

MONTEREY COUNTY



OVERALL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

(831) 755-5065 168 West Alisal Street, 3rd Floor, Salinas, CA 93901-2680

September 16, 2010

Supervisor Louis Calcagno, Member
Supervisor Dave Potter, Member
Board Ad Hoc Economic Development Committee
County Administrative Office
168 West Alisal Street, Third Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Dear Board Ad Hoc Economic Development Committee Members:

On September 16th, the Overall Economic Development Commission (OEDC) unanimously approved the recommendation of the OEDC Agency Relations and Business Development Committee to support the placement of the Office for Employment Training (OET) under a county economic development organization.

The OEDC commissioners understand that the Board Ad Hoc Economic Development committee will bring recommendations to the Board of Supervisors in October to merge the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) and the OEDC under a county economic development organization, along with other recommendations that will enhance economic development and workforce development efforts in Monterey County.

The OEDC supports the merger of the WIB and OEDC under a county economic development organization, but also request the committee consider placing OET under this organization. The commissioners feel this move is vital, since employment training is a critical component of workforce development efforts. A common concern voiced by business owners and managers is that qualified employees are difficult to find and retain, which supports this recommendation that employment training and workforce development efforts go hand in hand, and need to be placed under the same organization.

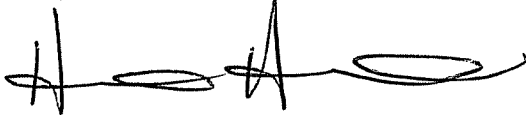
The OEDC emphasizes that a vital part of merging the county's economic development and workforce development activities would be to include OET, knowing that business services and retention activities must be in line with the training and recruitment assistance priorities for the County's workforce development efforts to be successful.

The approach to coordinate economic development and workforce development efforts was one of the recommendations in a study commissioned by the County, OET and the Monterey County Business Council, "Monterey County Business and Workforce Study – 2003". This study also

stated that the current structure is significantly fragmented between the county's economic development and workforce development efforts, and the best results come when development efforts are undertaken together.

The OEDC appreciates the committee's consideration of our recommendation, and is available if the committee would like to meet with the commissioners to discuss this recommendation and any other issues related to economic development and workforce development efforts.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hunter Harvath', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hunter Harvath, Chair
OEDC

C: OEDC Members