Karsyn Construction Inc.

by Joe Parker, President and CEO

Karsyn Construction Inc. was established in 1995 in Fresno, California. We've been serving clients for 19 years, all the way from Sacramento to Bakersfield, essentially covering the Central Valley and the Central Coast.

Our company started in August of that year, with assistance from my father, who'd been an estimator for many years. We also had help from some choice craftsmen from the Fresno area. It was a natural step from that point to start influencing and supporting the local community, as I had gone to school in the area and wanted to continue being a part of this diverse and amazing community.

Currently, we employ 52 craftsmen, and we specialize in metal stud framing, drywall, lath and plaster, including specialty plasters like Venetian and exterior insulation finish systems (EIFS).

We've previously worked on projects such as the Fresno Heart Hospital and the Fresno Grizzlies Chukchansi Park Baseball Stadium, and we are just finishing up our work on Fresno's newest middle school, Rutherford Gaston Middle School. Over the years, we seem to have found our niche in the construction and remodeling of educational facilities. The remainder of our work centers on hospitals, medical office buildings and institutional buildings.

Even though we're on familiar ground in terms of our focus and professional accomplishments, there are still challenges we frequently deal with. Competition from nonsignatory contractors is probably the biggest challenge. And, as with all things, the construction industry has become more complicated, particularly in terms of safety. With the frequent changes in codes and ever-changing safety requirements, safety is becoming an issue requiring more time and appraisal each year. Increasing workers' compensation and insurance costs make it more challenging to stay competitive with our bids. The stricter the regulations, the more consideration our construction procedures require.

On the bright side, being a WACA contractor has significantly changed so much about being in this business. I wasn't involved in our local association when I first started Karsyn Construction Inc. Now, being a part of this educational and informative group has helped tremendously in many areas. For instance, I remember one pre-WACA negotiation was going very badly, and our company had to call in the federal mediator to help manage it. It was during that difficult situation that merging with WACA seemed like the right thing to do. That bold step and this new association took us out of the dark ages and gave the Central Valley a voice. It's nice to be able to sit at the table with the big guns.

I am pleased to say that Karsyn Construction Inc. has completed more than 350 projects, with nearly $100 million in sales during the past 19 years. We could not have accomplished this without having some of the most qualified workers in the construction industry on the job with us. I believe we do have the finest crew members here in the Valley, and we do our best to keep them happy. We want to serve our staff as well as all our clients, and I believe, because of that, we have very low turnover.

Maybe it's this attitude of serving all to the very best of our abilities that has given us our biggest accomplishment so far — surviving this economy, especially in this area, when there was little to bid on for a long time. But now we're finally getting past that, and it's giving us a chance to build back up.

I'm proud to be the president and CEO at Karsyn Construction Inc. and especially proud of the people I have been given a chance to work with: customers, staff members, crews and the fine people of WACA. I look forward to all our accomplishments to come.