



NEWS RELEASE

Del Monte Foods Supports *Friends of the Historic Kingsburg Depot's* Restoration Mission

SAN FRANCISCO, CA----Sept. 18, 2006---Del Monte Foods has joined the Friends of the Historic Kingsburg Depot in its efforts to return the train depot to its 19th Century splendor and create new railroading opportunities for Kingsburg and the central San Joaquin Valley. The first phase of the restoration process began in late August.

“Kingsburg has long been home to Del Monte Foods, and its employees have always been highly engaged in their community. They have held titles from Mayor to Fire Chief and have volunteered on countless community projects and committees,” said John R. Wells, Del Monte Area Manager and member of the Kingsburg Economic Development Commission. “Supporting the restoration of the Depot with our donation allows us to honor our employees’ involvement in their community while recognizing the support the City of Kingsburg gives Del Monte Foods.”

Del Monte is a major employer in the area; its employee headcount during the summer processing season exceeds 10% of the population of Kingsburg. The company has been in Kingsburg since 1922, when the former Kingsburg Growers Association facility was purchased and converted to a cannery. Del Monte Foods Cannery, Warehouse and Offices are located just one block south of The Train Depot, which is located in the central portion of the Kingsburg Business District. In addition to enjoying the presence of a beautiful and historic landmark in its immediate neighborhood, Del Monte Foods believes it will see a practical benefit with the reconstruction of the Depot. “Our business is tied to rail accessibility, then and now,” said John R. Wells. In fact, Del Monte’s 270,000 square foot warehouse on Union Street was constructed in 1999 with rail access in mind.

An example of 19th Century Stick Style architecture, The Depot is more than 130 years old, and is one of only eleven Benicia-style depots standing today. In its heyday, the Depot was the heart and soul of the railroad town in which it stood, serving as the economic engine that fueled both the birth and growth of the town. “The Depot will become a regional Living Museum and Learning Center, said Larry E. Esau, President of Friends of the Historic Kingsburg Depot, ”a

hands-on educational experience teaching visitors about how the railroad accelerated the westward expansion of pioneers into California and caused the development of commercial agriculture and fruit processing companies serving distant markets.” The restored Depot will also serve as a venue for festivals and special events and become a Transportation and Visitor Center for bus and rail passengers.

The Friends of the Historic Kingsburg Depot expect to submit the full restoration plan to Kingsburg’s Building and Planning Department by early 2007. If the group secures all the necessary funding for the project, restoration could be completed in time for the City’s centennial celebration occurring May 2007 through May 2008.

“We are delighted that Del Monte has chosen to be the first to step-up and support this monumental effort,” said Kingsburg Mayor Leland Bergstrom. “It’s a reflection of the excellent relationship the City and community have with one of its largest employers. We hope that with this generous first donation to the capital campaign, others will also feel compelled to give to this worthy icon.”

About Del Monte Foods

Del Monte Foods is one of the country's largest and most well known producers, distributors and marketers of premium quality, branded food and pet products for the U.S. retail market, generating approximately \$3 billion in net sales in fiscal 2006. With a powerful portfolio of brands including Del Monte®, StarKist®, S&W®, Contadina®, College Inn®, Meow Mix®, Kibbles 'n Bits®, 9Lives®, Milk-Bone®, Pup-Peroni®, Meaty Bone®, Sausages® and Pounce®, Del Monte products are found in nine out of ten American households. The Company also produces, distributes and markets private label food and pet products. For more information on Del Monte Foods Company (NYSE:DLM), visit the Company's website at www.delmonte.com.

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