

Local Pistachio Plant Goes 100% Solar

The Valley Voice, Thursday, July 14, 2011

*Power on: The country's second largest pistachio processor, Setton Pistachio of Terra Bella, is now 100-percent solar powered with the completion of the company's new solar photovoltaic system that will provide 1.7 megawatts of electricity to Setton's 300,000-sq.-ft. processing plant. Cenergy Power, one of California's leading commercial solar developers, installed the system at Setton, which processes more than 80 million pounds of pistachios per year. More than 2,600,000 kilowatt hours of clean energy (per year) will be used to sort, roast and package pistachios – the equivalent of removing over 1,880 metric tons of CO2 from the atmosphere or planting 400 acres of pine forest annually, company officials proudly stated. The \$8 million project was funded via grants and a \$2.4 million investment by Setton.

[Fresno Bee Earth Blog, Wednesday, July 13, 2011:](#)

Look for federal team in Fresno by September

By Mark Grossi

By September, Fresno should have a representative of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency who will live in the city and help the city get through red tape and find federal funds for economic growth.

That person will join four others from various federal agencies to form a team that will help Fresno improve. The city is one of six places nationally to get this kind of attention, based on need, leadership and established plans.

We didn't know when the employees would begin arriving when I wrote a story about it this week.

We also have learned the EPA person may not actually come from EPA. Officials told me someone from the public -- an academic or perhaps a business person -- might become the representative.

"It could be anyone," said Sheryl Bilbrey, EPA associate director in San Francisco. "We're looking for someone with 'smart growth' experience."

Smart growth equates to a smaller city footprint, cutting down on urban sprawl, filing in the downtown area and coming up with transportation options that get people out of the car.

In other words, improved air quality will be a big goal.

Bilbrey also said the appointment would be for two years, not one, as first announced. She added that it's possible for the position to be extended another two years.

