

An Initiative of the California Workforce Development Board

Water and wastewater industries are critical to ensuring the health of the local population and the local environment. Yet, in California, employers in water industries are facing a shortage of trained and skilled workers needed to maintain operations. The Jewish Vocational Services (JVS) project addresses this shortage by supporting the creation of a local talent pipeline that will fill mission-critical occupations in the water and wastewater industry. Training a qualified pipeline of critical water infrastructure workers ensures that the future of water industries, in the Bay Area and Inland Empire, is sustainable and resilient, even during California's increased periods of drought and hotter, drier wildfire seasons.

JVS sets out to expand its regional outreach and training to create exemplary high road career pathways in the water utility and adjacent industries such as advanced manufacturing (Electronic Maintenance Technician, Machinist, and Maintenance Mechanics) for workers in underserved communities within the Bay Area and the Inland Empire. The project's new regional expansion will replicate JVS's successful consortium model, BAYWORK (a consortium of water and wastewater agencies in the Bay Area) and apply its best practices to bring awareness, identify skill gaps, workforce challenges, sector-specific goals and solutions, and develop industry training, pre-apprenticeships, and apprenticeships in filling regional identified mission-critical careers and occupations.

The BAYWORK partnership has helped increase the number of signatory agencies from three to thirty nine water and wastewater agencies, built consensus among water industry stakeholders, established partnerships with unions, community, and educational organizations, and identified and provided regional training career readiness programs

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Provide models of training and career readiness programs that will bring awareness and address workforce reliability for the water and adjacent industries.
- Increase access for workers seeking high-quality careers in the utility trades and the number of entry-level job opportunities available.
- The BAYWORK partnership has helped increase the number of signatory agencies from three to 39 water and wastewater agencies.

KEY PARTNERS

- BAYWORK Consortium including over 39 water and wastewater agencies.
- West Valley Water District
- Western Municipal Water District
- AFSCME Council 57
- IAM Local 1414
- IUOE Local 12
- Inland Empire Labor Council California Labor Federation
- Inland Empire Black Worker Center Tradeswomen Inc.
- Construction Trades Workforce Initiative
- Tomorrow's Talent
- Center for Employment Opportunities
- Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (BOSS)



This project is funded through the U.S. Department of Education, Education Stabilization Fund-Reimagine Workforce Preparation (ESF-RWG) Grant Program and California Climate Investments, a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health, and the environment — particularly in disadvantaged communities.