Morrison teams up to obtain funding for innovative biofuel facility

Armed with the dream of creating its first commercial biodiesel production and fueling facility, alternative fuel pioneer Springboard Biodiesel was awarded a $758,200 grant to make that goal a reality. Morrison & Company is proud to have played a key role in the successful proposal. The California Energy Commission officially announced Springboard's award in May, giving the application the highest score in its category.

Based in Chico, California, Springboard Biodiesel developed a small-scale "closed loop system" that converts used cooking oil to biodiesel fuel. The company currently manufactures and sells the leading line of standalone biodiesel processors, under the brand BioPro™. These processors resemble gas pumps but produce eco-friendly biodiesel for onsite use by customers such as Sierra Nevada Brewing Company, Sara Lee, and the Culinary Institute of America. These companies use Springboard's systems to turn used cooking oil into fuel for their own business use.

In keeping with the innovative spirit of the company, Springboard CEO Mark Roberts had the vision of expanding the business by designing and operating a larger pilot production and fueling facility to process fuel for sale to local businesses. Working in collaboration with Chabin Concepts, an economic development consulting firm, Morrison & Company assisted Springboard Biodiesel with a grant application seeking funding through the California Energy Commission's Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program. Morrison's work was supported by the North State Alternative Fuel & Vehicle Initiative of the Northern Rural Training Employment Consortium (NoRTEC). Chabin Concepts manages this initiative, assisting companies in alternative fuel and vehicle development and deployment with the goal of helping communities implement strategies to reduce emissions through the use of alternative fuels in fleet vehicles.

The pilot project, when tested and certified, will prove the economic model underlying Springboard's small-scale production model and will serve as a catalyst to accelerate deployment of additional small-scale biodiesel production centers throughout the rural United States, ultimately driving job growth, increasing the use of biodiesel, and lowering greenhouse gas emissions.

Springboard expects the pilot facility to be operating by Fall. For more information on Springboard Biodiesel and its innovative technology, visit www.springboardbiodiesel.com.