

# stimulus news DIGEST

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## Recovery Project News

### **Santa Rosa, County Due Millions in Stimulus Aid:**

Santa Rosa is in line for \$7.4 million in federal stimulus money, an amount city officials believe could generate hundreds of jobs and move long-stalled public and private projects off the drawing board. The City Council is expected to declare the entire city a "recovery zone," a key element needed before the city can become eligible for a portion of the \$2.7 billion to be distributed within California this year under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors today is expected to declare the entire county a recovery zone to clear the way for \$15.9 million in stimulus money for county projects. (*"Santa Rosa, County Due Millions in Stimulus Aid," Santa Rosa Press Democrat, 1/26/10*)

### **Forest Service Gets \$185 Million to Expand Payroll in Region:**

The U.S. Forest Service's Vallejo-based Pacific Southwest Region has received more than \$185 million in stimulus money to help create jobs in Northern California. The agency got \$185.2 million under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to fund projects involving hazardous fuels reduction, forest health, construction and maintenance of facilities, roads and trails, abandoned mines and wood-to-energy projects. The projects will likely create at least hundreds of Northern California jobs, though exact numbers are so far unknown. (*"Forest Service Gets \$185 Million to Expand Payroll in Region," Contra Costa Times, 1/26/10*)

### **Workforce Investment Board Offers Free**

**Employment Advice:** The Golden Sierra Workforce Investment Board has teamed up with the California Employers Association to use \$220,000 in federal stimulus funds to provide free employment advice and support to area businesses and job seekers. The partners have launched a human relations hotline and a series of business assistance workshops for employers in Placer, El Dorado and Alpine counties. They also offer a free networking forum for unemployed professionals in Placer County.

The business services are normally offered through CEA membership at a cost of \$795 a year, but the investment board is using \$75,000 in American Recovery and Investment Act funds to make them available to all employers in the three counties through June 30, 2011. (*"Workforce Investment Board Offers Free Employment Advice," Sacramento Business Journal, 1/25/10*)

### **Fiber Dominates Latest US Rural Broadband Stimulus**

**Funds Release:** Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced 14 Recovery Act Broadband Infrastructure projects that will receive \$300 million through funding made available by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Altogether, Congress awarded USDA \$2.5 billion in Recovery Act funding to help bring broadband services to rural un-served and underserved communities. California counties San Joaquin, Tranquillity, and Fresno, Audeamus will receive a \$2,741,505 grant and \$2,741,505 loan. The proposed project is a fiber-based broadband infrastructure for the unserved and underserved communities in this service area. A last-mile project, it will provide access to approximately 1,500 households, local businesses, and anchor institutions in the communities. (*"Fiber Dominates Latest US Rural Broadband Stimulus Funds Release," 1/25/10*)

### **NIH Funding of Biomedical Innovation Is Creating**

**Jobs, Fueling Industry:** A new report, Investing in Recovery and Discovery by United for Medical Research (UMR), documents how the \$10.5 billion infusion in 2009 and 2010 came at a propitious time for both the US economy and the nation's biomedical research enterprise. The investment is creating and preserving jobs, laying the foundation for industry growth, and helping to reduce long-term health care costs. The NIH estimates that the funding is saving or preserving 50,000 jobs in research institutions and organizations around the country. (*"NIH Funding of Biomedical Innovation Is Creating Jobs, Fueling Industry," United for Medical Research, 1/24/10*)

### **Sacramento Utility Spearheads Solar Highway**

**Project:** The U.S. Department of Energy has allocated \$5 million in federal stimulus funds to Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) in order to develop California's first "solar highway," as well as four other renewable energy projects, such as a facilities that compost organic waste to generate energy. In order to develop this "solar highway," SMUD plans to take advantage of the unused land along state highways—for example, the terrain near exit ramps—and set up solar panels on this largely ignored territory. Following in the footsteps of Oregon's own solar highway, which is lined with 594 solar panels that produce nearly 112,000 kilowatt-hours a year and is the first project of its kind in the U.S., SMUD's own sun-powered thoroughfare is expected to produce 1 MW of energy at peak times. (*"Sacramento Utility Spearheads Solar Highway Project," Get Solar, 1/23/10*)

### **California Companies Awarded \$23M to Develop Cutting-Edge Lighting, Solar:**

Eight California Silicon Valley companies have been awarded American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus funding to help bring innovative new energy products to market. The US Department of Energy (DOE) will award five San Francisco Bay-area high-tech companies \$13.7M in grants to encourage breakthroughs in energy efficient lighting. Of the \$35M nationally in this ARRA award, more than a third of the stimulus funding went to California companies. The goal for the program is to produce high-efficiency solid-state lighting products to replace today's incandescent bulbs. Solid-state lighting uses light-emitting diodes (LEDs) and organic light-emitting diodes (OLEDs) that can be as much as ten times more energy-efficient than traditional incandescent lighting. In addition to the awards for more efficient lighting, DOE also announced that California would receive up to \$9 million for the Photovoltaic Incubator Program that will move new solar technologies out of the lab and into the marketplace. Three of the four companies selected are Californian and again in the San Francisco Bay area. (*"California Companies Awarded \$23M to Develop Cutting-Edge Lighting, Solar," Electric Net, 1/22/10*)

