

## Dr. Pepper Snapple plant to be built at SCLA

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[BROOKE EDWARDS Staff Writer](#)

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VICTORVILLE — The Victorville City Council has approved an agreement with the Dr Pepper Snapple Group to build a manufacturing and distribution plant at Southern California Logistics Airport. The plant will be the company's largest hub west of Texas.

In order to make the plant feasible, the council also approved an anticipated \$31 million to build a wastewater treatment facility along the north side of SCLA. The bottling company plans to discharge roughly 550,000 gallons of wastewater each day, including high fructose chemical oxygen and solids from its juices and teas.

Though Keith Metzler, director of Economic Development, said the wastewater facility is being built primarily to accommodate Dr Pepper Snapple, the company is slated to use just under a third of the total capacity of the plant. He said discussions are already underway with other interested food and beverage companies, though nothing is yet finalized.

The reclaimed water may be used for landscaping and to cool towers at the planned Victorville 2 power plant.

The \$120 million Dr Pepper facility will include an 850,000-square-foot building on 57 acres, with 550,000 square feet of warehouse space and a 300,000-square-foot manufacturing plant with up to six manufacturing lines.

Aside from the company's name-sake Dr Pepper and Snapple, the plant will produce roughly 50 brands of beverages including -UP, A&W Root Beer, Motts apple juice and Sunkist. As planned, officials said the facility will be able to produce up to 40 million cases of product a year and will serve nearly 20 percent of the U.S. population.

Officials from the company said they were attracted to Victorville because of the incentives associated with building on a former military base and the sheer volume of land available with utility connections nearby. They said most of their growth in recent years has been through expansions at existing sites, and the company is excited about being to build this new hub from the ground up.

Dr Pepper Snapple doesn't plan to use the airport facilities, officials said, other than if they need to fly in an emergency part for the plant. But the company will likely utilize the planned intermodal rail yard, to ship product across the country.

Construction on both the wastewater facility and bottling plant is scheduled to begin in October, with an anticipated opening in early 2010.

### **Plant to bring 200 jobs**

As with most economic development projects, city officials said the primary reason for bringing the Dr. Pepper Snapple plant to Victorville is job creation.

The new bottling plant is expected to employ 200 people, according to company officials.

While many of the jobs will be manual labor, there will also be an opportunity for skilled labor with lab technicians, management positions and more.

However, both the city and the company were unable to give a specific breakdown yet of the jobs and pay that will be available when the plant opens in two years.

Brooke Edwards may be reached at 955-5358 or at [bedwards@vvdailypress.com](mailto:bedwards@vvdailypress.com).