

N E W S R E L E A S E

News Release

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**Humboldt County Workforce Investment Board receives  
\$492,000 grant to retrain laid off timber workers**

**SACRAMENTO** – The California Employment Development Department (EDD) today awarded a \$492,000 grant to the Humboldt County Workforce Investment Board to help 106 laid off timber workers learn new skills and find new jobs.

The workers lost their jobs last December when the Green Diamond Resources Company closed its California Redwood Company mill in Korbel. Most of the laid off employees had worked in the lumber industry for more than 25 years and were in need of career help and guidance.

“Even with California’s continuing economic recovery, businesses can still be impacted by changes in the economy,” said EDD Director Patrick W. Henning, Jr. “This grant will provide critical new skills training for these workers– speeding up their return to the workplace and minimizing the closure’s economic impact on the region.”

The grant will fund training for the former mill workers to learn vocational skills used in career fields such as heavy equipment operators, truck and trailer repair, X-ray and MRI technicians, lineman, and high-tech manufacturing.

About half of the laid off workers will participate in custom training for employment at Wing Inflatables, a California-based inflatable boat company. The workers will then receive an additional six months of on-the-job training.

Funding for this program is drawn from the Governor’s 25 percent portion of Dislocated Worker Funds from Title I of the federal Workforce Investment Act and is under the administrative authority of the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency’s EDD.

For more information about this project, please contact Jacqueline R. Debets, Director of the Humboldt County Workforce Investment Board, at (707) 445-7747.

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