

# American LAUNDRY NEWS

April 2009

crain

## LateNews

### SEIU, Workers United announce affiliation

PHILADELPHIA — Workers United, a new union composed of more than 150,000 former UNITE HERE members, announced on March 23 its affiliation with the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). The agreement creates the Workers United Conference of SEIU.

Its mission is to represent workers in the garment, textile, laundry, distribution, foodservice and hospitality industries.

The partnership creates new opportunities for workers to organize, improve working conditions and raise standards, according to Workers United.

"Through this affiliation, we make a big, strong union even bigger and stronger," says Edgar Romney, president of Workers United. "We will have the support of SEIU, and there is no question that we will be stronger together."

The agreement positions the unions to work together more closely, while also maintaining the autonomy and constitution of Workers United, according to Romney.

SEIU and affiliates of Workers United have already begun working together through a campaign to organize food-service workers.

Fifteen UNITE HERE joint boards voted in early March to disaffiliate from the international union.

ALN

# Cavallo Point enters Golden Gateway to green operations

By Randy F. Radtke

SAUSALITO, Calif. — Cavallo Point — the Lodge at the Golden Gate is one of those rare sites where the past and present mingle in harmony. But this balance didn't happen overnight or by accident; it was achieved only after a 3 1/2-year, \$100 million rehabilitation project with an environmentally conscious approach encompassing all points, including the laundry operation.



The result places Cavallo Point in rare status as a truly green property, one with a laundry that recycles more than 70% of its water.

"We've got this incredible storied past," says John Pittman, director of engineering and environmental affairs at Cavallo Point. Rehabilitation efforts aim to return the 30-acre site, that's being leased for the lodge, to that past and the way it



Kodiak Greenwood

Cavallo Point is San Francisco's new national park lodge, set within Golden Gate National Parks at the foot of the

Golden Gate Bridge. Since opening last year, the lodge has been unwavering in its enviro-conscious approach.

looked in 1937, Pittman explains, all while minimizing any impact on the property, the buildings themselves and the environment.

### Restoring to 1937 look

Cavallo Point's history dates back

to 1866 when the U.S. Army acquired the property. The land, which sits in the shadow of the Golden Gate Bridge, eventually became home to Fort Baker. The post played host to generals, colonels and other Army upper

brass through World War II. A product of decommissioning in the 1980s, the historic property later came under the purview of the National Park System as a part of

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# Green laundry — an industry-changing progression

By Matthew Alexander, MHS

With sustainability gaining global attention, the conservation-minded laundry industry finds itself being pushed to turn an even brighter shade of green.

Green initiatives that include carbon management and implementing processes that reduce or eliminate the use and generation of hazardous substances stand to have

a profound effect on the way that laundries are designed, constructed and operated.

## Analysis

Technological developments, corporate initiatives, and government incentives and regulations are aligning to create demands on laundry operations that will require



expanded expertise in operations, supply-chain management, technology and logistics.

### Sustainability goals

Industries including hotels, healthcare, foodservice and manufacturing are driving supply-chain demands expected to require laundry operations to become more sustainable — to reduce their carbon footprint (the amount of carbon dioxide they produce through vehicle emissions, electricity use and fuel consumption).

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April 20-24

Volume 35, Number 4

www.americanlaundrynews.com

The Newspaper of Record for Laundry & Linen Management

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### Tips to Save Money

Adjusting your plant's operating schedule and plugging leaks are low-cost ways to corral dollars, the Panel of Experts suggests.

### Restaurant Show

This year's Restaurant, Hotel-Motel Show\* offers exclusive opportunities to receive personalized laundry services consultation.

### Product Review

Uniforms and industrial apparel allow workers to do their jobs comfortably and efficiently, plus withstand the rigors of industrial laundering.



# Golden

Continued from Page 1

the Golden Gate National Parks.

Today, the property is a component of a highly unique partnership of the Fort Baker Retreat Group, National Park Service and Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy. This collaboration set out with the challenging, dual goal of not only restoring the property to its 1937 look (a historically significant date — the opening of the Golden Gate Bridge), but also reducing the lodge's carbon footprint.

The group was equally committed to reducing the impact the project would have on land in and around Cavallo Point.

## Being green

This approach led to an "enormous reduction in construction debris," Pittman says, adding that great measures were taken to recycle as many materials as possible, including concrete.

Complicating matters was the challenge of bringing the structures up to meet current earthquake code requirements.

"Even when we built ... we used existing foundations and footprints," Pittman says, adding that steps were carefully taken to minimize even how much ground was disturbed.

