

California Safe Soil raising \$7.1M to build plant at McClellan



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Food recycling and fertilizer company [California Safe Soil](#) LLC is raising money to build a new plant in 80,000 square-feet of warehouse space at [McClellan Business Park](#).

The company has operated a pilot plant in West Sacramento since 2012. The McClellan plant, when complete, will have a capacity 32 times larger than the existing plant, which may be kept.

To fund the expansion, the company raised \$2.7 million at the end of last year and is currently raising \$4.5 million for the about \$7 million cost of the new plant, said [Dan Morash](#), managing member of the company.

Safe Soil uses enzymes to digest supermarket food waste into liquid soil amendments in three hours. The waste is expired produce and meat. Grocery stores usually have to pay to have waste hauled away to landfills, but Safe Soil collects it for free.

In traditional composting, it takes months to safely convert food scraps to soil. Safe Soil's product is called Harvest-to-Harvest, a liquid fertilizer that is pasteurized for food safety, stabilized for extended shelf life, blended for consistency and homogenized.

"We're selling out of everything we can produce. We already have two shifts working in West Sacramento," he said.

The company has been working field trials with farmers throughout the Central Valley, and it is doing that work again this year with an eye on water savings.

The initial field trials the company was working with farmers to cut down on runoff of chemical fertilizers into waterways. The liquid product quickly blends into soil, so it doesn't have the run-

off properties or chemical fertilizers during irrigation. Farmers also can save manpower using the product, Morash said. The liquid can be applied to crops through irrigation drip lines, which saves farmers from having to remove drip lines, spread and then disk soil, which is required with traditional compost material.

In new field trials, the company is examining the product's ability to help plant uptake of water and nutrients. That change is a reaction to the ongoing drought, Morash said.

The new work at McClellan will start with a new manufacturing line, which should be in operation this year. The second phase will be a second manufacturing line. A third phase will be two more manufacturing lines, Morash said.

The [company launched](#) in West Sacramento to be close to agricultural research at University of California Davis.

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