

# West Marine warehouse leaving town

## Company will shift 100 jobs to Hollister facility

By LANE WALLACE

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Watsonville-based West Marine Co. will move its warehouse to Hollister, transferring most of its 100 employees there in the process.

The Hollister Redevelopment Agency called a press conference for 4 p.m. today to officially announce the move.

"Most of the people (who will work in Hollister) live in Watsonville," West Marine vice president Sean Cumbie said this morning.

West Marine, which distributes boating and other marine equipment, will keep its corporate offices in Watsonville, Cumbie said.

West Marine has been in the Westridge Business Park since the late '80s, but needed more room, Cumbie said.

"Our first choice was Watsonville" for expansion, Cumbie said, but there wasn't enough space for a warehouse. There's sufficient space to build a warehouse in Hollister, Cumbie said, where land is less expensive.

West Marine will not be giving up any space in Watsonville, Cumbie said. The company is growing, he said, and will expand the corporate offices.

Mayor Tony Campos said he would liked to have seen West Marine build its warehouse in Watsonville, "but we don't have the luxury of having 15 acres" available for such a building.

Campos, who joined City Manager Steve Salomon in talks with West Marine president Randy Repass, said he's pleased the corporate offices will stay in Watsonville.

"West Marine is a very important company for Watsonville," Campos said.

While part of West Marine is leaving, another company is coming in to Watsonville.

The city last night signed a lease with California Tube Labs, which will move from Live Oak to a building the city will build on Aviation Way, near the airport.

The lab, which rebuilds vacuum tubes, has 29 workers and expects to soon add 10.