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Napa Logistics Park ready for next mammoth building in American Canyon

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The developer of Napa Logistics Park is moving forward with its next huge building, while its first tenant — IKEA — is preparing to hold a job fair to hire dozens of employees.

Orchard Partners received approval from the American Canyon Planning Commission on Jan. 25 for a design permit to construct a 702,000-square-foot building that can be used for warehousing, distribution or E-commerce. The building, covering 37.56 acres, would be the second for Napa Logistics Park, following the completed 646,000-square-foot warehouse that IKEA leased for its customer distribution center last year. If fully built out, Napa Logistics Park would provide a total of 2.9 million square feet of space for warehousing, distribution, E-commerce or office use situated in five buildings located on 173 acres in northern American Canyon.

Ernie Knodel with Orchard Partners said it's too early to say who might lease second building. But he told the Planning Commission, "We're really excited about IKEA coming in" and operating a distribution center to fulfill online sales orders.

IKEA has hired 18 people for leadership positions, according to Knodel, and is working with the American Canyon Chamber of Commerce to host a job fair on Feb. 20 to fill the remaining posts. The job fair will take place from 12-5 p.m. in the American Canyon Welcome Center, located just off Highway 29 at 3860 Broadway St., Suite 103.

IKEA is looking to fill 30 to 40 warehouse positions, according to Mandy Le, president and CEO of the Chamber. "The positions are full-time starting at $16.50 per hour plus benefits," said Le. "Those who are interested in applying should attend the event interview ready with a copy of the resume." She added that IKEA prefers applicants to apply online in advance of the job fair by going to seeacareerwithus.com. But doing so is not required, and walk-ins are welcome, she said. "This is the first job fair the Chamber is hosting," said Le, "and we would love to do more in the future."

Once the IKEA distribution center is up and running, the company is expected to employ a Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program to ease the impact of traffic from the business park on local roads and Highway 29. IKEA will operate two shifts, with the first one starting at 5 a.m. and ending at 2 p.m. The second one would follow right after the first shift.

This way employees coming and going from Napa Logistics Park won't be part of the peak commute hours, which are 7-9 a.m. and 3-6 p.m. Orchard Partners agreed to use a TDM program after a traffic study authorized by the city showed the project, if fully completed, could potentially generate 9,263 vehicle trips per day without any mitigation efforts. Up to 1,044 trips would occur during the morning peak period and 1,310 trips in the afternoon peak period without a TDM. With a TDM in place, Napa Logistics Park is expected to produce 780 trips in the morning peak period and 704 trips in the afternoon peak period. If the vehicle trips exceed these thresholds, Orchard Partners could be subject to financial penalties levied by the city.

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