



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact:

Samantha DeMelo

Communications Manager

(916) 446-8353 / [sdemelo@bdgrowers.com](mailto:sdemelo@bdgrowers.com)

**Blue Diamond Growers Celebrates Grand Opening of New Salida Manufacturing Facility,  
Unveils Industry-First Technology for New Pasteurization Line**

*Company Announces \$25,000 Community Partnership with Valley Children's Hospital for  
New Neighboring Pelandale Specialty Care Center in North Modesto*

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (Sept. 17, 2019) – Blue Diamond Growers today announced the official grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony of its new 52,000 square-foot, energy-saving manufacturing facility in Salida, California. The event marks the completion of the facility to add new pasteurization technology and processing lines. The announcement follows the cooperative's recent groundbreaking of its receiving warehouse on the same property in Salida, which is the largest almond receiving station in the world.

"It's an exciting time for Blue Diamond as we continue to invest in our facilities here in Salida and across the Central Valley to better meet the growing demand for our products worldwide," said Mark Jansen, President and CEO for Blue Diamond Growers. "The new building design and innovative processing technology we're deploying provides the highest quality almonds to our customers and consumers."

The new energy-saving and sustainable manufacturing facility spans 52,000 square feet and has been engineered to support future expansion plans as needed. Within the facility, Blue Diamond is the first in the almond industry to use Log5 technology across two of its natural pasteurization lines – one for processing whole almonds and the other for dry roasting on an integrated line. A third line uses innovative design with custom features to produce the finest flour texture in the industry.

The new CALGreen facility features several energy-saving attributes including LED lighting, a multi-staged HVAC system, and temperature-controlled processes. To meet and exceed today's stringent food safety standards, the new facility houses separate room enclosures with electronic-controlled entry to better control environmental conditions, along with automated pressurized air, and automated controls for all processes and packaging, including monitoring line performance, yields and downtime. Additionally, the integrated processing lines move finished product direct to cold storage and shipping and will greatly reduce material handling and trucking costs. Beneath the facility, buried perforated pipe will keep stormwater on-site to recharge the ground water and deliver it directly to the soil.

Continuing its investment in the local community, the company also announced a partnership with Valley Children's Hospital for its new Pelandale Specialty Care Center, located approximately one mile from the Blue Diamond Salida facility. A \$25,000 partnership will help the hospital as it grows to support the more than 12,000 Stanislaus County pediatric outpatient visits per year.

###

**About Blue Diamond**

Blue Diamond Growers is the world's leading almond marketer and processor. It led the development of California's almond industry since it was formed as a nonprofit, grower-owned cooperative over 100 years ago. Today Blue Diamond has over 3,000 growers across California. Blue Diamond markets and sells a wide range of almond-based snacks, beverages, and ingredients, including Blue Diamond Snack Almonds®, Nut-Thins® crackers, almond flour, and the number one almondmilk in the U.S., Almond Breeze®. For more information, visit [www.bluediamond.com](http://www.bluediamond.com).