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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**COLUMBIA FOREST PRODUCTS APPOINTS SENIOR ADVISOR TO ITS NEW  
WEST COAST-BASED MDF OPERATIONS**

**Wade Gregory to Lead Columbia's New Partnership with CalPlant I**

Greensboro, NC – August 8, 2018 – Columbia Forest Products today announced the appointment of Wade Gregory to the position of senior advisor for its new California-based rice straw MDF operation in partnership with CalPlant I, according to Columbia Director of MDF Sales Steve Chavez.

“The level of panel industry expertise Wade brings to this exciting new enterprise of Columbia bolsters our newest venture,” Chavez said. “His knowledge of both manufacturing and sales provide a critical skillset as we move forward with our West Coast expansion.”

As senior advisor, Gregory will lead the Columbia side of its partnership in CalPlant I, which, having broken ground in August of last year, is expected to be producing high-performance MDF panels by summer of 2019.

Gregory joins Columbia with more than 40 years of experience in the composite panel industry, most recently as the western region sales director for Arauco. His career includes executive positions in sales, marketing and manufacturing; notably, Gregory was president and COO of Sierra Pine from 2005 – 2008. Widely known throughout the industry, he has served as board chairman of both the Composite Panel Association and the Composite Wood Council, and as president of the Association of Woodworking and Furnishings Suppliers. Gregory is based in Salem, Oregon.

**About Columbia Forest Products**

Founded in 1957 and employee-owned, Columbia Forest Products is North America's leading manufacturer of hardwood plywood and hardwood veneer products. Columbia's materials are used in high-end cabinetry, fine furniture, architectural millwork and commercial fixtures, and are sold through a network of wholesale distributors, mass merchandisers and original equipment manufacturers. Columbia received an award from the EPA in their Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge for its soy-based, formaldehyde-free PureBond® technology, launched 12 years and nearly 100 million plywood panels ago.

**About CalPlant I, LLC**

When complete in 2019, CalPlant I will be North America's first commercial-scale manufacturer of formaldehyde-free rice straw-based MDF, and at capacity the plant will produce approximately 140 million square feet per year. Rice straw is an annually renewable material, and all furnish for the plant will be procured each year from Sacramento Valley rice growers within a 15- to 25-mile radius of the plant site.

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