

## Arrowhead bottling plant earns award

By Jonathan D. Colburn

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**CABAZON - Arrowhead** Mountain Spring Water Co. expects to double sales of the water that flows from San Gorgonio Mountain, and the company is doing it out of a building that is recognized as one of the most environmentally friendly plants in North America.

This week Arrowhead announced that it was awarded the Silver Rating from the Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design program, a national program that recognizes environmentally responsible buildings. The plant, which is on the Morongo Indian reservation in Cabazon, is the first food manufacturing facility to receive the award, according to Arrowhead's parent company, Nestlé Waters North America.

"We're a natural resource company, and as such natural resources are important to us," said bottling plant manager Gareth Bowen.

The certification is given by the U.S. Green Building Council to buildings that are models of energy efficiency and resource conservation.

Arrowhead pipes water from Millard Canyon, near the foot of San Gorgonio Mountain, directly into the facility, where it pumps the water into giant metal canisters before bottling it for shipment.

The 389,000-square-foot facility - which is about nine acres under one roof - opened in April 2003. There are plans to eventually expand the site to one million square feet as demand increases. Last year, the facility shipped 20 million cases of bottled water. This year it's expected to boost production to 36 million cases.

The "green building" elements in the Cabazon facility include recycling more than 75 percent of waste materials and the use of more than 50 recycled materials in the construction of the facility. All of the walls, for example, are made from recycled concrete.

The building also features windows and skylights throughout, which gives employees views of the mountains nearby.

"It brings a lot more natural light, which makes it a much friendlier work environment than it would be in a closed room," said Mike Franceschetti, operations manager at the bottling plant.

The U.S. Green Building Council launched the Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design certification program in 1999. The council has certified more than 45.3 million square feet of building space as environmentally friendly since then. The group maintains that even though construction of a "green" can be expensive, lower energy and water bills can save money to pay for the cost and more.

And Bowen said the environmentally sensitive design doesn't interfere with business operations. "It doesn't affect business and you get all the benefits," he said.

The Morongos are happy about the green building recognition, as well. Waltona Manion, a consultant for the Morongo tribe, said the bottling plant is an important part of the tribe's efforts to have an economically diverse community. The tribe is currently building a new 23-story casino and hotel, and also runs a restaurant and a travel center.

### THE FACILITY

"Green" building features of the Cabazon facility:

- Erosion and sediment control that meets or exceed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards.
- Climate-appropriate landscaping with an irrigation system that is a high performance drip system with a 90 percent efficiency, reducing water usage for landscaping by 57 percent.
- Conserves water by using a "constructed wetland" treatment facility for secondary waste treatment.
- The building used more than 50 percent recycled materials, as measured by cost.
- More than 50 percent of the wood used in construction came from sustainably managed forests.
- More than 20 percent of the materials were from locally manufactured sources, and more than 50 percent of the materials were extracted within 500 miles.