October 16, 2026

Statements from Trade Union Members

Submitted to the California Apprenticeship Council, c/o Division of Apprenticeship Standards, ahead of the October 29, 2026 meeting

The following written statements come from union members who have participated in Ecological Workforce Initiative training. Each is reproduced exactly as written, in the member's own words.

Marco Moya

Operator Union Local 3

As a foreman and member of the Operating Union Engineers, Local 3, I believe that ecological workforce training greatly benefited me in my leadership role, professional development, and the work I oversee in the construction industry.

In my role as a foreman, I am responsible for coordinating field operations, directing crew members, maintaining safe working conditions, and ensuring that work is completed according to project specifications and applicable requirements. Through my experience on projects involving creek bank stabilization, erosion control, irrigation installation, vegetation management, and habitat restoration, I have gained firsthand knowledge of the importance of protecting the environment while completing construction activities efficiently and responsibly.

Ecological workforce training strengthened my understanding of environmental regulations, permit requirements, and best management practices. This knowledge helped me better identify potential environmental risks, communicate requirements to my crew, implement appropriate protective measures, and ensure that our daily operations comply with environmental standards.

As a foreman, I believe it is important not only to understand these requirements myself but also to lead by example and ensure that the crew understands the importance of environmental compliance. This training improved my ability to make informed decisions in the field, coordinate effectively with project managers and environmental inspectors, and help prevent environmental impacts, violations, and unnecessary delays.

Ultimately, I believe this training made me a more effective foreman and a more knowledgeable member of Local 3. The skills and knowledge gained benefited my professional growth, my employer, the crews I lead, and the projects we complete. By strengthening my understanding of ecological work practices and compliance requirements, it better equipped me to lead construction activities that meet project expectations while protecting sensitive habitats and natural resources.

Isaias Cazares

Laborer Union

Since joining the laborer union and participating in the Ecological Workforce Initiative training program, I have experienced many positive changes in my career and personal life. It has provided me with a better job opportunities, improved health benefits, and greater overall stability. The training has helped me develop my skills, gain valuable experience, and open doors to opportunities that may not have been available to me otherwise. Overall it has a great benefit to me and I believe it has a strong foundation for my future and my career.

Frank Perez

Operator Union Local 3

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Frank Perez, and I am a member of Operating Engineers Local 3 and a foreman. I am writing to share how the Ecological Workforce Initiative training has helped me grow in my work and deepen my understanding of ecological restoration. Working in the field has taught me a great deal, and these trainings have helped me better understand the purpose behind the work we do. I have gained a strong appreciation for how our daily decisions and the care we put into our work contribute to restoring habitats and protecting the environment. As a foreman, this knowledge matters to me. Understanding why we do something helps me approach a project with more confidence and communicate its purpose to my crew. The training has helped me connect practical field experience with the ecological goals we are working to achieve. One of the most valuable things I have gained is a greater sense of pride in my work. We are contributing to something that will continue to benefit our communities and the natural environment long after a project is finished. Understanding that responsibility makes the work more meaningful. I believe programs like the Ecological Workforce Initiative are a valuable investment in union workers and California's restoration workforce. They give us an opportunity to build on our experience, strengthen our knowledge, and bring that understanding back to the job site. I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in these trainings, and I support their continuation and expansion so more workers can benefit from them. They have made a meaningful difference in how I understand and approach my work in ecological restoration.

Sincerely,
Frank Perez