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CONTACT:

Sandy Harmsen, 909.387.9862

Courtenay Dulak 949.209.8871

Workforce Investment Board of San Bernardino County approves \$100,000 to train workers for available jobs

*Federal stimulus dollars will fund training for up to 70 qualifying residents
in mechanics, auto body and welding*

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (June 11, 2009) --The Workforce Investment Board of San Bernardino County will use slightly more than \$100,000 in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to train workers for available jobs in welding, mechanics and auto body repair. Training costs for up to 70 qualifying residents will be funded with this allocation.

Heavy Mobile Mechanic Training, Auto Body Training and Welding courses will be offered at Barstow Community College. Space is still available in each course and all are scheduled to begin on July 6. The Auto Body Training and Welding courses are six-week programs and the Heavy Mobile Mechanic Training is an eight-week program. Each training course will run Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Graduates of these courses will have entry-level skills to apply for jobs at military maintenance facilities handling the rebuilding, overhaul, repair and modernizing of vehicles and equipment. The entry-level wage for these positions is approximately \$16 per hour. There is currently an estimated need for 150 trained and skilled employees at military installations throughout the region.

“In this environment, it is important that we find which employers are looking for a trained and skilled workforce and help our residents build the skills they need to obtain that employment,” said Sandy Harmsen, executive director of the Workforce Investment Board.

The pre-requisites to entering the training course include San Bernardino County residency, valid identification and social security documentation. Males entering the program must be registered for Selective Service.

All candidates must also meet the minimum requirements for employment at a military facility, including proof of U.S. citizenship and completion of a background investigation and drug screening.

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100K allocated to training programs
Page 2 of 2

Those interested in more information about the training program may contact the Hesperia Employment Resource Center at (760) 949-8526 or contact the department's satellite office in Barstow on Wednesdays and Thursdays between 7 a.m. and 1 p.m. at (760) 252-8625.

About the San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board

The San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board is comprised of private business representatives and public partners appointed by the County Board of Supervisors. It strives to create a strong, vibrant economy by developing the county's workforce through partnerships with business, education and community-based organizations.

The WIB, through the county's Economic Development Agency and Workforce Development Department, operates the county's Employment Resource Centers and Business Resource Centers. The Employment Resource Centers provide individuals with job training, placement and the tools to strengthen their skills to achieve a higher quality of life, and the Business Resource Centers support and provide services to the county's businesses including employee recruitment.

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