

## **Press Release**

For Immediate Release

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## Local Produce Company Expands & Reduces Water Usage

Fresno, CA - April 8, 2015 --- Central California's premier wholesale and custom fresh-cut produce company, 1<sup>st</sup> Quality Produce, expands into a brand-new remodeled facility that allows for endless possibilities. Located on the SW corner of Orange and Church built in 1991 is a 35,000 sq. ft. building that used to occupy a pipe company but now is the largest fresh-cut produce processing facility in the state.

1<sup>st</sup> Quality Produce has over 25 years of experience and masters all aspects of growing, processing and distributing the freshest produce available. "Our customers range from schools, restaurants and hospitals to distributors," said Mike Kahaian, CEO of 1<sup>st</sup> Quality Produce. Kahaian noted, "We are capable of meeting everyday produce needs to the biggest buyers in town, yet small enough to provide service to our favorite local momand-pop restaurants."

The building now houses a 20,000 sq. ft. custom processing facility that is capable of producing over 40,000+ pounds of fresh-cut fruits and vegetables per day. "With current drought conditions, we wanted to figure out a way to recycle our water. We now have a system in line that gathers all of our rinse water to recycle and reuse. The clean water is then used back into our processing line that reduces our city water needs," said Kahaian.

Now that 1<sup>st</sup> Quality Produce has moved and expanded into a larger facility, the company was capable of employing over 50 additional employees from the community. "It's a great feeling to know the company is on the rise, best thing is seeing our 1<sup>st</sup> Quality Produce family grow," said Kahaian.

Some parts of the new home of 1<sup>st</sup> Quality Produce is still undergoing construction and expects to be fully completed by June 2015. The company also has plans to plant a vegetable garden on a quarter of an acre open field behind the facility that will be used for educational purposes for local schools and others.