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More Public Parking and New Grocery Store Come to Downtown San Jose

Central Place Parking Garage adds 330 new spaces as The Market by Safeway prepares to open its doors to downtown residents

SAN JOSE, CALIF. –With the opening of the new public parking garage, parking is more plentiful for customers shopping at the new “The Market by Safeway”, residents living at The 88 condominium project and visitors coming to the Downtown San Jose.

“Expanding the amount of safe, clean and convenient public parking is key to attracting new businesses, shoppers and residents to downtown San Jose,” said Mayor Chuck Reed. “This type of investment and development will help build a dynamic downtown environment where Silicon Valley residents can live, work and play.”

The new Central Place Parking Garage is part of the city’s continued mixed-use development in San Antonio Plaza Redevelopment Project Area. The public garage is located under The 88 high-rise condominiums along Central Place, a pedestrian-oriented street completed in December 2008, and contains 330 parking spaces on three levels of underground parking.

The garage is also connected to the “The Market by Safeway”; Safeway’s first upscale grocery store in the South Bay scheduled to open on August 28, 2009, and will participate in Downtown Retail and Cinema Validation programs. The 24,000 square foot downtown store will offer specialty departments and ready to eat meals, as well as full-service grocery items designed for busy families and professionals.

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“It’s cause for both local retailers and residents to celebrate. Central Place will provide needed parking support for downtown small businesses. It’s also proof that a major retailer like Safeway shares our confidence in the future of downtown,” said Councilmember Sam Liccardo.”

The San Jose Redevelopment Agency invested \$12.5 million in the project, partnering with developer Wilson Meany Sullivan (WMS) to build the garage in conjunction with the first phase of construction at The 88. The project has been part of the Redevelopment Agency’s Strategy to construct public parking along with new downtown projects. With the opening of the Central Place Garage, downtown now boasts more than 8,000 public parking spaces, a project of the Downtown Parking Board’s “Parking Plus” strategy, a plan that encourages private developers to add a public parking component to their development projects.

“During these challenging times, it’s important that our Agency supports small businesses not only with our programs, but with investments that make sense to enliven the Downtown San Jose area,” Harry Mavrogenes, Executive Director, San Jose Redevelopment Agency. “With the addition of the new parking garage, Downtown businesses will be in a better position to attract more customers.

“Parking is about getting people comfortably and conveniently where they want to be so they can better enjoy our downtown,” said Elizabeth Monley, Chair, City of San Jose Downtown Parking Board. “The goal of the Downtown Parking Board is to continue to seek golden opportunities, such as the Central Place Parking Plus throughout our downtown as the need arises.”

“We’re pleased to be able to provide, in partnership with the Redevelopment Agency and in support of its downtown vision, additional parking for the benefit of local merchants. Both this new public parking and The Market by Safeway on our ground floor complement the fantastic existing neighborhood amenities, and are among the reasons we’re the best-selling condominium property downtown,” said Seth Bland of Wilson Meany Sullivan, developer of The 88.

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Over the past six years, the Redevelopment Agency has invested nearly \$70 million to create 1,100 additional parking spaces in Downtown San Jose to accommodate increased parking demand in the Downtown. Other Redevelopment parking projects include the Fourth & San Fernando Street Garage and The Globe, located at Third and Santa Clara Streets. To date, the Redevelopment Agency has invested more than \$2 billion to revitalize downtown.

About the San Jose Redevelopment Agency

The Agency is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all who live and work in San Jose. Governed by the City Council, acting as the Redevelopment Agency Board, the Agency facilitates and oversees comprehensive programs for development to revitalize and strengthen quality of life and competitiveness for San Jose's downtown, neighborhoods and industrial areas. For more information, visit www.sjredevelopment.org.

Downtown San Jose Parking information is available at www.sjdowntownparking.com

For more information about The Market by Safeway, located at 100 S. Second Street in Downtown San Jose, please visit www.safeway.com/themarket or call (408) 292-4010.

Learn more about The 88 at www.the88sj.com

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