

On a warm afternoon in April, 2009 several officials were treated to a tour of Kingsburg's Green Efforts. The tour was designed to showcase how much this little town of 12,000 has prepared for the future by embracing green technology and opportunities.

Among the guests on the tour was former Assemblywoman Nicole Parra who is now Governor Schwarzenegger's new Director of the Governor's Regional Development Initiative. Parra works under the state's Business, Transportation and Housing Agency. Part of Parra's new job will be coordinating economic development in the Central Valley.

In addition to Parra, Former Assemblyman Steve Samuelian who now owns and operates California Consulting. Samuelian's company works to generate funds for public, private and non-profit agencies across California and has secured over \$50 million in grant monies to date. Kingsburg City Council Mayor Pro Tem Dave Karstetter, newly elected Kingsburg City Council Member Chet Reilly, Kingsburg City Manager Don Pauley, Kingsburg Economic Development Chairman Steve Safarjian and Kingsburg Economic Development Consultant Jolene Polyack were also included in the entourage.



According to Parra, "Touring the green efforts of Kingsburg's largest businesses proved that operating with green practices can save businesses thousands of dollars each year. It's a reminder that we can actually improve the environment while improving the bottom line at the same time. There is really not a down side."

Samuelian added, "When you think about the size of Kingsburg compared to all that their businesses are doing to improve the environment, it is very encouraging. It does seem like Kingsburg has embraced new green technology with a passion and intends on leading the way to how businesses will be operated in the future. The tour was very inspirational."

#### **Five locations were highlighted on the tour:**

**Kingsburg Train Depot** was highlighted as the new Multi-Modal Transportation Hub for the City. Once completed, all local, regional and state bus transportation will be conducted from the Depot location. If Amtrak, light rail or other forms of rail service determine that they will stop in the Central Valley, the Depot will be available for that use as well. Using mass transportation reduces overall emissions in the Valley while reducing our consumption of fossil fuel.



**Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail** – The Golden State Corridor has long been considered an underutilized asset. Along the Corridor a bicycle and pedestrian trail is scheduled to be created for both commuters and fitness enthusiasts. The first phase will stretch from Sierra Street to Kamm Avenue. Once the entire project is completed there will be 16 miles of bicycle and pedestrian paths which will enhance the area, bring in tourism, sporting events and other recreational opportunities while providing an opportunity to reduce emissions for those commuting to and from Kingsburg and Selma.



**Del Monte** has completed the installation of solar panels on their two Kingsburg facilities. According to Supervising Project Engineer David Satterburg, “The solar panel installation is good for the environment, good for the community and good for business. We’re helping to protect the future for everyone and we’ve reduced costs at the same time.” Combined with the solar panels installed in their Hanford facility, Del Monte has the largest solar rooftop system in the Central Valley. It is expected to reduce carbon emissions by more than 95 million pounds over 30 years. It is the equivalent of planting 9,800 acres of trees or not driving nearly one billion miles. The systems are expected to save Del Monte over \$500,000 on their energy bill in the first year and \$25 million over the 30-year life of the panels.



**Guardian Industries** recently completed a major overhaul of their float glass operation. The benefits of the renovation project included a reduction in their emission rates by 67% nitrogen, 7% particulate matter and 75% sulfur oxide. Due to the success of their new technology this Kingsburg facility that employs over 300 people has now set the new standard for emissions at the national level. It is considered the cleanest glass plant in the nation utilizing the best available technology. Their reduction in energy uses is the equivalent of the energy used in 2,000 homes. The upgrades don’t stop with the renovation. Guardian is now poised to reduce their energy consumption even more through the use of electricity co-generation by capturing the 600 degree steam that escapes from the plant. This will drastically reduce the plants already-reduced use of traditional energy resources.



From the consumer standpoint Guardian’s Kingsburg facility utilizes a nano technology application that blocks UV rays with their SunGuard product. This process allows for maximum energy savings on SunGuard products and qualifies consumers for the highest government rebate levels for utilizing energy saving products.



**K Corporate Center’s** Abe Wiebe showcased the manufacturing process for creating parts that will be shipped to Texas for use in their wind energy projects. The touring group met with BiosolarDMĒ Director Earl Schmid who discussed future alternative energy possibilities and his company’s plans on utilizing air, water and the sun to bring that energy to the consumer. While his intention is to build a plant in Dinuba, the K Corporate Center will eventually be used as a potential office, solar display area and Wiebe’s CENCAL CNC, Inc. Company will be a key supplier to the BiosolarDMĒ business.

According to Kingsburg’s Mayor Pro Tem Dave Karstetter, “I started thinking about all of the projects in Kingsburg and realized that, as a community, we have become so focused on green technology. Not because we’re environmentalists, necessarily, but because it is making good business sense. I felt that the time was right to showcase how some of the Kingsburg projects are really improving Kingsburg business’s bottom line – it’s important for folks to realize the financial impact.”