

# BizFed Bounce Back



*BizFed members share stories of resilience.*

Issue 5 - April 30, 2020

*In the face of COVID19, BizFed members bounce back with perseverance, creativity and resourcefulness.*

## CALPORTLAND KEEPS ON BUILDING

Sometimes, the best way to make a bad situation tolerable is to just go with the flow.

That's the calculation CalPortland made when the COVID-19 outbreak happened.

CalPortland is a building material supplier (materials like concrete and asphalt), headquartered in Glendora, with business up and down Western North America. Its cement plant in Mojave produces cement for many of the oil wells in the Central Valley.

Since many of its projects are defined as essential under California's shelter-in-place order, CalPortland had a responsibility to keep its 3,500 employees safe. So CalPortland created a Personal Protective Equipment task

force coordinating its purchasing and safety departments that secured several sources of masks, gloves, neck gaiters and hand sanitizer.

Many employees were already using N95 respirator masks, but social-distancing rules needed to be implemented, which included providing drivers with claw-reacher tools that could be used to safely hand invoices to customers.

"We are focused on safety and following (Personal Protective Equipment) and social distancing guidelines," said Steve Regis, CalPortland's senior vice president of corporate services. "We're used to heavy industry and the safety risks that come with that--we're very proud of our safety record."

Because of the essential determination, CalPortland has stayed busy throughout the COVID-19 outbreak. In fact, prior to the shelter-in-place order, it was having its first really good year since the housing bubble began bursting in 2006.

"We were looking forward to finally catching up and having a good year," Regis said. "Our biggest concern was meeting demand."

In the years of recovery following the Financial Crisis, much of the construction industry was held back by



*CalPortland tanker trucks on the move.*

over-regulation, delays and permitting.

"Getting a project off the ground takes so long," Regis said. "We're on the front end of every development because of curb and gutter work, so we see the timeline and the long delays."

Because of the shelter-in-place orders, many jobs are going faster than expected because the roads are empty. But government budgets have taken a hit from diminished taxes, meaning there might not be many new jobs in the near future. And project owners remain concerned over the state of the economy.

"Will there be enough confidence in the economy to push through jobs on the drawing board that have made it through approval and are ready to go," wondered Regis.



*Steve Regis - Sr. Vice President, Corporate Services, CalPortland Co.*



@bizfedcv  
#BusinessMakes Central ValleyWork

For more information, please contact:  
Clint Olivier, Executive Director  
(595) 313-6065 | [clint.olivier@bizfed.org](mailto:clint.olivier@bizfed.org)