

CONSTRUCTION, TRADES, & UTILITIES

BUILDING THE REGION'S FUTURE

California's Capital Region depends on a skilled, adaptable workforce to remain competitive and resilient. Valley Vision serves as a regional workforce intermediary, aligning employers, education, and local partners to strengthen talent pipelines and support quality jobs across priority industries. We work across silos and systems to ensure that workforce investments are coordinated, data-driven, and responsive to employer demand.

The Energy, Construction, and Utilities (ECU) sector sits at the center of regional growth and infrastructure investment. It spans the systems that power daily life: housing, water, transportation networks, energy generation, and the accelerating transition to electrification. Across the region, this sector represents both immediate workforce demand and long-term structural need as California continues to modernize its energy systems and expand infrastructure capacity.



119,000+
Regional Jobs

6,300+
New People Needed
in the Next 5 Years

\$100,000+ Average
Annual Wage

Careers in Demand

Employment growth centers on specialty trades, utilities, and infrastructure, propelled by housing and energy upgrades. Regional initiatives support this demand. In-demand careers include:

- Electrical and power systems
- HVAC and mechanical trades
- Welding and fabrication
- Utility operations and maintenance
- Construction and infrastructure trades
- Energy systems and emerging clean energy technologies

Skills in Demand

While traditional trade expertise remains important, ECU work is increasingly driven by technology. Employers are looking for workers who can combine practical skills with digital and systems knowledge. Key skill areas include:

- Digital tools, automation systems, and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) platforms
- Data interpretation and emerging energy technologies (storage, grid modernization, cybersecurity)
- High-voltage systems and safety practices
- Diagnostics, troubleshooting, and equipment repair

Pathways into the Industry

The ECU sector is supported by a connected pipeline that spans community college education, union apprenticeship, private industry training, and on-the-job learning. Regional community colleges currently graduate approximately 757 ECU-related students every year, while apprenticeship programs and industry training provide critical on-ramps into high-demand occupations. Common entry and progression points include:

- High school CTE and STEM coursework
- Community college certificates and associate degree programs
- Pre-apprenticeships that provide structured exposure and readiness preparation
- Registered apprenticeships that combine paid work experience with technical instruction
- Employer-led training programs and academies that accelerate specialization

**Learn More About
Career Pathways and
Workforce Resources**

