



For Immediate Release:
December 18, 2009

Contact:
Helen Duong, (408) 795-1807
San Jose Redevelopment Agency
helen.duong@sanjoseca.gov

Jennifer Marples, (415) 986-1593
Koa Communications
jennifer@koacommunications.com

Whole Foods Market Begins Construction on its First Store in San Jose

New market expected to create about 200 new jobs

SAN JOSE, Calif. –The San Jose Redevelopment Agency, the City of San Jose and Whole Foods Market held a groundbreaking ceremony for a new grocery store today, as elected officials and residents enthusiastically welcomed the upbeat news before the holiday break.

“This investment by Whole Foods is especially important in these economic times,” said San Jose Vice Mayor Judy Chirco. “The City values Whole Foods’ belief in San Jose.”

“There is an incredible amount of excitement in the community about the opening of Whole Foods because it is a healthy, delicious and green place to shop; moreover, this morning’s groundbreaking is a sign of the growing strength of our local economy,” said Councilmember Nancy Pyle, who represents the area.

The new full-service Whole Foods Market will be approximately 50,000-square-feet with 24,000-square-feet of adjacent retail space and is located at the south corner of Blossom Hill Road and Almaden Expressway in South San Jose. This Market site is also in the Hoffman/Via Monte Strong Neighborhood Redevelopment Project Area, a neighborhood that has been undergoing revitalization improvements. However, within a three-mile radius, the area boasts strong demographics with more than 100,000 cars passing through the area daily, an average household income of \$109,247 and a median age of 37.

“We are thrilled to be breaking ground in San Jose today,” said Glen Moon, Whole Foods Market Vice President of Store Development. “We look forward to serving this community and providing them the highest quality natural and organic foods.”

Founded in 1980 in Austin, Texas, Whole Foods Market is the leading natural and organic grocer. The Company employs more than 51,000 Team Members, 82 percent of which work full-time. In fiscal year 2008, the company had sales of \$8 billion and currently has more than 280 stores in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. The stores occupy approximately 10.6 million square feet. The Whole Foods Market Blossom Hill store is scheduled to open in the fall of 2010 with a second store planned for spring/summer 2011 at the northwest corner of The Alameda and Stockton Avenue near downtown San Jose.

-more-

“We are pleased to see Whole Foods Market moving forward with construction of the South San Jose store,” said Harry Mavrogenes, Executive Director, San Jose Redevelopment Agency. “Both Agency and City staff have worked hard to help Whole Foods Market realize its goal to open stores in San Jose.”

The Hoffman/Via Monte area has received more than \$4 million in redevelopment funds for redevelopment improvements projects, such as alleyway enhancements, residential landscaping, temporary neighborhood center and other planned improvements. In addition, the City of San José Housing Department has invested more than \$311,000 in residential rehabilitation. The site of the future neighborhood center is across the street from the Whole Foods Market on Gallup Drive.

“We are delighted to welcome Whole Foods to our neighborhood, said Laura Munguia,” Vice President, Hoffman/Via Monte Neighborhood Action Coalition (NAC). “We want to thank the Redevelopment Agency and the City for their continued commitment to improve our community with not only beautification projects, but also economic development projects that are going to help create jobs for our residents.”

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.

About Whole Foods Market®

Founded in 1980 in Austin, Texas, Whole Foods Market (www.wholefoodsmarket.com), a leader in the natural and organic foods industry and America’s first national certified organic grocer, was named “America’s Healthiest Grocery Store” in 2008 by *Health* magazine. The Whole Foods Market motto, “Whole Foods, Whole People, Whole Planet”™ captures the company’s mission to find success in customer satisfaction and wellness, employee excellence and happiness, enhanced shareholder value, community support and environmental improvement. Thanks to its 51,100 Team Members, Whole Foods Market has been ranked as one of the “100 Best Companies to Work For” in America by *FORTUNE* magazine for 12 consecutive years. In fiscal year 2008, the company had sales of \$8 billion and currently has more than 280 stores in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. Whole Foods Market, Fresh & Wild™, and Harry’s Farmers Market® are trademarks owned by Whole Foods Market IP, LP. Wild Oats® and Capers Community Market™ are trademarks owned by Wild Marks, Inc.

###