

Walmart opening another 'super' store in Sacramento

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Walmart is expanding in Sacramento again, announcing Monday the construction of another Supercenter that will combine groceries and general merchandise.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. announced it has broken ground on a 118,000-square-foot store on Watt Avenue in North Highlands. The giant retailer is tearing down the old Cargo Largo store, which has been vacant since 2008, to make way for the new store.

The company already operates 11 Supercenters in the greater Sacramento area and has stores under construction in Roseville and Galt. The North Highlands store will be its 14th Supercenter in the region when it opens early next year.

Supercenters, which provide full-line grocery and general merchandise offerings, have helped Walmart gobble up significant grocery market share in Sacramento in the past decade. In 2012 it bypassed Safeway Inc. as the second-largest supermarket chain in the region, trailing only Raley's, according to Sacborough Research.

Walmart said the new store will employ approximately 250 workers. Although some of Walmart's labor practices have been controversial, elected officials welcomed the announcement.

The store "will provide economic revitalization by way of additional sales tax revenue for the county and increased foot traffic from new shoppers," said Sacramento County Supervisor Susan Peters in a statement released by Walmart.