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## Dust Bowl Brewing to bring large taproom to historic Elk Grove

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A growing brewing company from the Central Valley will open its third California taproom in a historic building in Elk Grove later this year.

Turlock-based Dust Bowl Brewing Co. will take a 6,000-square-foot space inside a structure built in 1900, and recently renovated by Sacramento's D&S Development.

"They wanted to get into the Sacramento area, and once they saw the old brick building, it was what they were looking for," Rachael Brown, manager of economic development with Elk Grove, told the Business Journal.

"We fell in love with the building. It was love at first site," said Brett Tate, founder and owner of Dust Bowl Brewing. "The bones of the building are really cool. These opportunities are few and far between."

Founded in 2009, Dust Bowl Brewing has a taproom at its brewery just off Highway 99 in Turlock and another taproom in Monterey. The company brews 14 year-round beers and 14 seasonal ales. Its best-known brands are Taco Truck Lager and Hops of Wrath IPA, which are distributed in six states.

Dust Bowl will be the sixth brewery in Elk Grove when it opens this fall, Brown said.

The taproom and restaurant will be a destination location for the historic district, which next month will debut its new Old Town Plaza, an open-air pavilion where farmer's markets, food trucks and outdoor concerts are planned.

The Dust Bowl taproom will have a capacity for more than 400 people inside and through extensive outdoor patios.

The building at 9676 Railroad St. is a historic brick structure in Elk Grove's historic district.

The taproom will have 3,000 square feet of public space inside the building, plus a private event space for rental, and an extensive covered outdoor space, according to the city.

Food for the venue will be provided through a partnership with Wedo's Kitchen, which operates the food truck Wedo's Tacos at Dust Bowl Brewing's taproom in Monterey. Wedo's will build a kitchen inside part of the Elk Grove building.

"We are thrilled to have Dust Bowl Brewery come to Elk Grove. This historic rehab has been a long time coming," said Sara Labastchi, vice president of operations with D&S Development, in an email. "We are excited to see this building come to life and look forward to Dust Bowl's future opening. It will be a wonderful, family-friendly location for residents of Elk Grove and the Sacramento area to enjoy."

In addition to its taprooms, Dust Bowl Brewing's beers are distributed in stores in California, Nevada, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas and Vermont.

The historic Elk Grove building was built to store wine grapes being transported by rail in the early 1900s, according to the city.

In 2018, the city approved the sale of the building to D&S to begin a renovation of the historic district. This is the first of three phases of development in that area to make Elk Grove's historic district a destination with many attractions in a walkable area.

The city has added two parking lots nearby, which, with on-street parking, will feature about 200 parking spaces.



COURTESY OF DUST BOWL BREWING CO.  
Dust Bowl Brewing Co. will open a taproom in this building in historic Elk Grove.

“Sacramento has an unbelievable beer culture, and we’re happy to be a part of it,” Tate said. He said Dust Bowl is still looking for more locations. It can have a total of six remote taprooms under its brewing license. The other three taprooms are still in the future, he said, as his team is concentrating now on getting the Elk Grove location open.

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