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MAIL TO:

Pronouncement Points to Broadcom Campus at Great Park

Irvine Mayor Declares Deal Done; Chipmaker Keeps Plans Close to Vest

■ By MARK MUELLER

Construction of a new headquarters campus for Broadcom Corp. could be among the immediate byproducts of FivePoint Communities' recent agreement with the city of Irvine over development plans for the former El Toro Marine Corps air station.

The Irvine-based chipmaker is said to have reached an agreement to build a new campus on land owned by FivePoint, the Aliso Viejo-based developer of Great Park Neighborhoods.

Broadcom could begin construction on a new office campus on land near the Irvine train station as early as mid-2014, according to officials familiar with the negotiations.

Terms of the deal have not been disclosed.

Broadcom—Orange County's largest office tenant-has not announced plans to relocate, and officials for the company last week declined to discuss the status of negotiations.

Officials with the city "committed to of Irvine are acting as if locating their new the move is a done deal.

Irvine Mayor Steven ties' land' Choi said he was "delighted that [Broadcom has] committed to locat-



headquarters on **FivePoint Communi-** ing their new headquarters on Five Point Communities' land near the Great Park.'

"Now, not only do we keep those jobs in Irvine, but Broadcom can become the nucleus for the headquarters of more high tech companies," Choi said in a recent letter to constituents.

FivePoint Chief Executive Emile Haddad, for his part, said he's confident that Broadcom will become a part of his development but declined to discuss specifics of his company's agreement with the chipmaker.

The relocation plans were said to be dependent on FivePoint reaching an agreement with city officials on development plans for Orange County Great Park, as well as the surrounding

Great Park 56

📤 2013 YEAR 🗰 Review

New Energy Gets OC Back to Old Normal

By JERRY SULLIVAN

Enough of all that talk about a "new normal" in the wake of the recent recession.

2013 has shown that the old normal—in which Orange County real estate is once again deemed a good bet, banks are back to lending, big and small deals get done despite the gummed works of our federal government, and outside money is drawn to everything from

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homebuilders to the area's tech sector-is alive and well.

The old normal even got a boost from an unlikely source over the past year. Consider the political maelstrom that has continued to surround the Affordable Care Act and the rest of President Barack Obama's healthcare reform efforts. The recent rollout of the website for the federal government's healthcare exchange seemed to be a caricature of everything the public sector doesn't understand about busi-

Yet it's been healthcare reform that spurred OC's healthcare sector to a busy year, including a number of major deals for the biggest

▶Year in Review 21

Will OCTA Buy HQ in Shift to Santa Ana?

REAL ESTATE: Xerox Centre deal awaits OK; new offer in Orange

■ By MARK MUELLER

fice tower in Santa Ana.

The Orange County Transportation Authority is nearing a deal to pay nearly \$65 million for a new headquarters and ad-

ministrative building next to the Xerox Centre of-

Centre

Another \$65M

deal at Tustin

The county's transportation agency is under contract to buy 1750 E. 4th St., an eight-story office next to the Santa Ana (I-5) Freeway.

The building is considered to be part of the Xerox Centre campus, which includes the name-

OCTA 55

California Republic's Drive Time

Prime Auto Lending, 'Simple' Set of Services Behind Bank's Growth

■ By JANE YU

California Republic Bancorp took a brief turn in the public spotlight recently, drawing a nod from Wall Street when it sold about \$247 million worth of notes backed by its car loans.

The November transaction was the Irvinebased bank's first public offering registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. It followed two private deals in the past year or so and got strong marks from ratings agencies, reflecting prime lending standards on the vehicles.

"There's a lot of support for our bonds," said John DeCero, president and cofounder of the company, which operates through its California Republic Bank subsidiary. "There are in-

▶ California Republic 22



New headquarters: put name on Irvine Towers building after move to accommodate growth

Raj Brings Chunk of **Production Back Home**

APPAREL: Tustin-based swimsuit maker to add 100 jobs at new factory

■ By KARI HAMANAKA

Tustin-based swimsuit maker Raj Manufacturing LLC is riding an uptick in the economy and tightening its reins on production with a recently opened factory in Los Angeles County.

