



NEWS RELEASE

Yolo County Olive Farmers One Step Closer to State-of-the-Art Olive Mill

Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation Project Approved by Planning Commission

April 14, 2011 – (Brooks, CA) The Yolo County Planning Commission has approved a conditional use permit for the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, allowing the development of a state-of-the-art olive oil mill for the region's farmers. The Tribe can now begin to prepare the ground for the facility along Highway 16 in Capay Valley, with construction to start after final plans have been approved by the County.

"We are proud to offer a state-of-the-art olive press at Yocha Dehe. Partnership with other growers in our region is one of our top priorities," said James Kinter, Tribal Council Member of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. "Our team is working hard to bring a selection of fine olive oils to the community and beyond."

The mill, the first of its kind in the United States, is being custom-manufactured in Italy and features the latest technology. To preserve the most flavor and the greatest health benefits, this milling process allows minimal exposure to the air. It creates a unique, premium extra virgin olive oil that is as fresh as possible when bottled.

"Yolo County has a promising future as one of the premier olive oil regions in the United States and the world," said Wes Ervin, Yolo County Economic Development Manager. "Having this kind of world class olive mill in the Capay Valley will offer a huge advantage to local farmers and promote a growing industry in Yolo County."

"Yolo County has a perfect Mediterranean climate for olives with wonderful soil and water," added Joe Muller, owner of Copper Hill Olive Oil Company. "What we do not have is a great local mill to make the freshest oil from the area's increasing olive tonnage. The Yocha Dehe mill will fill this important need and will reduce the 'food miles' needed to make great Yolo County olive oil."

The new mill will enable olives grown by Yocha Dehe and local farmers to be pressed quickly after harvest, preserving the freshness critical for creating premium quality olive oil. Presently, the region's olive farmers truck their fruit as far as 112 miles (to Sonoma, Corning or Stockton) for access to a high quality mill. A local mill will save fuel and reduce the environmental impact of trucking the fruit long distances.

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Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation

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“We are pleased about the environmental benefits a local mill will bring, and of the premium product we will be creating,” said Jim Ethers, Director of Land Management for the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. “Sustainability and environmental responsibility are core values of the Tribe, and we are happy to be part of a growing industry that will maintain the beauty and enrich the economy of the Capay Valley.”

The mill will be housed in a new facility (approximately 14,000 sq.ft.), located at County Road 78 and Highway 16, in close proximity to many of the region’s finest olive orchards.

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Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation is an independent, self-governed nation that supports our people and the Capay Valley, California community by strengthening our culture, stewarding our land and creating economic independence for future generations.

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