



## **AB 1697: Creating Job Training Opportunities in the Clean Energy Sector**

### **Summary:**

AB 1697 helps California workers successfully transition and secure jobs in the clean energy sector. This bill draws upon currently available grant dollars to enhance workforce development in future clean energy development and infrastructure project proposals.

### **Background:**

On January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Governor Brown issued a statewide goal of reducing petroleum use 50% by 2030 in order to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. This goal will be achieved by reducing petroleum consumption while simultaneously increasing production and use of renewable and alternative fuels. This means California will require a trained and knowledgeable workforce in the emerging clean energy sector.

To address the long-term goals of reducing GHG emissions in California, the legislature established the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program (ARFVTP). The ARFVTP is administered by the California Energy Commission and funded through the collection of vehicle and vessel registration, vehicle identification plates, and smog-abatement fees. In total, the program provides up to \$100 million in grants each year to help California establish and expand alternative and renewable fuel production and infrastructure.

As policies that reduce GHG emissions and petroleum use go into effect, the job market landscape will inevitably change, resulting in a greater emphasis on green jobs. In order to remain competitive, California will have to transition its workforce to match the growing demand.

The ARFVTP is primed to ensure California workers receive the necessary support and training to transition successfully into the new economy. With \$100 million granted annually to increase alternative and renewable energy projects statewide, projects should also include workforce development components to meet the future demands of the shifting job marketplace.

AB 1697 incentivizes applicants for ARFVTP funding to include a workforce development element in order to be more competitive in the grant process. This bill will ensure that the California workforce transitions smoothly to implement future policy priorities aimed at reducing GHG emissions.

### **This bill:**

Specifically, this bill:

- Specifies that grant proposals for The Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program also include the following on the list of criteria the California Energy Commission considers when deciding which grant applications will be funded:
  - The ability to provide a path for trained workers to transition to jobs in the clean technology and renewable fuels sectors.
  - The ability to promote employment of trained workers in the clean technology and renewable fuels sectors.

### **Support**

California Workforce Association