### **City Gets \$60,000 Grant to Help Small Businesses:**

Oroville was one of two applicants in California to receive a grant from a \$4 million pot of federal stimulus funding for business development projects in rural areas. The city will use the \$60,000 grant to help small businesses develop marketing plans, revenue projections and accounting documents, said Rick Farley, Enterprise Zone and Business Assistance Coordinator for the city. The city matched the

\$60,000 from the grant with \$70,000 in other types of grant funding for the city's Business and Technical Assistance Program. Of the city match, \$60,000 will go to small business loans and \$10,000 to administrative costs. So the city will have \$130,000 for small business assistance. Monterey County Vintners and Growers Association was the other California applicant to receive a grant, which was \$98,500. (*"City Gets \$60,000 Grant to Help Small Businesses," Chico Enterprise-Record, 1/22/10*)

### **Stimulus Funds Expand Infant Childcare Services:**

The Tahoe Truckee Unified School District will use the \$1.152 million, to expand Sierra Continuation High School's infant-toddler center or STEPP program (Sierra Teen Education & Parenting Program). In an effort to help local mothers, school district trustees unanimously approved a stimulus grant this month to provide more childcare for parents who are income eligible, graduating students, or for district employees. The expansion will add 12 new openings for infants and toddlers at the STEPP day care center, three new child development positions and another portable for STEPP facilities. The additional staffing and enrollment are expected to last 18 months if no additional federal funding is redirected for its support. (*"Stimulus Funds Expand Infant Childcare Services," Truckee Sierra Sun, 1/21/10*)

### **Tesla's \$465 Million Stimulus Loan Finalized:**

The U.S. Department of Energy finalized the long-expected \$465 million low interest loan Tesla Motors Inc. plans to use to build a manufacturing facility in southern California on the Model S electric sedan and a power-train manufacturing facility in Palo Alto. Tesla estimates that more than 1,600 California jobs will be created by the loan. (*"Tesla's \$465 Million Stimulus Loan Finalized," Silicon Valley/San Jose Business Journal, 1/21/10*)

### **California Gets Nearly \$11 Million for Jobs:**

California has received \$10.7 million in federal stimulus funds that will provide training to help remove them from unemployment rolls. The state estimates it could provide training for 2,100 Californians with the money. Thirteen agencies across the state will receive the funds to train people in occupations including network administrators, systems engineers, alternative fuel mechanics, paramedics, pharmacy assistants, home health aides, warehouse specialists and logistics clerks. The projects will focus on low-income, unemployed or under-skilled adults ages 18 and older, who face challenges in being employed. (*"California Gets Nearly \$11 Million for Jobs," KABC-TV Los Angeles, 1/21/10*)

**Tulare County Gets Grant for Job Training:** An economic stimulus grant of nearly \$1 million will help train 525 people in medical jobs, Tulare County officials said. The \$999,931 for the county will pay for medical-training programs at adult schools in Tulare, Visalia, Dinuba and Porterville, as well as at Porterville College. The programs will be free to students, said Adam Peck, executive director of the Tulare County Workforce Investment Board. Federal money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is being distributed to federal agencies, states and communities with goals of promoting job growth, improving infrastructure and helping jump-start the economy. (*"Tulare County Gets Grant for Job Training," Visalia Times-Delta, 1/21/10*)

**Berkeley Lab Rakes in More Stimulus:** Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory has pulled in another \$12.4 million in stimulus money to fund research into cancer, neurodegenerative diseases, radioactive decontamination and other health conditions. So far the lab has amassed \$240 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The latest tranche is funded through the National Institutes of Health. Of the \$12.8 million, \$4.2 million will fund a two-year research project to develop treatments for nuclear contamination. The Glenn T. Seaborg Center at Berkeley Lab has studied oral treatments for internal actinide contamination, caused by fallout from nuclear accidents or bombs. (*"Berkeley Lab Rakes in More Stimulus," San Francisco Business Times, 1/20/10*)

**SD Receives Green Job Training Grant:** The California Employment Development Department received a \$6 million federal economic stimulus grant Wednesday for "green" jobs training programs in five regions in the state, including San Diego County. The grant was among \$190 million announced today for state workforce and career agencies throughout the country for education and training programs to teach workers the skills required to get jobs in emerging "green" industries, including energy efficiency and renewable energy. In San Diego County, the grant will be used for energy efficiency training programs that focus on green building and retrofits, according to the Department of Labor. (*"SD Receives Green Job Training Grant," San Diego News Network, 1/20/10*)

**Stimulus Provide \$22 Million to Stabilize Long Beach Housing Market:** The City of Long Beach has been awarded a highly competitive \$22 million federal Stimulus grant to help stabilize high foreclosure areas, combat declining housing values, promote home-ownership and create jobs. The City will form a consortium with Habitat for Humanity and establish financing and energy efficient rehabilitation for 86 workforce households to purchase and redevelop foreclosed-upon homes. Habitat for Humanity will purchase and rehabilitate 25 homes that have been abandoned or foreclosed upon in order to sell, rent, or redevelop these properties. (*"Stimulus Provide \$22 Million to Stabilize Long Beach Housing Market," Everything Long Beach, 1/20/10*)

