

Industrial development in Pedley to add 240 jobs

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Irvine-based Birtcher Development says a project the Riverside County Board of Supervisors recently approved will eventually bring about 240 full-time jobs to the northwest area of the county.

Birtcher is developing a three-building industrial complex totaling 240,000 square-feet at General Road and Clay Street in Pedley.

Construction will begin this summer on the \$20 million project, creating 75 construction jobs, according to a news release on the development.

Robin Zimpfer, Riverside County assistant executive officer, said in the release that Birtcher's decision speaks well of the area as a place for new development.

"Birtcher's investment in Riverside County and the Pedley area proves that this county is still the place that development and business need to be, and sends a strong message that our industrial development remains healthy," she said.

Tom Freeman, a spokesman for the Riverside County Economic Development Agency, said Tuesday that news of the project is welcome at a time when talk surrounds the economy's slowing or the delay of new projects.

He said the jobs brought by the Birtcher project will help to raise wages in Riverside County and could shake off hesitation by other developers looking at the area.

"This will be something other developers will be paying attention to," Freeman said, "how fast Birtcher will be able to lease out that space."

He said most of the area near the project is zoned for manufacturing and commercial uses.

Freeman said his agency intends to work with Birtcher or its tenants to permit a faster startup and opening for any new business.

"This helps us put people to work faster," he said. "And helps us achieve our immediate goal of increasing jobs, raising wages, and bringing more investment to the county."