

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 4: Higher Education Coordinating Commission Klamath Community College Well Drilling Curriculum

To:	Emergency Board Full Committee
From:	Education Subcommittee
Carrier:	Representative McLain

The Education Subcommittee recommends that the Emergency Board allocate \$975,000 General Fund from the Emergency Fund to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to disburse to Klamath Community College to purchase a water well drilling rig and offer a well drilling curriculum.

Historically, Klamath County has declared drought emergencies more than any other county in the state. The Klamath Basin water scarcity includes existing wells running dry leading to the need for deepening of those wells, new well construction, and well abandonment work. The current shortage of well constructors is anticipated to worsen with increased training requirements for well constructor licensing effective July 1, 2023 as mandated by HB 2145 from the 2021 session. Working with Klamath Basin stakeholders, Klamath Community College proposes the development and implementation of a well drilling curriculum to address this workforce need. In addition to well construction, the curriculum will also include welding certification with a focus on pipe-welding, construction jobsite safety training, as well as laws regarding water well drilling. HECC has reviewed and approved the proposed curriculum. The expected cost of the program is \$975,000 which includes \$25,000 for curriculum development and \$950,000 for the well drilling rig customized for regional use. Klamath Community College hopes to launch the program starting Winter Term, January 13, 2023.

The Subcommittee recommends approval.