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## **REI to open distribution facility in Goodyear**

### **One of Fortune's "100 Best Companies to Work For" to become city's third tenant along newly-opened Loop 303**

Seattle-based REI, a leading outdoor retailer, has announced it will open a 400,000-square-foot distribution center creating more than 100 new jobs in the West Valley – becoming the third tenant along the newly-opened Loop 303 in Goodyear.

REI offers its members and customers outdoor gear and apparel for activities such as for hiking, biking and camping. The company is expected to break ground on the facility covering 34 acres near Loop 303 and Camelback Road in May and open in early 2016. REI has been one of a few select companies recognized on Fortune's "100 Best Companies to Work For," since the recognition began in 1998.

"This is exciting news," said Goodyear Mayor Georgia Lord. "Not only does REI's announcement mean more jobs in the city, it signals businesses continuing to open along Loop 303 – a major corridor of land available for development. We're glad REI selected Goodyear to set up shop, and we look forward to having them here."

Through the new distribution center, REI and REI.com customers will benefit from shorter cycle times required to replenish product, ensuring for more options on store shelves and shorter deliveries. Once the Goodyear facility is up and running, the company will reach 20 percent more customers with two-day ground service.

"We are privileged to join the community of Goodyear as we expand our distribution capacity and services to the southwest market," said Rick Bingle, REI's vice president of Supply Chain. "The Goodyear distribution center will enable us to continue to focus on the needs of customers by moving our gear and apparel more quickly and efficiently, now and into the future."

REI has partnered with Sunbelt Holdings/Merit Partners as developers for the project.

"We are very excited that REI has selected PV303 for their new distribution and fulfillment center," said Kevin Czerwinski, President of Merit Partners. "REI joins other corporate household names currently located at PV303, all benefiting from the availability of quality labor, fantastic logistics, freeway identity, and foreign trade zone."

The addition of REI to Goodyear continues to solidify not only Goodyear's, but the West Valley's presence as a major player in online fulfillment centers that provide high-quality goods to consumers and retailers throughout the western United States.



Sandra Watson, president and CEO of the Arizona Commerce Authority, said Arizona is a prime location for companies such as REI.

“Arizona’s world-class infrastructure system and strategic Southwest location are key advantages supporting the distribution channel and supply chain management needs of growing national and international companies, Watson said. “We welcome REI to our business community and thank them for investing in Goodyear for their corporate expansion.”

The sentiments of Chris Camacho, president and CEO of the Greater Phoenix Economic Council, echoed Watson’s.

“There has been significant investment in infrastructure in the West Valley, and the recently completed PV303 business park is another example of how our region is growing businesses,” said Chris Camacho, president and CEO of the Greater Phoenix Economic Council.

“The decision by REI to locate their newest facility to the city of Goodyear at the PV303 is emblematic of this commitment, and Mayor Georgia Lord and her team have contributed greatly to this effort. Together, we look forward to welcoming REI to the region,” Camacho added.

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