

Businesses set to move into Watsonville business park

WATSONVILLE — The Westridge Business Park has three clients lined up to move into its first light-industrial building.

John Fry, of C/D/M Corp. which acts as manager of the park, said Skyway Freight Systems, CCI a bicycle-frame manufacturing group, and West Marine Products will be leasing 70 percent of the park's recently completed facility.

Westridge Business Park on Harkins Slough Road is owned by Lester, Roach and Gardiner, a Watsonville development company. C/D/M manages the facility and William Burgstrom Realty Co. handles the leasing arrangements.

The developers hope to draw more clients into the park soon.

Fry said two architectural committees reviewed the design of the building and "set the tone for the park. The people who moved in are doing so because of the look of the building," said Fry.

"This (new business) will increase the number of jobs and broaden the market and employment base for Watsonville," said Fry.

Skyway Freight Systems will take up some 24,000 square feet, or 40 percent of the building, he said. The Santa Cruz-based company is hoping to move its administrative offices from Brommer Street by March. It will spend about a \$500,000 moving its complex computer system to the facility, said Fry.

Jean McClymonds, director of marketing for Skyway, said the company employs about 165 people. It offers "full-service" transportation for more than 250 companies in the Fortune Magazine's list of the top 1,000 companies in America, said McClymonds. Skyway's clients include IBM, Xerox, Apple Computers and Burroughs.

Skyway offers "just in time" shipping, a concept developed and refined by the Japanese, said McClymonds. The system allows Skyway's customers to track by computer their shipment of parts and components and keep them moving at a pace that's both economical and productive. Skyway's "Just in

Time" has cut Burroughs' inventory costs by \$8 million a year, according to the Journal of Commerce.

The firm handles packages over 70 pounds and operates its own fleet of trucks.

Why move to Watsonville?

"Because the principals (president Jim Watson and vice president Robert Baker) wanted to stay in the area and with our anticipated growth, Watsonville provided us with the on-site space we needed," said McClymonds.

Skyway intends keeping another parcel of land it owns on Westgate Drive and Airport Boulevard, she said.

Fry said CCI — Cycle Composites,

Inc. — is planning to move to the Westridge Business Park in January. It plans to lease 12 percent of the building.

CCI will manufacture high-quality, carbon-fiber bicycle racing frames, said Fry. Originally based in Wisconsin, CCI has been operating at the Harvey West industrial park.

The other business going into Westridge Business Park is West Marine Products, which will temporarily lease 10,000 square feet of warehouse space. West Marine Products will maintain its retail store on 17th Avenue, said Fry. It plans to make the move in the immediate future, said Fry.