



November, 2009

CHP Weatherization Crew Members Attend a White House News Conference

Eight weatherization crew members recently received an unexpected invitation from the White House, asking those CHP employees who had been hired as a direct result of federal stimulus money to attend a press conference held by Vice President Joe Biden. With less than 24 hours notice, Ethan Heslep, Joshua Furrow, Donald Hubbard, Ryan Furrow, Joshua Gatrell, Jason Jenkins, Jerry Ball, and David Caldwell submitted their names and social security numbers to the White House for a standard background/security check, then proceeded to Washington's ornate Eisenhower Executive Office Building for the hour-long media event. There, the weatherization team joined approximately 250 other workers from the region hired with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds as they listened to the Vice President, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, and Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley praise the results of the stimulus initiative.

According to Biden, the largest stimulus program in the nation's history has created or saved just over 640,000 jobs, including 12 in CHP's Energy Services department. Based on approximately \$150 billion in spending from the \$787 billion recovery package, the tally is the first broad, concrete look at the stimulus program's impact on the economy. The numbers are drawn from 57,000 reports from state and local recipients and include as many as 30,000 jobs from private companies.

"Every dollar being spent from Recovery Act is helping put someone back to work," said Vice President Joe Biden, citing 80,000 construction jobs and 325,000 education positions created or saved by stimulus funds. "My message today is that we're on track."

"I didn't really know what to expect, but everybody was really nice to us. I'm glad I was able to go, because it was a pretty interesting experience," said 26-year-old Josh Gatrell of the event. A CHP employee since April, Gatrell is grateful for the federal government's infusion of stimulus dollars into the economy. "It gave me a great job where I get to help people that really need it. I like helping others, and now we can assist even more folks, thanks to the stimulus money," commented Gatrell.

Since CHP began receiving federal stimulus dollars in March, 2009, it has:

- Increased the number of our Energy Services staff from 20 to 32 employees
- Increased the average number of weatherization projects per quarter from approximately 108 to 550
- Provided over 5,000 hours of training. This includes technical training for CHP's own weatherization team (including new hires) and training of management staff on the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), and development strategies around production and use of the ARRA funds
- Increased average cost per weatherization job (single- and multi-family) from \$6,006 to \$9,725
- More than quadrupled the amount of work subcontracted out for single- family housing weatherization work. *(No multifamily weatherization work was done prior to March, 2009)*