



La Terra Fina

Production Center, Union City, CA

Cumming Group was hired to provide project management, cost management, and estimating services for the expansion and renovation of La Terra Fina's primary production center in Union City, California. Due to increased demand and limited space in their existing facility, the food manufacturer was transporting a significant portion of their product to an offsite storage location, resulting in exorbitant costs in facility leases and transportation, leading to both inefficiency and financial strain. As a result, Cumming Group was chosen to oversee the enhancements of La Terra Fina's on-site capabilities including creating larger areas for food production and expanding areas for dry storage, refrigerated storage, and frozen storage. The client also needed more offices and increased capacity at the loading docks. Our team worked closely with all consultants and vendors to deliver a successful project.



Innovative Packaging System

In addition to expanding the existing facility, La Terra Fina decided to implement an innovative packaging system known as HPP (high-pressure preservation, processing, pascalization, or cold pasteurization). HPP, a post-packaging and post-lethality technique, is a non-thermal process that provides food safety advantages and extends shelf life without compromising the flavors, freshness, or nutritional value of foods. Additionally, HPP is instrumental in preventing foodborne illnesses and ensuring the production of more nutritious, better-tasting, and natural foods. Our team oversaw the delivery and installation of a custom HPP machine designed by Avure Technologies to deliver the highest possible throughput at the lowest cost of ownership.



Unique Project Challenges

Renovating a manufacturing facility that needed to remain operational while adhering to FDA standards required an extensive amount of planning. The client was unwilling to shut down or cease operations during construction. Every facet of the renovation, from structural adjustments to equipment upgrades, had to be thoughtfully orchestrated to minimize disruptions. The team at Cumming Group communicated extensively with all stakeholders including management, employees, and relevant parties to ensure they were well-informed about the renovation process, its timeline, and potential impacts on daily operations. We also proposed the implementation of a cutting-edge hydrogen fuel cell system to provide emergency backup power for La Terra Fina. Given California’s susceptibility to severe weather conditions, including wildfires and other natural disasters, it became evident that maintaining uninterrupted power

was paramount for our client’s food production facility. Unlike many construction projects that rely on diesel-powered backup systems, a hydrogen fuel cell system emerged as a cleaner and more dependable alternative.

Another unique challenge was the need to control all dust caused by construction to avoid contamination of the food. Implementing rigorous measures to contain and mitigate dust became an integral part of our strategy, ensuring that the highest standards of hygiene and safety were upheld throughout the project. Extensive containment barriers, temporary partitions, and dust suppressants were utilized to confine the dust and keep it from becoming airborne. Our multifaceted approach to these challenges not only met them head-on but also underscored our commitment to excellence in both planning and execution.

CLIENT

La Terra Fina

ACTUAL FINAL PROJECT COST

\$62M

CONTRACTOR

TSL Projects

PROJECT CHALLENGES

Remaining operational while adhering to FDA standards
Controlling dust caused by construction to avoid food contamination

ARCHITECT

AC Martin

CUMMING GROUP’S ROLE

Cumming Group provided project management and cost management services.

COMPLETION DATE

October 2023



“Meticulous planning and extensive communication with everyone involved was the perfect recipe for success. We were thrilled to be able to bring their vision to life.

Joseph Capps-Jenner
Project Director
Cumming Group



Overall Scope of Work

As the project management firm for the manufacturer, Cumming Group managed all activities related to construction and scheduling to ensure all timelines and expectations were met. Our role included coordination between the general contractor, all stakeholders, and consultants. We managed the scheduling and coordination of all meetings, maintained the agreed-upon design and deliverables schedule, managed the permitting process, assisted in assembling a comprehensive budget for each phase of work, and provided cash flow analysis and projections. Our team provided updates to ownership at least once a week. We were pleased to complete this project for La Terra Fina in October 2023.

Project Outcome

The final result provides the client with expanded food production areas, additional storage, more offices, and enhanced technology that will allow them to continue manufacturing high-quality foods for many more years to come. *“Leading this project for La Terra Fina has been a rewarding journey,”* said Joseph Capps-Jenner, Cumming Group’s project director who led the project for the entire 24-month duration. *“Meticulous planning and extensive communication with everyone involved was the perfect recipe for success. We were thrilled to be able to bring their vision to life.”* The project was completed on time and under budget.

CUMMING GROUP

At Cumming Group, we are passionate about helping our clients execute large-scale, complex projects on-time and within budget. Our project and cost-management services are specifically tailored to each client’s needs and add meaningful value at every step of a project’s development.

Drawing on deep expertise in the communities and sectors we serve, we anticipate and solve problems, deliver solutions, and drive results. Since opening our doors in 1996, Cumming Group has grown to 50+ offices globally, and is now home to more than 2,000 team members – including many of the brightest minds in the industry.

- PROGRAM + PROJECT MANAGEMENT
- COST MANAGEMENT + ESTIMATING
- PLANNING + SCHEDULING

2,000+
TEAM MEMBERS WORLDWIDE

50+
OFFICES WORLDWIDE

27
YEARS IN BUSINESS

\$300+
BILLION IN COMPLETED PROJECTS

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