



Date: April 5, 2005

To: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers

From: Dan Baker, 2nd District Councilmember *DB*
Patrick O'Donnell, 4th District Councilmember *AO*

Subject: **Report from the California State Building and Construction Trades Council on Career Opportunities for Long Beach Youth in the Construction Trades**

Recommended Action

Receive and file a report from the California Building Trades Council regarding career opportunities for Long Beach youth in the construction trades.

Background

Through a grant by the California Department of Education, the California State Building and Construction Trades Council is embarking on a new round of statewide employment recruiting efforts. As part of the Building California Construction Careers program (www.buildingc3.com), the CSBCTC is looking for opportunities to reach out to high school students about careers in construction.

With the assistance of members of the Long Beach Unified School Board and the Superintendent's Office, the CSBCTC will be working through vocational education and internship programs to give Long Beach students an opportunity to embark on a career in the construction trades.

An apprenticeship in one of the building trades can be the first step toward a lucrative career. Wages in state-approved apprenticeship programs start \$12-15 per hour, plus benefits. The rate increases every six months until training is completed. After serving a 3-5 year apprenticeship (depending on craft), union journeymen will make an average wage of \$28 per hour or \$60,000 annually plus health and pension benefits. Considering that nearly half (48%) of Long Beach households earn less than \$35,000, we need to do all we can to help foster a highly skilled and compensated workforce in Long Beach.

We have asked a representative from the California Building Trades Council to give a brief report about this effort.