aide
- Engineering Technology

**Transportation/Alternative Fuel**
- Automotive Technology Programs: Electrical
- Automotive Technology Programs: Ford, GM, and Toyota

Furthermore, an environmental scan of the green sectors in the Inland Empire shows projected growth in the next ten years in Smart Grid (3%), Wind Power (2%) and Advanced Biofuels (6%) related positions. Thus, RCCD could seize the opportunity to prepare students for these fields. Additionally, an opportunity exists to retrain workers in declining large sectors of the service area (Construction, Transportation and Building Retrofitting).

Riverside Community College District can address “green” workforce needs through:
- Providing green education to currently employed workers
- Enhancing skills sets of workers related to the green economy, but who do not need the green training to work
- Transitioning individuals into new jobs

Sources: (www.recovery.gov); Centers of Excellence; EDD; EMSI Complete Employment - 2nd Quarter 2009 v. 2

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