

Press Release

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WAL-MART ANNOUNCES DISTRIBUTION CENTER COMING TO BARSTOW, BRINGING 500 NEW JOBS

*THE WORLD'S LARGEST RETAILER CITES BARSTOW SELECTION AS A VOTE OF
CONFIDENCE IN ITS PEOPLE AND LEADERSHIP*

Barstow, Calif. — From its corporate offices in Bentonville, Ark., Wal-Mart announced today that it plans to build and operate a food distribution center in the Barstow Industrial Park. Construction on the 880,000-sq.-ft. facility, encompassing 160 acres in the industrial park just north of where Valmont-Newmark is located, is planned to begin in late 2006 with service to stores beginning in 2008. The company announced that some 500 full-time jobs, providing competitive wages, initially will be created. That number could grow to 700 within the first three years.

“The exciting news that the world’s largest retailer has selected Barstow as a home for one of its distribution centers is further validation of the City Council’s focus over the past four years on economic development and bringing jobs to our community members,” says Barstow Mayor Lawrence Dale. “We

are very appreciative of Wal-Mart placing their faith in our community and we welcome them with open arms.”

“The facility we are planning for Barstow will feature state-of-the-art technology and bring added capacity, which will allow us to better serve our expanding California Supercenter presence,” said Rollin Ford, executive vice president of logistics for Wal-Mart. “That we chose Barstow is a vote of confidence in its people and leadership. We believe they embody the kind of spirit and can-do attitude that will ensure effective and efficient service to our California customers.”

Ford noted that it took a coordinated effort to help secure the site, and added that special thanks should be extended to Governor Schwarzenegger and his economic development team; Ron Rector, Barstow’s manager of economic development; and Barstow Mayor Lawrence Dale and the Barstow City Council.

“Our economic development team started working with Wal-Mart representatives nearly two and half years ago,” says Gloria Darling, Barstow mayor pro-tem. “We understand the community’s desire to have new projects come to fruition overnight; however, job-creating projects such as this Wal-Mart distribution center can be very complex and take a lot of work and coordination by numerous entities. We know that this and other projects in the pipeline will be well worth the community’s patience,” adds Darling.

“The announcement of the Wal-Mart distribution center is the type of economic development project I feel is positive for this community,” says Paul Luellig, Barstow City Council member. “It brings more than 500 good paying jobs with benefits to our residents. City staff deserves enormous credit for bringing this project to completion, especially Ron Rector, the city’s economic development manager. ”

"I truly appreciate Wal-Mart's seeing Barstow for what it truly is--the 'Crossroads of Opportunity,'" says Helen Runyon, Barstow Council member.

"This announcement is terrific news for our city," says Joe Gomez, Barstow City Council member. "Wal-Mart's \$60 million investment in our community will provide a tremendous economic boost to our residents as well as our local businesses. With more than 500 full-time jobs created from this project, our local businesses will prosper as well due to the economic multiplier effect from those wages," adds Gomez.

About Wal-Mart

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., is the world's largest retailer, with \$285.2 billion in sales in the fiscal year ending Jan. 31, 2005. The company employs 1.6 million associates worldwide through more than 3,700 facilities in the United States. Wal-Mart employs 70,256 associates in California to serve seven supercenters, 150 discount stores, and 34 Sam's Clubs. Full details of the company can be found at

<http://www.walmartfacts.com/>.

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