

Griffith Farms (2-min)

Video Script

- [Craig] Farming is really tied to water. It is our life blood, for everything, so we try to make sure that we use that as efficiently as possible. I'm Craig Hornung, and I am the Soil Irrigation Specialist, here at Griffith Farms. When we started to look at this project, we were looking at what is the correct thing to do for the trees, and we came up with a plan of understanding what we needed from an irrigation standpoint, so that we could operate at a higher efficiency.

- [Jeff] I first met Craig when he was exploring some energy efficiency options. He was thinking about doing some variable frequency drives, here at Griffith Farms. A variable frequency drive is basically a gas pedal for an electric motor. So, that allows us to address the needs of an irrigation system without running a pump at 100%, full power, all the time. We realized that we were going to need a reservoir and a VFD set-up to pump the water from the reservoir out of the field, efficiently, and then from there the process was relatively smooth. We ended up finishing the project and everything works quite well.

- [Jeff] Griffith Farms is going to see reduced energy consumption, reduced water consumption, cost savings, because they are making use of these new technologies in their operation.

- [Craig] Now, that we have a reservoir in place, we can fine tune our irrigation schedule better to what the trees need, and how much water we have in the reservoir to maximize our efficiency. The rebates that we received for the VFDs were about \$3600. Any savings that we have all goes to the bottom line, and so anything that we can save there is beneficial to our ownership.

- [Jeff] It's nice to help a business like Griffith Farms, especially one tied to the agricultural industry just because they are facing so many regulations. So, it's nice to be able to help them navigate a sometimes complicated energy sector.

- [Craig] PG&E was really good to work with. We found them to be quite responsive, as far as coming out, looking at the project, getting the information that we requested. PG&E is going to be a big part of our future going forward. We do our best to produce the best piece of fruit possible and in utilizing the VFD, from an irrigation standpoint, that helps us produce a more consistent crop. It looks great. It tastes great. It brings a smile to the consumer's face. That really is the best part of the whole thing.