

Job-creating industry looking outside of VS

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By Nick Baptista

Valley Springs is no longer being considered for a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility with the potential for 24 to 34 new jobs.

About this time last year, Colorado-based Confluence Energy, LLC, announced it was looking to expand its operations in Valley Springs and had a public meeting to outline those plans.

The sustainable biomass and wood fiber manufacturer was looking at locating the new facility on industrial-zoned property off Paloma Road across the street from the Snyder Ranch.

The site already had a large manufacturing building, once the location of Calaveritas Redwood, and the proposal called for the addition of another building.

The multi-million dollar facility was projected to be in operation by last November, but Mark Mathis, Confluence Energy CEO, indicated his company is looking at another location.

He would not elaborate where the new site could be, but a source with the county said property near Wilseyville is under consideration.

The company takes dead, beetle-infested trees and other salvageable forest materials and turns them into a variety of manufactured products such as wood pellets, cat litter and garden and soil products.