

Southern Oregon

Economic News & Development

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Southern Oregon Economic News & Development is brought to you by the Southern Oregon Marketing Team. This group of regional economic development professionals works together to serve Southern Oregon and is the winner of the 2007 Oregon Economic Development Association award for Collaborative Marketing Promotions. www.soregon.com

Southern Oregon Updates

Southern Oregon Cities

- ▶ **Grants Pass:** First Call Resolution, a Roseburg-based call center, has expanded. The Grants Pass center is projected to employee up to 200 employees by year end 2011. FCR will take advantage of Enterprise and Electronic Commerce Zone Incentives. www.1callres.com
- ▶ **Roseburg:** The closing of the Dell call center and manufactured boat building sector has created an unemployment rate in Douglas County as high as 16.7%, which has created a ready and available workforce.
- ▶ **Sutherlin:** Boasts new 25-acre Oregon State Certified "Shovel Ready Site". This site is next to Interstate 5 with all utilities at the curb. The site can be viewed at www.uedpartnership.org (Industrial Sites) or on Oregon Prospector (Douglas County) www.oregonprospector.com
- ▶ **White City:** The Ferry-Morse Seed Company has opened its first West Coast distribution center and has additional plans to package potting soils and seeds in 2010. www.ferry-morse.com

Utilities

- ▶ **Avista Natural Gas:** 13% rate reduction at Avista Utilities effective November 1, 2009. Commercial rate drops to \$1.16 per therm, Industrial rate drops to \$1.07 per therm, Interruptible rate drops to \$.91 per therm
- ▶ **Pacific Power:** Named #1 utility company nationally in overall customer satisfaction among its large industrial customers, topping the 2009 survey with a 95.2% score. PacifiCorp, Pacific Power's parent company, is the largest utility owner of renewable resources in the NW, 2nd in the nation. Company- owned renewable resources have grown 2400% over past 3 years.

Southern Oregon Business Resources

- ▶ An available, trained workforce with a focus on lean production and manufacturing
- ▶ Affordable workers' compensation rates. Oregon rates have not increased in 20 years! 2010 rates in Oregon will decrease 1.3% saving employers \$18.1 million.
- ▶ Low cost sustainable energy
- ▶ No sales or inventory taxes
- ▶ Oregon ranked 18th in the top states for doing business (2008-2009).

Tax Incentives

- ▶ **Oregon Business Energy Tax Credit (BETC).** This program is focused on renewable energy manufacturing facilities. A new facility is eligible for up to 50% tax credit of the eligible system cost. The tax credits include a pass-through option.
- ▶ **Enterprise Zones.** Property tax abatement for new investment projects. Multiple zones available throughout Southern Oregon.
- ▶ **Electronic Commerce Zones.** Income tax credit incentives for companies doing 51% or more of their business via the Internet. Up to 2 million in tax credits with a 5 year carry forward.
- ▶ **Oregon Investment Advantage.** A 10 year tax holiday for business operations that are new to Southern Oregon that do not compete with another Southern Oregon business. This incentive can be combined with Enterprise Zone benefits - no property or state income tax!

Southern Oregon Marketing Team Members:

Avista Utilities, Business Oregon, Curry County, Douglas County (The Partnership), Klamath County Economic Development Association (KCEDA), Pacific Power, South Coast Development Council (SCDC), Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development Inc. (SORED), and The International Port of Coos Bay. Information regarding these agencies and communities can be viewed at www.soregon.com. For more information about the Southern Oregon Marketing Team, call Helga Conrad at: **800-210-9032**.