



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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Contact:

**At SPI: Mark Luster
916-645-1631**

**At TCEDA: Larry Cope
209-989-4058**

**Sierra Pacific Industries Sonora Mill Begins Production – 100 Employees Hired -
Also Expands Chinese Camp Mill Creating 26 New Jobs**

SONORA, CA – In a joint announcement, Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) and the Tuolumne County Economic Development Authority (TCEDA) announced today that production has begun on SPI's retooled Sonora sawmill – employing 100 workers. A second shift is expected to be begin later this summer – adding another approximately 30 jobs. In addition, SPI's Chinese Camp fencing mill is expanding its operations and has created 26 new jobs bringing total employment there to 115.

“We continue to invest in the future of our community, our forests and mills,” said SPI area manager Ryan Land. “Our multi-species forests include pine, fir, and cedar and are sorted and processed by either our Chinese Camp fencing mill or at our new state-of-the-art facility in Sonora,” he explained. “This unique ability to utilize a variety of wood species and log sizes has allowed SPI to retool and expand here in Tuolumne County.”

SPI spokesman Mark Luster stated, “Retooling this mill will help California meet its own demand for wood products, rather than importing lumber from faraway places with lower environmental standards.” “The time has come when more of the lumber needed in this state can be produced in California's mills,” he added.

According to Larry Cope, Director of Economic Development, the creation of 126 full-time family-wage jobs will bring the total of SPI employees at Standard and Chinese Camp to around 215.

“Even bigger news is that these 215 full-time mill jobs will increase peripheral jobs in areas such as logging, trucking, and supplier firms. By using an industry standard multiplier, these new jobs will have a total economic effect of 1,000 to 1,200 new jobs!”

Sierra Pacific Industries is a third-generation family-owned forest products company based in Anderson, California. The firm owns and manages nearly 1.9 million acres of timberland in California and Washington, and is the second largest lumber producer in the United States. Sierra Pacific Industries is committed to managing its lands in a responsible and sustainable manner to protect the environment while providing quality wood products and renewable power for consumers.

The Tuolumne County Economic Development Authority (TCEDA) promotes the County of Tuolumne, including the City of Sonora, as a dynamic business location and provides business with essential information needed when locating or expanding business in the Sierra - Mother Lode Area of California.

TCEDA's mission is to facilitate a local economy that is innovative, resilient and diverse, by assisting in business formation, developing a skilled workforce, supporting local businesses, and attracting innovative companies to Tuolumne County.

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