The company recently leased a 7,000-square-foot building in Santa Fe Springs, where it will add about 100 garment workers. Production at the plant is Bhathal: domestic expected to reach 500,000

▶ Raj Manufacturing 20 tions to retail trends



manufacturing allows quicker reac-





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OCTA

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sake 15-story tower that's one of the best known office buildings in Santa Ana.

The price of just less than \$65 million for the eight-story, 228,750-square-foot office—also known as the State Fund Building—comes to about \$300 per square foot and includes tenant improvements and transaction costs, according to a recent OCTA staff report.

The sale initially was expected to close escrow this month, according to the Dec. 9 report, but the agency's board last week pushed back a final decision on the purchase until its next meeting in January.

The deal, as initially structured, would allow OCTA to take control of the Santa Ana building in May.

State Fund

The building is currently owned by the **State Compensation Insurance Fund**, California's largest provider of workers' compensation insurance. The owner currently occupies about half of the office, with the remainder vacant.

The Santa Ana office is one of several in the state that the insurer has been looking to sell, according to brokers familiar with the deal.

The insurer is expected to lease back as much as 77,000 square feet of space at the building from OCTA as part of the deal. That lease is expected to run for 10 years.

OCTA's administrative offices are in two



1750 E. 4th: deal calls for transportation agency to buy smaller of the two buildings at Xerox Centre campus in Santa Ana

buildings at the Union Bank Square office complex in Orange. They've been there since 1992.

The offices are just north of the Garden Grove (22) Freeway, near the Westfield MainPlace mall. They are about three miles from the Santa Ana building.

About 450 OCTA employees work in the Orange offices, according to OCTA spokesperson **Eric Carpenter**.

The agency's current lease in Orange runs through 2018, but OCTA can terminate the agreement with a 12-month written notice.

The agency said it began exploring a potential purchase of its own building more than a year ago following an unsuccessful round of talks on a new lease.

Buying the building "would be both finan-



Union Bank Square: OCTA currently leases two buildings, has more than 400 workers at office complex in Orange

cially and operationally more beneficial to the organization than continuing to lease a headquarters building at the current location," said OCTA Chief Executive **Darrell Johnson**, in the Dec. 9 staff report.

OCTA estimates that it will save \$23.7 million over the next 30 years by relocating to the State Fund Building, as opposed to leasing space at its current location.

The agency also estimated the building could be worth about \$81 million in 30 years, assuming 2% increases in the property's value annually.

The agency also noted last week that the current owners of the Union Bank Square building recently provided an updated offer for OCTA "to either purchase or lease the current headquarters building at significant savings compared to their prior offers."

Terms of that proposed deal have not been disclosed.

Funding?

It has not been determined whether the Santa Ana purchase, if it moves ahead, will ultimately be funded internally or through issuing debt, according to the staff report.

OCTA had about \$1.2 billion in assets as of mid-2012, according to the agency's latest financial report.

It reported about \$437 million in revenue for the 12-month period ending in June 2012. OCTA runs a variety of the county's transportation departments, including bus and Metrolink rail services, as well as the 91 Express Lanes toll facility.

The agency said it previously explored buying its own headquarters in 2006, but the then-strong office market made such a deal economically unfeasible. The current environment is more favorable to tenants as well as buyers, it noted.

Other area buildings, priced in the range of \$56 million to \$89 million based on a 30-year net present value basis, were also considered for purchase, according to the agency's staff report.

Santa Ana Mayor **Miguel Pulido**, an OCTA director, was part of a committee set up by the agency earlier this year to explore its real estate options.

Other members of the six-person ad hoc committee included Orange County Supervisor **Todd Spitzer**, as well as Garden Grove City councilmember **Steve Jones**. ■

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