



SAN JOAQUIN PARTNERSHIP

A Private Non-Profit Economic Development Corporation Serving San Joaquin County

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PRESS RELEASE - VIA EMAIL FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE: November 12, 2010

National Pet Food Company Adds Second San Joaquin County, CA Facility

Diamond Pet Foods to utilize closed paper mill

Ripon, CA –Diamond Pet Foods has announced it will be expanding its West Coast operations by opening a second San Joaquin County, CA plant in addition to its facility in Lathrop, CA.

Diamond, which produces pet foods, is headquartered in Missouri and has operated the Lathrop plant since 1998, employing approximately 120 people. The planned facility in Ripon, which will also have about 120 workers, will be operational in about a year, according to Diamond Pet Foods Owner Mark Schell.

The new facility will utilize the former 157-acre Neenah Paper Inc. mill, which closed down in July 2009, citing the recession. Bryce MacDonald, senior associate with Grubb & Ellis, Industrial Group, represented Neenah Paper Inc. in the sale. John McManus of Cushman & Wakefield represented Diamond Pet Foods in the transaction. The facility, which consists of four buildings, was acquired by Diamond Pet Foods for \$9 million. The space is divided between a 200,000-square-foot manufacturing building, a 100,000-square-foot distribution center and two storage sheds comprising 32,400 square feet.

The property features two active Union Pacific Railroad spurs and a 69-kilowatt power substation as well as a contiguous, independently operated gas-fired cogeneration facility. It is near State Route 99, a major transportation arterial running throughout the Central Valley.

More information is available at Diamond Pet Foods web site at www.diamondpet.com

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