So green was this project that few buildings have cooling systems, many have solar collection panels that send power directly to the grid, and many materials were salvaged for use elsewhere on the grounds.

"We made every effort to reuse porch materials and stairways," Pittman says.

With this type of green effort, there was no doubt the laundry serving the 142-room property would be just as green.

## Minimal-impact laundering

Cavallo Point has done everything possible to recycle and reuse, and when it came to the laundry, that minimal-impact focus continued with the water resources, and even how much wastewater it sent out.

Pittman says this undertaking involved the cooperation of all the key players — equipment distributor, chemicals supplier and staff in charge of quality.

"The equipment needed to be capable of operation without affecting the historic buildings, which could not be modified," Charles Clark Sr. says of an installation challenge. Clark is sales manager of Taylor Houseman Inc., a Pittsburg, Calif.-based UniMac laundry equipment distributor.

"Cavallo at the same time posed challenges



Cavallo Point Lodge

"The equipment needed to be capable of operation without affecting the historic buildings, which could not be modified," says Charles Clark Sr.,

sales manager for distributor Taylor Houseman Inc., of the Cavallo Point Lodge laundry installation.

and opportunities in both construction of the laundry and the amount of available utilities the historic site was willing to supply," Clark adds.

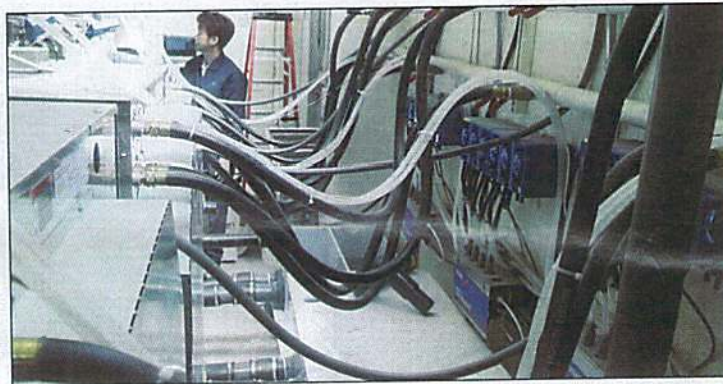
Equally important was creating a laundry that would work in concert with Cavallo Point's wastewater reclamation system, which recycles roughly 70% of the operation's wastewater.

"The neat thing about it is ... it not only saves water ... but we've seen a huge reduction in how much wastewater we send out," Pittman says.

The AquaTex 720 system from Wastewater Resources collects wastewater from the laundry and runs it through a 10-micron shaker filter, which removes particulate. Next, the wastewater travels through a 5-micron backwash filter, then an ultraviolet disinfection process before being reintroduced into the wash wheel.

Among the UniMac products Taylor Houseman installed at Cavallo Point were two 80-pound washer-extractors and two 60-pound washer-extractors, all equipped with UniLine programmable microprocessor controls, as well as three 120-pound drying tumblers. A Hamilton Engineering high-performance water heater supplies hot water to the laundry. Two Sharper Finish flatwork ironers — in widths of 66 inches and 120 inches — are used in finishing linens.

"Water was of particular importance as the



Taylor Houseman Inc.

disposal of wastewater needed to be very small," Clark says. "That's where our UW washer line really had an impact. We were able to supply not only washers which use less water than any other model, but adapted to the aftermarket water reclaim system purchased by Cavallo."

## Meeting needs

In addition to serving the linen needs of 142 guest-rooms, the laundry also supports a three-meal, Michelin-recognized restaurant (however, true to its green focus, tablecloths are used only at dinner) and a full-service spa.

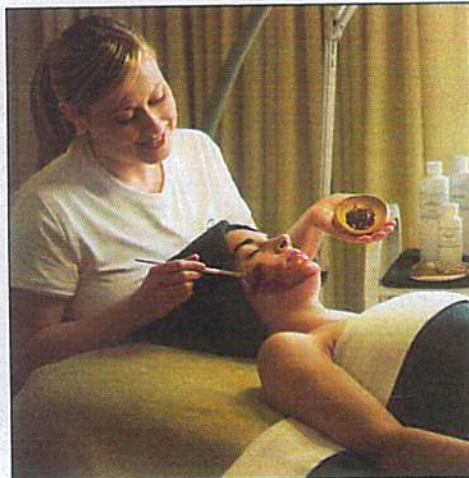
The laundry operates with a staff of three and runs over two shifts to meet Cavallo Point's demands for fresh linen. Again, the facility seeks to limit those demands with a linen reuse program in which bed linens are changed upon guest checkout.

