



Sierra Pacific Industries

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SPI Employee Given Award by Sierra Business Council for Sustaining Operation of Loyalton, CA Biomass Electric Plant

The Sierra Business Council today will award one of its prestigious Vision 2020 awards to Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) plant manager Jim Turner for his collaborative efforts to operate the company's Loyalton, CA biomass-fueled electric generation facility. The award is one of five to be presented during an awards ceremony at the Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park in Sacramento.

Leaders and visionaries in the areas of conservation, energy efficiency, smart planning and growth, sustainable development, and affordable housing were honored on behalf of their tremendous contributions to the health and wealth of the Sierra Nevada. Mr. Turner's award was granted for his combined efforts with Keith Logan of the Sierra Biomass Utilization Task Force. "The 2009 Vision 2020 Awards will be an opportunity to celebrate the great and varied accomplishments of visionaries in the Sierra Nevada, as well as demonstrate the immense value the Sierra region brings to the state of California," said Steven Frisch, President of Sierra Business Council.

Jim Turner and Keith Logan worked to maintain operation of SPI's power plant in Loyalton, CA after the closure of the company's local sawmill, which had provided the fuel source for the plant. When the sawmill closed in 2001, Turner searched for new sources of biomass to keep the facility running. Through a collaborative effort, he and Logan were pivotal in developing multiple sustainable and renewable fuel sources to keep the plant operational. Their collaborative effort has proven instrumental in developing biomass supply opportunities throughout the region.

"I am pleased to accept this award on behalf of SPI and the Loyalton community who have supported our efforts to keep the plant running," said Turner. "We will continue to work toward keeping it open and helping to achieve healthy forest conditions throughout the Sierra" he added.

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 U.S. Sierra Pacific is committed to managing its lands in a responsible and sustainable manner to protect the environment while providing quality wood products and renewable energy for consumers.

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