



**Panel Amendment #1 Proposal for:
Wonderful Pistachios & Almonds, LLC
Agreement Number: ET15-0323**

Amendment Effective Date: November 18, 2015

Panel Meeting of: January 22, 2016

ETP Regional Office: North Hollywood

Analyst: L. Vuong

CURRENT PROJECT PROFILE

Contract Type:	Respond (core funding) Priority/Retrainee HUA	Industry Sector(s):	Manufacturing Agriculture
Counties Served:	Fresno and Kern	Repeat Contractor:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Union(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Priority Industry:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Current Contract Term:	November 24, 2014 to November 23, 2016	Substantial Contribution:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

CURRENT FUNDING

Current Funding
\$529,200

AMENDMENT FUNDING

Requested Funding	Total Funding
+\$214,200	\$743,400

AMENDMENT TRAINING PLAN TABLE

Job No.	Job Description	Type of Training	Estimated No. of Trainees	Range of Hours		Average Cost per Trainee	Post-Retention Wage
				Class / Lab	CBT		
1	Priority Retrainee HUA RESPOND	Computer Skills, Cont. Imp., Mgf. Skills	700	8-200	0	\$1,062	\$11.17
				Weighted Avg: 59			

Minimum Wage by County: (HUA) \$11.17 per hour for Fresno and Kern counties

Health Benefits: Yes No This is employer share of cost for healthcare premiums – medical, dental, vision.

Used to meet the Post-Retention Wage?: Yes No

Up to \$2.17 per hour may be used to meet the Post-Retention Wage.

Wage Range by Occupation	
Occupation Title	Wage Range
Administrative Support Staff	
Customer Service Staff	
Maintenance/Engineer Staff	
*Production Worker	
Production Support Staff	
Manager/Supervisor	

*It is a condition of the contract that the trainees in this Job Number will never be paid less than the State or local minimum wage rate, as in effect at the end of retention (Final Payment) regardless of the wage expressed in this table. The highest minimum wage rate will prevail. The Production Worker wage rate rose from \$9 to \$10 effective January 1, 2016 in keeping with state law.

INTRODUCTION

Founded in 1989, Wonderful Pistachios & Almonds, LLC (Wonderful Pistachios) (www.wonderful.com) farms, processes and sells almonds and pistachios. This contract was approved in November 2014 under its former corporate name Paramount Farms International LLC. However, since then, the Company changed its name and business registration to Wonderful Pistachios & Almonds, LLC. The name change took effect in June 2015, but did not alter the ownership or business operations. The Contractor is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Wonderful Company in Los Angeles. Furthermore, its products are marketed in retail outlets under the brand names Wonderful® and Everybody’s Nuts!® [Note: Paramount Farms International LLC was a first-time Contractor, not to be confused with repeat Contractor Paramount Citrus Packing Company LLC.]

In tandem with grower partners, the Company farms 125,000 acres that deliver 450 million pounds of nuts annually. Its headquarters are located in Lost Hills, Kern County. It has several growing and processing sites in Lost Hills, Firebaugh, Bakersfield, and offices in Los Angeles. Trainees from Firebaugh, Bakersfield and Lost Hills locations are participating in this ETP project.

RESPOND/Drought

This proposal is funded under the Rapid Employment Strategies Pilot on Natural Disasters (RESPOND) adopted by the Panel in early 2014 to fund training in designated drought areas. This contract is using “core” funding (“alternative funds” for RESPOND went to other proposals).

AMENDMENT DETAILS

ETP training is currently being provided for trainees and is progressing according to plan. The initial proposed Agreement amount was conservative. Wonderful Pistachios’ reported that due to increased customer demand, production needs and less water for the plants, the Company implemented new processes to improve production efficiency. The Company has been looking for ways to produce more nuts with reduced water supply. As a result, the Company needed more training and was able to roll out its training plan faster than originally anticipated.

In addition, the Company had already provided 115% of the training hours in the Agreement (See Current Contract Performance Table). Therefore, Wonderful Pistachios requests additional funding to continue its training program. The Company is requesting to increase the weighted average hours of training from 42 to 59, and average cost per trainee from \$756 to \$1,062. This will allow currently enrolled trainees to receive more training. Additional training allows workers to become more productive and increase company revenue.

Staff recommends an effective date of November 18, 2015. This is the date the request for Amendment was submitted, reflecting when the Contractor realized that hours entered into ETP Online Tracking were at a maximum, although there was a need for further training. This date is reasonable because these are the same trainees as originally enrolled.

Note: There is no request for a change in the Curriculum, which remains Computer Skills, Continuous Improvement and Manufacturing Skills. All delivery is by classroom/laboratory with no Productive Lab. There are no Temporary to Permanent Workers as per the original proposal.

Notification of Name Change

As discussed earlier, the Contractor changed its name from Paramount Farms International LLC to Wonderful Pistachios & Almonds, LLC effective June 1, 2015. Because this name change did not affect ownership or business operations, it was processed as a contract notification rather than a revision/amendment.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of this Amendment.

CURRENT CONTRACT PERFORMANCE

The following table summarizes performance by Wonderful Pistachios under the current ETP Agreement:

Agreement No.	Approved Amount	Term	No. Trainees Enrolled	No. Completed Training	No. Retained
ET15-0323	\$529,200	11/24/14 – 11/23/16	985	TBD	TBD

As of December 15, 2015 and based on ETP Systems, 985 trainees have been enrolled, and 903 trainees are still in training. The ETP Online Tracking System shows a total of 33,776.51 eligible hours for potential earnings of \$607,977 (115% of approved amount).