## Getting desired results

With Cavallo Point having been open a year next month, it's had ample time to assess how the laundry is functioning under the heavy demands. It appears to be delivering results

Pittman has been particularly pleased with the flexibility of the laundry equipment in allowing staff to fine-tune wash and dry formulas to obtain precisely the quality results Cavallo Point requires for guests.

"We've been able to moderate the laundry's finish quality with the available technology ... that's been huge to us," Pittman says, adding that the cooperation between all the



Michal Venora

The 11,000-square-foot Healing Arts Center & Spa with 11 treatment rooms integrates healing practices from



KruEink Greenwood





Michal Venera

The Murray Circle restaurant's wine cellar is among the most extensive in California and represents vintners spanning the globe.

laundry partners, including representatives from chemical supplier Ecolab, has been imperative to achieving this quality with minimal impact on the environment.

As properties increasingly look to conserve water, having high-feature controls will be mandatory to accomplish these goals, says Kim Shady, vice president of distributor sales at UniMac.

"Cavallo Point illustrates perfectly how fine-tuning cycles and working with your chemical company representative can produce excellent quality while reducing costs and the impact the laundry has on the environment," Shady says.

Even small savings in wash cycles can add up over the course of a year and the life of a washer-extractor, he adds.

"Having the ability to control water use, even with small tweaks, is the first step to a greener operation."

Clark, too, sees Cavallo Point as an example of how a property can adopt a green approach in all facets of business and still deliver the pinnacle of service.

"The final product can only be described as state of the art," Clark says. "I believe clients not only from water- and electrically strapped California will visit this facility, but visitors from other states will travel to see how history, ecology and performance can be blended into a seamless package."

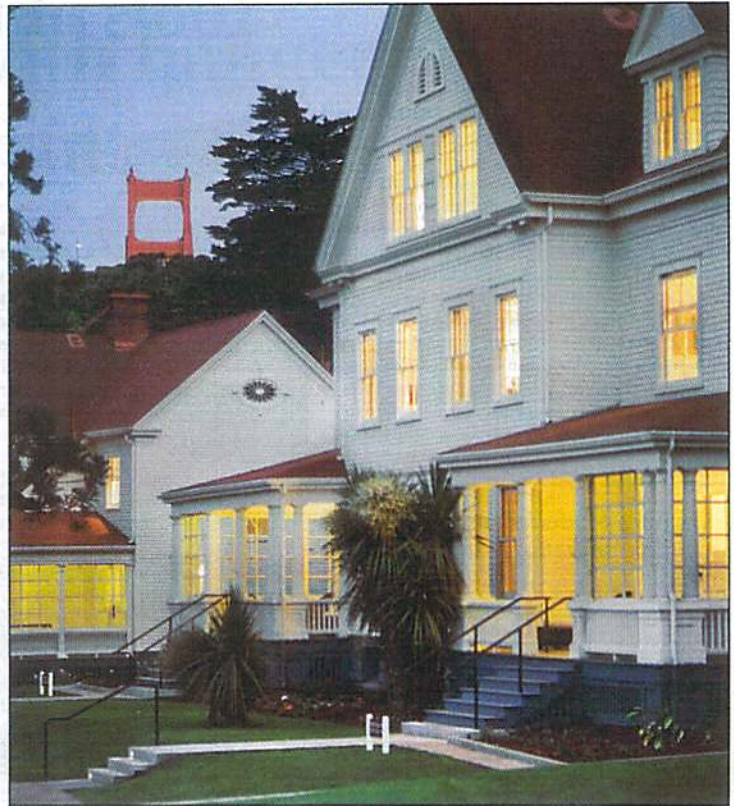
**Next steps**

Cavallo Point is seeking Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for the work it has done, while it continues its charge with ongoing green initiatives.

The property utilizes motion-detection systems to control lighting, as well as CFL and LED lighting. Guestrooms are equipped for instant hot water with direct-fire, tankless water heaters. Most guestrooms are not air-conditioned, and the property only minimally uses forced air.

Pittman says the lodge is "aggressively looking at ways" to utilize the enormous amount of natural spring water on the property as well as a year-round flow of groundwater.

Randy F. Radtke is a public relations specialist for Alliance Laundry Systems, manufacturer of Huebsch, Speed Queen, UniMac, IPSO and Cissell laundry equipment. ALN



Kodiak Greenwood

Cavallo Point's landmark historic buildings have been painstakingly restored and feature expansive foyers and staircases; authentic tin ceilings with ceiling fans; fireplaces; panoramic windows; and spacious front porches.

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