LAKOS FILTRATION SOLUTIONS

CASE STUDY

TOMATO PROCESSING PLANT ELIMINATES LABOR-INTENSIVE MANUAL CLEANING WITH AUTOMATIC PROCESS WATER FILTERS

PROBLEM

The large tomato processing facility in Central California uses continuously recycled water to clean tomatoes prior to packing. Tomatoes are washed using spray nozzles as they travel down flumes.

The cleaning process produces a high volume of sediment that must be removed from the water. Sediment builds up in the processing flumes, requiring system shutdown and manual cleaning. In addition, cartridge filters used to protect spray nozzles were requiring frequent changes. Manual cleaning of the processing flumes required up to 300 labor hours per week.

The plant manager approached LAKOS to identify a solution that would filter the process water continually, eliminating the need for process shutdowns and the labor-intensive cleaning.

SOLUTION

Six LAKOS JPX separators were specified to provide automated continuous cleaning of the process water.

Each JPX separator includes a system of valves and hoppers to collect filtered sediment for recycling - further increasing value for the plant.

OUTCOMES

Installation of the LAKOS system achieved a **6-month payback, based on labor savings** from eliminating multiple weekly cleanouts of processing flumes.

- Because the **process water stayed clean continuously, consistently higher product quality was achieved** throughout the processing season.
- The plant has **saved 10 hours of downtime per week**
- The plant has observed **less wear-and-tear** on nozzles, piping and other control components from sand wear.
- **Less water is used overall,** as there is no water loss from manual draining/cleaning.
- **Recycling of the debris has been simplified** with the LAKOS hoppers.

Adding a LAKOS system costs less than you think.
To get one customized to your needs, contact your local representative:

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