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Wald, Ruhnke & Dost Architects Completes Merrill Farms Salinas Headquarters *Both Building and Interior Design Support Merrill Farms and Frisco Farms*

Monterey, CA – October 21, 2010 – Ross Merrill, president of Merrill Farms, LLC, had a vision: to create a dynamic working environment that would enhance the offerings of two companies while locating them under one roof. The result is a new headquarters facility in Salinas designed by Wald, Ruhnke & Dost Architects (WR&D) that enables Merrill Farms and Frisco Farms to retain their own identities while promoting cooperation between the two teams.

Located adjacent to the Merrill Toro Ranch, the structure complements its agricultural setting and provides employees with a modern yet relaxed work environment. The exposed heavy timber construction of the building's breezeway was incorporated to evoke the feeling of a farmhouse porch while enhancing the public entry to the building. The extended eaves and bracketed dormers help bring a residential scale to an otherwise large-scale commercial building. The stone accents, along with the standing seam metal roof lines, further define the new ranch style.

Taking the lead from Ross Merrill, WR&D's Commercial Interior Design team created a distinct look and feel for each company. Merrill Farms specializes in fresh vegetable production, and has been in business for more than 75 years. This is reflected in a traditional office design that features darker woods, beautiful wooden desks, and a rich color palette. Frisco Farms, a produce shipper affiliated with Merrill Farms, was established in 2009. It's a young and growing company, and the office features a lighter, contemporary color scheme, modular furniture, and a sales area designed to motivate an energetic staff that is securing produce shipping contracts across the country.

Ross Merrill was involved in the conception and daily workings of the project. "We discussed the project with Henry Ruhnke in September 2009, and emphasized our need to create motivating environments for companies with two distinct cultures," said Merrill. "The team at WR&D achieved exactly what we envisioned. The strong communication between Avila Construction and WR&D helped the project run smoothly during construction."

"Working with a client like Ross Merrill made our job very easy. He conveyed his ideas extremely well, and helped us create a final product that serves both established and emerging companies. We were honored to have this opportunity to serve the agricultural industry, which is such a vital part of our community," said Henry Ruhnke, principal, Wald, Ruhnke & Dost Architects.

The functionality of an office is just as important as its overall look, as are the materials used throughout it. WR&D evaluates the durability of materials and their environmental impact as well as the efficient use of available space when creating business environments. If a client would like to pursue Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certification, LEED Accredited Professionals on staff are available to help navigate the certification process and work within budget to provide clients with a sustainable exterior and interior that are less costly to operate and maintain. To learn more about WR&D's architectural and commercial interior design services, visit <http://wrdarch.com/services/architecture.html>.

About WR&D Architects

Wald, Ruhnke & Dost Architects, LLP is a full-service architectural firm with an extensive portfolio of commercial, agricultural, healthcare, education, public works, residential, construction management and commercial interior design projects developed over more than 45 years. As a leader in green construction and sustainable practices, WR&D creates buildings that are designed to enhance productivity and well-being while making positive impacts on the larger community. For more information, visit www.wrdarch.com.