

Clark Pacific expansion plans approved by Yolo supervisors

By KATHERINE JARVISdailydemocrat.com

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The Yolo County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the expansion of Clark Pacific with a neighboring farmer's support.

Four years ago, Bob Sternes was opposed to the concrete manufacturing company taking over the former Spreckels Sugar Mill site off County Road 18C, north of Woodland.

On Tuesday, Sternes spoke to the Board of Supervisors and called Clark Pacific "one of the best neighbors (he) could ask for."

"There's not a better testimony to the quality of this family and this operation, I don't know what is," said Supervisor Matt Rexroad.

Rexroad also noted the economic benefits of the project, a point in which all the supervisors agreed. At full build-out, there could be between 500 and 2,300 employees.

"Rarely does the Board of Supervisors (have) the opportunity to bring in something with such large magnitude of employing people," Rexroad said.

The Clark Pacific expansion will increase the acreage at the site from 90 to about 143, which will be the largest industrial development by acreage in unincorporated Yolo County, according to a report from senior planner Stephanie Cormier. The existing open space buffer will increase from 18 to 26 acres.

The additional industrial acreage will provide Clark Pacific with the flexibility needed to pursue larger construction projects, Cormier wrote. Clark Pacific is currently precasting concrete for the new San Francisco 49ers stadium in Santa Clara.

"We are in a down economy, businesses are cutting back throughout the state," said Board Chairman Jim Provenza. "Yet here in Yolo County, we have a local business that is not only expanding but it's taking work from the Bay Area. What could be better."

In approving the expansion, supervisors also allowed Clark Pacific to move forward with a 24-hour work schedule. Bob Clark, Clark Pacific president of operations, said the all-day use would make them more competitive.

"They're making use of the old Spreckels site, which actually used to run 24 hours a day," said Supervisor Duane Chamberlain.

However, Brenda Cedarblade said her horses need to rest at the nearby Historic Nelson Ranch and that "24-hour use is not compatible." Cedarblade was a plaintiff to a lawsuit regarding Clark Pacific in 2008.