

Perris News

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Hanes Distribution Center Opens in Perris

The City of Perris and the Hanes apparel company Tuesday celebrated the grand opening of the corporation's largest distribution center in the world, a landmark that will provide hundreds of jobs for local residents and pump badly needed revenue into the region's economy.

The Perris Distribution Center, located at Indian Avenue and Morgan Street, employs about 100 people today but that number eventually grows to more than 650. Many of the workers now drawing paychecks from the distribution hub live in Perris and many more are expected to land jobs as operations expand.

The center will distribute Hanes' products, undergarments, t-shirts and sweat suits, throughout the United States.

"This is a good day for our community," Mayor Daryl Busch told the crowd that gathered inside the massive warehouse. "We wanted this project to come true, and thanks to the hard work of our City staff, it has come true. We are bringing new jobs to our local community."

Busch led the City's contingent, which included members of the City Council, City Manager Richard Belmudez and other staff. A representative of Riverside County Supervisor Marion Ashley also was on hand.

The 1.3 million square foot warehouse is 2,000-feet long, almost half a mile, and 660 feet wide. It's so massive that supervisors have to peddle around on large tricycles to get around. The building is slightly sloped, so that its elevation drops eight feet from one end to the other.

Although not fully stocked yet, the warehouse already holds millions of garments ready for shipment. A second shift has been added to meet the demand. Garments from the Perris location are being shipped to Target and Wal-Mart stores around the country and soon they will be sent to Kohl's locations.

The distribution center incorporates many skylights to brighten the work area and reduce electrical consumption. It's well insulated so that temperatures inside during the summer run 15 to 20 degrees cooler than outdoors.

Lee Woodard, vice-president of Hanesbrands Inc., called the new distribution center a "vital link in our supply chain."

"It's a great accomplishment," he said. "We are very excited to call Perris home."

Rich Dissosway, Director of Distribution Planning for Hanesbrands Inc., said the company was set to move into a regional hub in Redlands little more than a year ago.

But that that arrangement fell through and the company heard about Perris and the City's willingness to seek out new business opportunities.

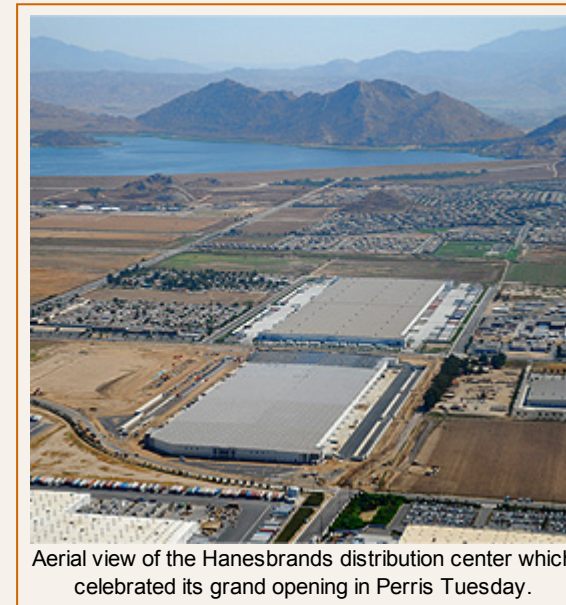
Company representatives and City staff worked closely together to bring the West Coast distribution center from the drawing board to reality, he said.

Grading on the Indian Avenue site began March 24; construction finished on Nov. 10.

"All the stars aligned to make this happen," Dissosway said. "Everything lined up perfectly."

Dissosway praised the City's planning and management staff and City Council, saying they expedited the development and building process to meet the company's deadline.

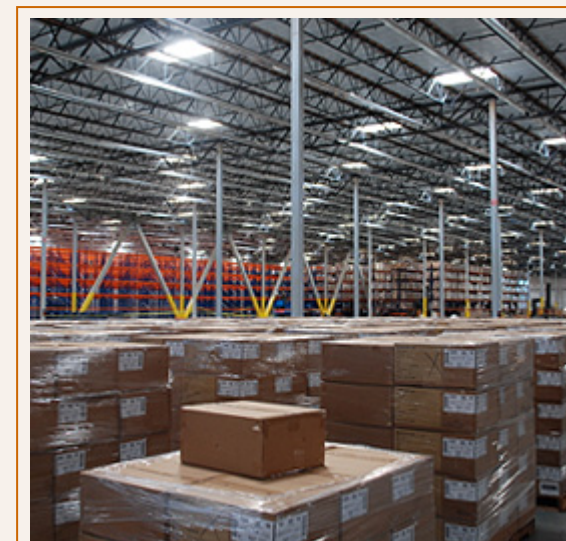
"We were very fortunate to work with the City of Perris," he said. "They treated us wonderfully."



Aerial view of the Hanesbrands distribution center which celebrated its grand opening in Perris Tuesday.



Perris Mayor Daryl Busch addresses the crowd at the grand opening of the Hanesbrands distribution center.



The huge distribution center dwarfs pallets of merchandise ready for shipment around the U.S.

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