

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER ANNOUNCES \$8.5 MILLION TO
TRAIN CALIFORNIA'S WORKERS**

SACRAMENTO - Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today announced that \$8,509,210 in job training funds was awarded to companies in California to train the unemployed for new jobs, and to upgrade the skills of currently employed workers. The \$8.5 million was approved through a total of 48 new job training contracts, which will lead to the training and placement into jobs for 698 unemployed workers, and skills upgrade training for 9,608 workers.

"New jobs and competitive skills are vital to California's workers and our economic recovery," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "I am pleased at the opportunities these training contracts will provide to California workers and their employers."

Included in today's announcement is an award of \$1 million to the Walgreen Company which is building a new distribution center in Moreno Valley, California. The center will open in May 2004. The company will hire 583 unemployment insurance recipients and train them for new, well paying jobs. The Walgreen Company will service not only California, but also Arizona, Washington and Nevada from this center.

Also included in the announcement is training for 75 unemployment insurance recipients in healthcare occupations such as certified nurse assistant and dementia care specialists, and 40 unemployment insurance recipients who will be trained and placed in various business occupations. In addition to the training and placement of the unemployed, 9,608 currently employed workers will receive skills upgrade training. Most of the workers are employed with California's manufacturing firms.

Funding will be provided by the State of California Employment Training Panel (ETP). ETP is a state agency, supported by business and labor, that reimburses California companies providing high-skilled, high-wage training to their employees. Under ETP's various programs, eligible businesses apply to ETP for reimbursement of funds for training new and current employees. The program is funded by the employment training tax paid by California employers and targets firms threatened by out-of-state and international competition.

ETP's skills up-grade training targets employed workers, enabling them to move up to more secure and better paying employment and help California companies remain world class competitors in global markets.

The state's ETP program only provides funds if trainees successfully complete their training and are retained in well paying jobs. Because employers must also contribute to the training effort, the projects are true public-private partnerships to improve California's workforce. Recent assessments of similar ETP funded training show workers normally have a three to four thousand dollar wage gain after completing the program.

For more information about ETP training funds contact Charles Lundberg, Marketing Director, ETP at 916-327-5261, or visit ETP's website at www.etp.ca.gov.

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