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Pacific Ethanol Receives Air Permits for Madera Plant

Pacific Ethanol becomes first ethanol plant in CA to receive “Authority to Construct” permits from the Regional Air Board.

Pacific Ethanol, Inc.(PEI), a private company based in Fresno, California announced today that it has cleared a key hurdle in its push to build the first large scale ethanol production facility in California. Last month, PEI received the comprehensive set of air permits from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD). The permits, the first of their kind to be issued in California, contain provisions to ensure that the ethanol plant will utilize the most innovative in available technologies to ensure the minimization of point source emissions.

PEI Vice President Tom Koehler said “The San Joaquin Valley Air Board was extremely professional and efficient. We are developing a state-of-the-art renewable fuel facility with the best air quality control equipment - we are very excited. We will continue to work cooperatively with the SJVAPCD to implement the most innovative control technologies in the plant.”

Ethanol production in the Valley improves the rural economy, provides additional crop alternatives for farmers and reduces our State’s dependence on foreign oil. Ethanol use is an important component in fighting smog. Air quality has become a critical issue facing the San Joaquin Valley and its economic future and ethanol will play a significant role in improving air quality and increasing jobs.

Pacific Ethanol Chief Operating Officer Ryan Turner said “this is a critical step in making ethanol production in the San Joaquin Valley a reality. Many Midwest companies have explored the opportunity and felt that the regulatory environment in California is prohibitive for such an investment. However, we are committed to building in this State and in this Valley and to working with the SJVAPCD to meet and exceed permitting regulations.”



Pacific Ethanol, Inc.



Latest Stock Quote

- **Symbol:** PEIX
- **Last Trade:** 9.11

Expanded ethanol production will come at a critical point in our State and Nation’s energy picture. As a blending agent, ethanol already supplies 5.7% of the State’s gasoline supply. Insuring local production to promote cost effective sources of ethanol will help keep gas prices down in the future.

Pacific Ethanol plans to first bring existing technology of corn-to-ethanol production to the Central Valley and then continue to lead by incorporating innovative technologies such as cellulose to ethanol conversion and ultimately ethanol for hydrogen fuels cells. The Company was founded by former Secretary of State of California Bill Jones.

Ethanol Facts:

Ethanol use in California has increased from 50 million gallons per year in 2002 to over 700 million gallons in 2003 due to the State’s ban on MTBE. However,

- **Trade Time:** 3:59pm
- **Trade Date:** 11/9/2005
- **Change:** 0.00
- **High:** N/A
- **Low:** N/A

California currently produces only 8 million gallons per year and imports the rest from the Midwest via rail.

Ethanol, a renewable fuel, reduces carbon dioxide (greenhouse gases) by over 35% compared to gasoline. If all the gasoline in California were blended with ten percent ethanol today, the state would reduce CO2 emissions by 6.4 million tons per year compared to straight gasoline.

Ethanol has been on average 30 cents per gallon less expensive than gasoline over the last three years, helping to lower prices to end consumers. In addition, ethanol use decreases the nation's dependence on foreign oil by substituting a locally grown, renewable fuel for imported oil.

A typical ethanol facility will:

- Expand the economic base of a community by \$110 million
- Support the creation of as many as 694 new jobs
- Employ over 30 direct jobs
- Create over \$140 million dollars in a onetime boost to the economy

What others are saying about the California ethanol opportunity:

Fred Keeley, Former Speaker Pro Tem, Executive Director, Planning and Conservation League: "Renewable fuels such as ethanol have the potential to further reduce petroleum use and to help reduce the greenhouse gas reductions required by AB 1493."

Bill Pauli, Executive Director, California Farm Bureau Federation: "Ethanol will bring both large environmental and economic benefits not only to our state's agriculture sector but also to the whole state."

Bill Jones, Former Chairman (PEI): "As a farmer and politician, I've followed the ethanol issue for many years and have always thought that California – the largest agricultural state in the nation – ought to take advantage of the ethanol opportunity. It just makes good common sense. Let's grow our own fuel – create economic development, provide markets for farm goods, help alleviate our dependence on foreign oil and help on some environmental issues such as air quality improvement and CO2 reduction."

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