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Congresswoman Matsui Announces \$300,000 in Federal Grants for SETA's On-The-Job Training Program

SACRAMENTO, CA - Today, Congresswoman Doris Matsui (D-Sacramento) held a press conference announcing that the Sacramento Employment & Training Agency (SETA) is receiving \$300,000 in federal funding to support SETA's On-The-Job Training Program. The event was held at the Beutler Corporation, located at McClellan Park, one of the several Sacramento companies that will be able to hire workers as a result of this grant. Congresswoman Matsui was joined by California Energy Commissioner Karen Douglas, SETA Executive Director Kathy Kossick, and Beutler Corporation President Rick Wylie to make the announcement, followed by a tour of Beutler's manufacturing plant.

"I am excited to announce the allocation of \$300,000 in federal funds to the Sacramento Employment & Training Agency for their On-The-Job Training Program," said Congresswoman Matsui. "This infusion of federal funds will specifically support Sacramento businesses and projects committed to boosting the area's economy, clean technology industry, and are actively creating jobs for our local workforce."

The federal funding was allocated through the U.S. Department of Energy and the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to the Energy Commission Clean Energy Workforce program, which in turn has awarded funding for the On-The-Job (OJT) Training Program. The Program subsidizes employers who are hiring workers in the clean energy fields, helping to create jobs, support Sacramento's growing clean energy sector, and ensuring that local workers receives the training they need to be successful in their new positions.

"Sacramento is making its mark on the clean energy economy," said Energy Commissioner

Karen Douglas. “Under the Energy Upgrade California Program, successful partners, such as SETA and small business leader Beutler, have trained and employed hundreds of workers in the Sacramento area while reducing homeowners energy bills.”

“The Green OJT program, funded by the California Energy Commission and the Employment Development Department, will reimburse employers 50-70% of the wages paid to trainees for 3-6 months of training. The program will put unemployed people back to work learning skills that are needed for the jobs of the future,” said SETA Executive Director, Kathy Kossick.

“In the midst of the most horrific crash in the new home construction industry of our lifetimes, the support that we and many of our existing and incoming employees have received through an earlier Green OJT program over the last 12 months has helped us turn around our company and provide jobs and enriched careers for over 90 people here at Beutler Corporation. For the first time in 5 years, our business is growing, we're hiring again, and home owners throughout the region are living more comfortably with lower energy bills because of this and other ARRA funded programs. This additional funding will only add to these wonderful success stories,” said Rick Wylie, President of Beutler Corporation/Advanced Comfort & Energy Systems.

Beutler has enjoyed employment growth over the last year, in large part due to the Moderate Income Sustainable Technology (MIST) Program, part of more than \$20 million made available by the California Energy Commission through the Recovery Act. MIST is a revolving loan program that finances third tier energy efficiency measures through 0-3 percent, 15-year loans and grants under the Energy Upgrade California program for moderate income families. Currently the MIST program is providing more than \$14.8 million in funding to homeowners with 251 completed retrofits; another 241 retrofits in progress; and 141 applications in process. These energy upgrade loans average about \$23,500 each will save homeowner hundreds of dollars in energy costs each year.

“Clean energy has enormous untapped potential for job creation in our region, and that is why I believe the federal government must continue to invest in American clean energy technology, support U.S. companies who are creating new jobs, and ensure that we are able to compete in a global marketplace,” Matsui added. “I will continue to fight for cost-effective, efficient, and high-quality programs like the On-The-Job Training Program that allow companies to innovate, grow, and hire. Today, is an example of federal funding – and the Recovery Act – hard at work putting Sacramentans back to work.”

For more information about the Clean Energy Workforce Training Program please visit <http://www.energy.ca.gov/cleanenergyjobs/>

For information about Energy Upgrade California, a one-stop shop for home improvement projects that lower your energy use, conserve water and natural resources while making your home more comfortable, visit <https://energyupgradeca.org/overview>

For more information about Congresswoman Matsui's efforts to make Sacramento the Clean Tech Capitol, visit www.matsui.house.gov .

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