



# COUNTY OF YOLO

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## **Yolo County Prevails in Clark Pacific Lawsuit**

**(Woodland, CA)** – On January 9, Judge Janet Gaard of the Superior Court of California, County of Yolo issued an order ruling in favor of Yolo County in the case *Historic Nelson Ranch v. County of Yolo*.

On April 1, 2008 the Yolo County Board of Supervisors approved Clark Pacific's project at the former Spreckels industrial site in an unincorporated area just northeast of Woodland. Shortly thereafter, Brenda Cedarblade and Ted Wilson filed the above mentioned action. The action asserted that the county approved the project without conducting a legally adequate environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In particular, it asserted that the county's environmental review did not properly consider impacts to biological resources, air quality, global warming, traffic, and noise.

With one minor exception, the court rejected all allegations. It found the county's environmental review – a mitigated negative declaration – fully covered all issues. The court agreed only with the petitioners' claim that before the plant can operate 24 hours a day, the county must conduct further environmental review to identify any potential impacts of around-the-clock operations. The plant does not presently operate 24 hours a day, nor has it in the past.

Founded in 1963, Clark Pacific is a California-based firm in the business of design, manufacture, and installation of architectural precast building systems. The project at the former Spreckels site is expected to result in substantial economic benefit to Yolo County. Up to 250 jobs are expected to be located at this facility, including both transfers from existing operations, as well as newly created positions. In addition, provisions in the development agreement between Yolo County and Clark Pacific include changes in Clark Pacific's business practices that will allow a greater portion of the sales tax on materials purchased by the company to be charged at the project site. At full project buildout these provisions (along with anticipated property tax receipts) are expected to create a \$428,000 net increase to Yolo County annually.

“Clark Pacific has long been a responsible and environmentally sound business in the Yolo County community,” said Yolo County Board of Supervisor Chair Mike McGowan. “We are pleased to have their continued business and now the court's affirmation that we have also been responsible to the residents of Yolo County and environmentally conscious in our planning efforts.”

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