



Metcalf Energy Center-Screen

San Jose, CA

The Metcalf Energy Center is a 600-megawatt power generation facility located along Highway 101 in California's "Silicon Valley." It utilizes natural gas for fuel and is one of the cleanest, most efficient facilities of its kind in the world. Since the facility is situated near a residential area, consideration was taken to help it blend in with the surrounding area and reduce the visual impact on the community. The designers decided to erect an elaborate screen to cover the plant and buffer it from existing residential areas. The screen was made of a steel frame with a tan mesh screen.

The engineer and designer wanted a long-lasting durable coating that wouldn't rust and bleed onto the outside mesh panels creating unsightly stains. So, the steel frame, which included stack triangular pipe frames, pipe columns, and braces, was hot-dip galvanized for corrosion protection. The 950 tons of galvanized steel frame support the architectural tan screen panels and hide the industrial energy facility from view. The galvanized frames and mesh screen will allow the Metcalf Energy Center to blend into its surroundings and continue to deliver power to northern California for generations to come.



Specifier/Engineer
Geiner Engineers

Architect
Hillier Architecture

Additional
Mountain States Steel, Calpine Management Company, &
Bragg Crane & Rigging

