

###  Business and Industry Committee

### November 6, 2013

###### SUMMARY MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT - Robert Alcazar, Fely Guzman, Richard Keyes, Sam Norman, Joe Olivares, and Lydia Zabrycki

 ABSENT - Brian Angus, LeeAnn Eager, Frank Gornick, Keith Lovgren, and Jose Plascencia

AGENDA CHANGES: None

 ABSTENTIONS/RECUSALS/

DISCLOSURES OF

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF

INTEREST: None

STAFF/CHAIR COMMENTS: Blake Konczal, Executive Director, Fresno Regional Workforce Investment Board (FRWIB) indicated that although there were a number of Information items on the agenda, the items are important and would be of interest to the Business and Industry Committee (B&I) members.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

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| Item | Description/Action Taken |
| 1. | **May 1, 2013, Business and Industry Committee Meeting Minutes**  |
|  | **GUZMAN/KEYES - APPROVED THE MAY 1, 2013, BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES. (UNANIMOUS)** |
| 2. | Items Referred by Other Committees |
|  | There were no items referred by other committees. |
| 3. | Customer Satisfaction Report for Program Year 2013 - 2014 |
|  | Christine Nutting, Deputy Director of Human Resources/Organizational Development/ Business Services, FRWIB, presented the Customer Satisfaction Report for Program Year (PY) 2013-2014 for the B&I’s recommendation to the FRWIB. Ms. Nutting stated that the report continues to reflect a high level of satisfaction from FRWIB employer and job seeker clients. She also indicated that FRWIB staff considers all feedback received in connection with this report and continuously looks at new ways to improve processes and enhance the overall experience for its clients. |
|  | **OLIVARES/GUZMAN - RECOMMENDED THAT THE FRWIB ACCEPT THE CUSTOMER SATISFACTION REPORT FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2013 - 2014. (UNANIMOUS)** |
| 4. | City and County Adoption of National Hiring Initiative  |
|  | Mr. Konczal reported that in January 2013, the California High Speed Rail Authority (CAHSRA) adopted national targeted hiring language, which FRWIB staff helped draft, for work on the California High Speed Rail project. A study conducted for valley Workforce Investment Boards two (2) years ago by Applied Development Economics revealed that $36.6 billion has been approved for federally-funded public infrastructure projects in the area from Stockton to Bakersfield to take place between the years 2010 and 2020. In an effort to take advantage of the opportunity these projects present for job seekers in the area, FRWIB staff is recommending that the FRWIB begin the discussion about how local hiring policies similar to the policies recently adopted by the CAHSRA can be adopted by the City and County of Fresno.   |
|  | **NORMAN/ALCAZAR APPROVED THE RECOMMENDATION THAT THE FRWIB CHAIR SCHEDULE A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE B&I TO DISCUSS AND FORM A RECOMMENDATION ON A LOCAL VERSION OF THE NATIONAL TARGETED HIRING CRITERIA. (UNANIMOUS)** |
| 5. | Property Purchases for High Speed Rail |
|  | Mr. Konczal introduced William McComas, Director of High Speed Rail Services with the Economic Development Corporation serving Fresno County (EDC). Mr. McComas provided the B&I with an overview of the EDC’s High Speed Rail Business Support Services Program and stated that the program’s mission is to provide service to all impacted businesses affected by the High Speed Rail project, with the intention of easing the transition into their new business locations and also to foster retention. Mr. McComas explained that there are between 250 and 300 businesses impacted by the first phase of the High Speed Rail construction and those businesses’ properties, either partially or completely, will be purchased by the CAHSRA. The EDC’s program will assist these businesses with services such as assistance with site relocation identification, document review, meeting coordination with applicable agencies, providing a referral list to those businesses requesting it, and working directly with the City and County’s planning departments to expedite to processing of various applications and permits. He stated that so far, 130 properties have been appraised and offers have been made for the purchase of those properties. Mr. McComas concluded his presentation saying that there is much confusion and misinformation surrounding the High Speed Rail project as it relates to affected businesses, and asked B&I members to refer anyone with questions to him or his team at the EDC. |
|  | This was an information item. |
| 6. | Craft Trak Presentation |
|  | Mr. Konczal introduced Al Franger with California Municipal Technologies, Inc., who provided a presentation on Craft Trak, an electronic portal that is being designed for the referral of workers for the High Speed Rail project. Currently, the CAHSRA is planning to implement a paper system for the referral of workers, but if approved, the Craft Trak system would be a much more efficient system.Mr. Franger demonstrated how contractors and union dispatchers could use the portal to create and fulfill requests for workers. The Craft Trak system would allow the union halls to enter information about their members to show eligibility under the National Targeted Hiring’s criteria. The system would also provide an opportunity for worker requests to be filled within the limited timeframe required under the National Targeted Hiring policy. Meeting this timeframe is critical to ensuring the most local workers are hired for the project.So far, feedback from the general contractor and unions has been very positive and they have provided valuable input.  |
|  | This was an information item. |
| 7. | 2014 Employment Study |
|  | Ms. Nutting reminded the B&I that every two (2) years, the FRWIB conducts an employment study with two (2) purposes in mind. The first is to evaluate the FRWIB’s targeted sectors that are trending toward high growth employment and review the forecast of job openings in those sectors within one (1) year and within three (3) years. With this information, FRWIB staff can work with education and training providers to drive better training options. This information is also very valuable for FRWIB job seekers as they make career choices. The second purpose of the employment study is to help identify barriers that may cause a business to close, relocate, or prevent expansion. In partnership with the EDC and Fresno4Biz, an automated referral system was created to help connect struggling businesses to a variety of partners who can offer business solutions in a timely manner. Already, about twelve (12) businesses have been identified who are in critical need of assistance and those businesses have been contacted through the Fresno4Biz partnership.Once completed, the study data will also be used by the FRWIB and its business services partners to develop a Small Business University where one (1)-day workshops and classes will be offered to address some of the major business challenges identified. |
|  | This was an information item. |
| 8. | **Rapid Response – Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act Notice** |
|  | Tamico Thomas, Senior Outplacement/Vendor Contract Specialist, FRWIB, reported that during the Fourth Quarter of PY 2012 - 2013, the Rapid Response team did not meet with any employers or dislocated workers, but met with four (4) employers and provided information to 575 disclosed workers during the First Quarter of PY 2013 – 2014. |
|  | This was an information item. |
| 9. | **Referral of Agenda Items to Other Committees** |
|  | Director Olivares requested that the Craft Trak presentation be made at a future FRWIB meeting. |
|  | This was an information item. |
| 10. | **February 5, 2014, Agenda Items** |
|  | Director Alcazar asked for an update from a labor union representative on the Craft Trak system. |
| 11. | **Meeting Feedback** |
|  | None. |
|  | The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m. |