

NEWS

From the Office of

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County to Allocate Workforce Training Funds to Victor Valley College

SAN BERNARDINO – The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors is scheduled to award federal stimulus funds Tuesday to Victor Valley College to support its wastewater management training program.

“These are jobs that are in high demand and pay well,” said First District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt, who sits on the Board of the Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority and who recommended to the Workforce Investment Board that the program be funded. “In addition, these skills will translate into the alternative fuel industry that is poised to become a major employer in the High Desert.”

The training program at Victor Valley College will enable County residents to qualify for jobs in the wastewater industry. Starting salaries are in the \$40,000 range with the potential to go much higher as workers attain additional certifications and experience. The jobs are expected to be in high demand because experienced operators are starting to retire. Also, the industry will expand in coming years as population growth will require the construction of new plants and the expansion of existing plants.

The allocation of \$154,750 in federal stimulus funds, recommended by the County’s Workforce Investment Board, means the Wastewater Management training program at Victor Valley College can train up to 50 individuals for careers that will remain in demand for years to come.

The training will also qualify the workers for a new segment of the alternative energy industry, which will use algae to create high-quality biodiesel. The skills that wastewater professionals develop are the same skills needed for the development and production of the new algae-based fuels, said Logan Olds, General Manager of the Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority.