

# MONTEREY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

## Monterey County Workforce Investment Board

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### **MEDIA ALERT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **The Monterey County Workforce Investment Board (WIB) receives \$874,890 in additional funding to serve workers who are affected by mass layoffs**

Salinas, CA – On March 13, 2014, the Monterey County Workforce Investment Board (WIB) applied for and received a second round of funding for \$874,890 under the 25 Percent Governor’s Dislocated Worker Additional Assistance grant funding. This second round of funding is targeted for re-employment services and training to serve an increase of displaced workers seeking services through the America’s Job Center of California (formerly One-Stop Career Center) delivery system.

The increased customer flow is driven by multiple layoffs, primarily in the banking and manufacturing industries, specifically by Capital One and River Ranch Fresh Foods. Capital One announced the closure of their entire plant and laid off approximately 869 workers in June 2013. River Ranch Fresh Foods announced the closure of their Salinas and Yuma operations in June 2013 and permanently terminated 171 employees which resulted in the permanent closure of their administrative offices, processing facility, and cooling and shipping facilities. As a result of these mass layoffs announced over the course of the past two years, more than 1,000 Monterey County residents have been laid off.

In response to this need, the Monterey County WIB submitted a funding request for \$874,890 to the State of California Employment Development Department to provide employment and training services specifically to the affected workers who were laid off by Capital One and River Ranch Fresh Foods. Monterey County is expecting to serve up to 160 individuals with this grant. Of the 160 individuals, 65 will be able to receive training services.

*“We have been working on this grant application since October 2013,” said Joyce Aldrich, Executive Director of the Monterey County WIB. “Due to state budget cuts over the past several years, we currently have very limited resources to serve the businesses and laid-off workers of Monterey County. We simply could not afford to retrain these workers if we didn’t receive this grant. This funding will support the retraining of workers so they can continue to provide for their families through what is going to be a very difficult transition.”*

Employment and training services to Capital One and River Ranch Fresh Foods workers will be offered by our main service provider the Office for Employment Training (OET). Their office is located at the America’s Job Center of California (formerly One Stop Career Center), at 730 La Guardia Street in Salinas, CA.

Workers in need of employment and retraining services can contact OET at the America’s Job Center of California at (831) 796-3600. For more information, please contact: Ms. Joyce Aldrich, Executive Director, Monterey County WIB, (831) 759-6644, [aldrichj@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:aldrichj@co.monterey.ca.us).