

For Immediate Release June 7, 2006



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Arizona Canning Company LLC Announces New Industrial Facility in Tucson

Tucson, AZ (June 7, 2006) – Arizona Canning Company LLC, a manufacturer of canned and preserved foods, announces today that it will open a new manufacturing facility in the former SlimFast building at 8755 S. Rita Road (440,000 square feet; 85 acres). Operations are scheduled to begin in June 2007. Russ Hall of PICOR Commercial Real Estate (Tucson) and Eric Dienstbach of Binswanger (Denver) are the brokers.

Arizona Canning Company LLC, has purchased the building and estimates hiring up to 175 employees within 3 years. Available positions will include operation/maintenance technicians, building utilities, logistics, and management positions, with the majority of the employees recruited from the Tucson region.

The products to be processed and manufactured at the facility (for U.S. markets) include canned, refried and whole black, charro & pinto beans, under licensed brands such as La Costeña. Arizona Canning Company LLC plans to buy raw material from U.S.-based suppliers, receive it in Tucson, process, and sell the plant's output to U.S. markets across the country.

Arizona Canning Company's CEO, Santiago Castro, said, "The decision to locate in the greater Tucson region allows us to greatly improve our production and distribution efficiencies in order to serve the U.S. market and future customers. This facility not only serves our current needs but allows us room to grow; its proximity to rail, highway and air transportation is an attractive feature."

"This will be the U.S. headquarters and is a huge win for Tucson," said Joe Snell, TREO President & CEO. "Headquartered companies prove to be big contributors to a region, in terms of job stability, lower costs on raw materials, capital investment and community support all around."

"Tucson has deep roots with Mexico, both from a tourism and manufacturing standpoint. What's special is that we now have a major food industry leader who will set roots here and expand business across the U.S. This reverses the trend from outsourcing to Mexico to operating right here--proving that Tucson and Pima County can compete and win in an international market," said Mayor Bob Walkup and Pima County Supervisor Sharon Bronson, Co-chairs of TREO.

About La Costeña

With over 80 years of experience, 2,000+ employees, 3 manufacturing plants and over 130 products, La Costeña's mission is to be a market leader giving families high-quality canned foods that preserve the flavor of Mexican cuisine and make preparation easier - at a low price that all consumers can afford. For more information, visit www.lacostena.com.mx.

About TREO (Tucson Regional Economic Opportunities, Inc.)

Tucson's newest regional economic development entity was created to provide insight, infrastructure, resources and development efforts that will accelerate economic prosperity throughout the Southern Arizona region. TREO's programs support a regional economic development environment that allows all businesses (micro, small and large) to grow and thrive. For more information, call 243-1900 or visit www.treoaz.org.