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Google moves into two big San Jose buildings within huge tech campus

Search giant's San Jose expansion arrives while downtown neighborhood is reassessed



(George Avalos/Bay Area News Group)

134 East Brokaw Road (L) and 122 East Brokaw Road (R), two office buildings located in a north San Jose tech campus, April 2023.





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A sign in a tech complex that Google has named its Brokaw Campus, located on Brokaw Road between North First Street and Bering Drive in North San Jose. (George Avalos/Bay Area News Group)

SAN JOSE — Google has moved into two San Jose buildings that are part of a large tech campus where the search giant could eventually employ thousands of workers if it fills all the buildings it has leased at the site.

The buildings are across from office sites that Google had leased along First

“Google continues to have a presence in San Jose as clearly seen by their North San Jose office,” San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan said Thursday.

The tech titan’s expansion at the tech campus, which is owned by legendary real estate firm Peery Arrillaga, arrives at a time when uncertainty has arisen over the pace of progress on Google’s proposed transit-oriented neighborhood in downtown San Jose.

In 2019, Google leased four North San Jose buildings totaling a combined 729,000 square feet from Peery Arrillaga. The buildings weren’t constructed at the time of the rental agreement.

Now, the tech titan has occupied two of the large buildings on the site. The addresses are 122 East Brokaw Road and 1849 Bering Drive. A Google spokesperson confirmed the company’s occupancy of the two buildings.



A sign providing directions on a Google campus on Brokaw Road between North First Street Bering Drive in North San Jose. (George Avalos/Bay Area News Group)

Direct observation by this news organization of the sites revealed a campus bustling with tech workers inside and outside the gleaming office buildings. A multi-level parking garage was packed with vehicles.



People board a shuttle bus at a Google tech campus on Brokaw Road between North First Street and Bering Drive in North San Jose, April 2023. (George Avalos/Bay Area News Group)

Signs on the campus featured an aviation theme, including images of a jetliner.

That aviation theme appears to have carried over to the inside of at least one of the buildings.

The interior of the 122 East Brokaw Road building includes images of the Space Shuttle, the Saturn V rocket booster and flying machines from the days of the first aircraft, a review of Google Images shows.

Also included in the building are images of fictional aircraft such as the Millennium Falcon of the "Star Wars" space operas, the USS Voyager of the "Star Trek" television series, the Nostromo of one of the "Alien" movies and a Cylon Raider from the "Battlestar Galactica" TV series, according to the images from inside the offices.

Retro images of San Jose and its skyline, including the iconic Bank of Italy historic tower in the city's downtown, are also inside the 122 East Brokaw office building.



Android robot image is visible on a sign at a Google tech campus on Brokaw Road between North First Street and Bering Drive. (George Avalos/Bay Area News Group)

Google calls the new four-building complex the Brokaw Campus, as signs near the buildings suggest.

Potentially, 1,500 to 1,800 Google employees could work within the two office buildings where the tech titan is now operating.

The 122 East Brokaw office building totals 242,200 square feet, according to the CommercialCafe website. The building could be large enough for 1,000 to 1,200 workers, using conventional ratios for square feet per employee.

The 1849 Bering office building totals 126,900 square feet, Commercial Cafe estimates. A building that size could accommodate 500 to 600 workers.



1849 Bering Drive in north San Jose, one of four office buildings in a Google tech campus. (George Avalos/Bay Area News Group)

The expansion comes at a time when uncertainties have emerged regarding when Google will launch the construction of a planned transit village next to the Diridon train station and SAP Center in downtown San Jose.

Mountain View-based Google says that it is “reassessing the timeline” for the downtown mixed-use neighborhood it is planning, a characterization the company has made several times to this news organization going back to February of this year. The most recent such update to reaffirm the ongoing assessment of the timeline was made by Google in late April.

But the tech titan also said recently that it remains fully committed to the downtown San Jose development.

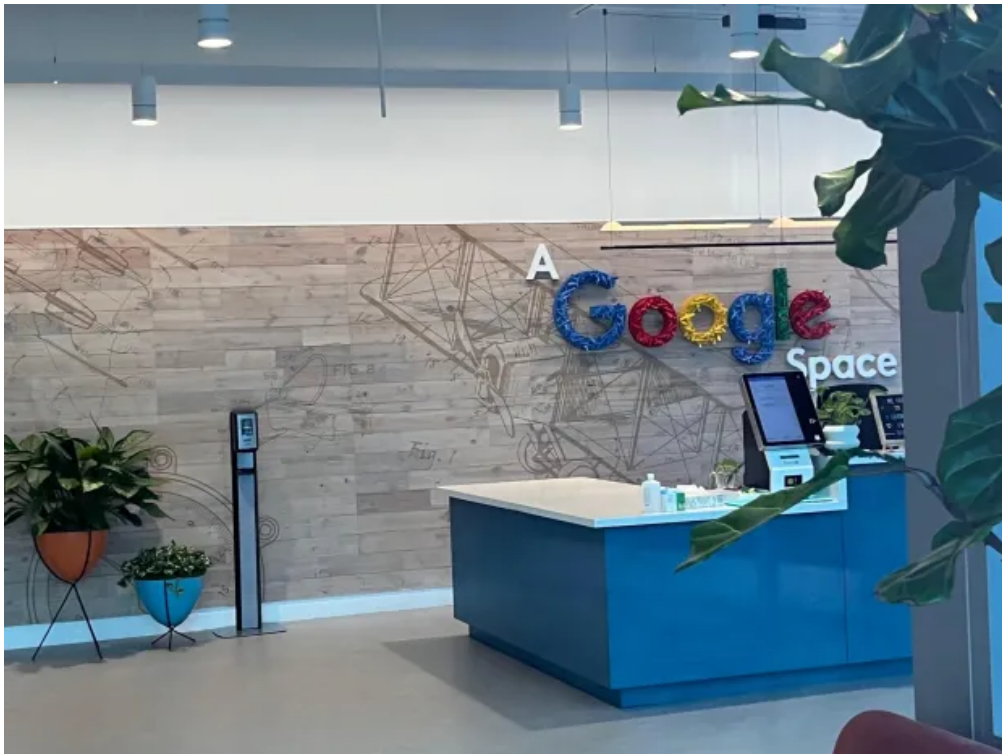
Google’s Downtown West neighborhood would add millions of square feet of new offices, thousands of homes, and shops and restaurants to the western edges of the city’s downtown district.

The North San Jose offices where Google is now operating are a reminder that the company’s growth continues even in the face of layoffs, a wide-ranging reassessment of the company’s office and space requirements and the

“Company executives have made it clear to me that they remain committed to our shared long-term vision for the Downtown West campus,” Mayor Mahan said.

Still, Google’s reassessment of the Downtown West timeline has set off alarm bells in some circles, although Bob Staedler, principal executive with Silicon Valley Synergy, a land-use consultancy, is certain Google will proceed with the huge mixed-use development.

“While the concern for Downtown West has been overblown, the North San Jose investment shouldn’t be overlooked,” Staedler said.



Lobby area of a Google-leased office building at 122 East Brokaw Road in north San Jose, as seen through a window. (George Avalos/Bay Area News Group)

Google’s new office operations at the Brokaw Campus also are a reminder that North San Jose remains a sturdy employment hub and tech magnet.

“North San Jose continues to be a great place for tech expansion,” Staedler said.

122 East Brokaw Road in North San...

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