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Wal-Mart seeks to fill 65 jobs in Pleasanton



Renée Frojo
Reporter-
San Francisco Business Times
[Email](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Google+](#)

Big-box retailer [Wal-Mart Stores Inc.](#) is moving full speed ahead with the opening of its Neighborhood Market in Pleasanton.

On Tuesday, the retailer opened a temporary hiring center in the Meadow Shopping Center, next to where the market is being built. Wal-Mart plans to hire 65 new employees to staff the shop, which will be a grocery store with a pharmacy, bakery, deli and café.



The foreseeable opening of the new shop points to Wal-Mart's relative success in penetrating the Bay Area, where residents have become somewhat notorious for fighting to keep the mega retail giant out.

While many proposed Wal-Mart (NYSE: WMT) stores have been killed at the approval stage, the retailer's smaller Neighborhood Markets have been accepted more often. The mid-sized Neighborhood Markets range from 38,000 square feet to just over 50,000 square feet and typically employ about 75 people.

Wal-Mart said it planned to open the smaller Neighborhood Markets throughout the Bay Area last spring, citing plans for 12 locations in California. So far, it has opened three in the regions, including one shop in San Ramon and two in San Jose.

Along with the store in Pleasanton, the retailer is building another store in Vallejo. It also has reportedly signed a lease in Santa Clara for a 45,000-square-foot space and is eyeing another site in San Jose.

Hayward has been the only city to [to shoot down](#) the Neighborhood Market. The store, which was going in a former Circuit City, faced public resistance and eventually was stopped because city officials ruled that a grocery store didn't fit the building's zoning for regional use.

The stores in Pleasanton and San Ramon were also at first resisted by the public and union groups, but were ultimately approved.

For neighborhoods, the stores are no small project to snuff. The store in Hayward, for one, was expected to generate more than \$50,000 a year in sales tax for the city, based on annual projected sales of \$15.3 million.

A company spokesperson said that, overall, the markets have been well received by the communities they're in. To its credit, Wal-Mart is making an effort to source products for its neighborhood stores locally and has spent \$12.5 billion doing so in California.

Since last July, Wal-Mart has opened 22 Neighborhood Markets in California. It now has 250 markets nationwide.

If all goes to plan, the retail behemoth will have a total of seven smaller stores in the Bay Area. There are currently no plans for a San Francisco store.

The Pleasanton shop is now looking to fill both full-time and part-time positions. The average wage it plans to pay full-time employees will be \$12.93 an hour.

The majority of new hires will start work in June. The retailer anticipates opening the shop this summer.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/sanfrancisco/blog/2013/04/wal-mart-filling-65-jobs-in-pleasanton.html?page=all>