



San Francisco Centre

FOR RELEASE

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Historic Dome at Westfield San Francisco Centre to Brighten City Landscape

Elegant 100-Foot Wide Dome Is Raised Sixty Feet in Rare Engineering Feat To Create A Grand Public Space That Is “World Class In Every Sense”

San Francisco, Calif., May 18, 2004 – The elegant 100-foot wide historic dome of the old Emporium building on Market Street took its new place among San Francisco’s architectural landscape today as construction crews raised the 500,000 pound structure nearly sixty feet. The milestone is a first step in recreating a grand public space at the expanded Westfield San Francisco Centre scheduled to open in 2006.

“The preservation and restoration of the historic dome will create a signature architectural feature beyond compare to reestablish this location as a major destination,” said Steve Eimer, Vice President of Development for Westfield. “When it opens, Westfield San Francisco Centre will be world class in every sense.”

The steel and glass dome was lifted slowly by massive jacks as part of a four-hour process. Hidden from view by past renovations, the dome’s elevated position will restore its original design intent in which natural light poured through its crown and lunette windows, and will make it more visible from city streets. Inside the expanded Centre, the restored dome will be the centerpiece of an eight story atrium, flanked by new skylights allowing sunlight to cascade to an expansive street level promenade.

Designed by noted San Francisco architect Albert Pissis, the original Emporium dome was built in the 1890s and was the signature feature of what was called “The Grandest Mercantile Building in the World.” The dome was destroyed in the 1906 earthquake, but rebuilt by 1908. In its early days, The Emporium became one of San Francisco’s most popular destinations, with the bandstand and restaurant under the dome, where concerts were held nightly.

“Elevating the dome is an historic milestone in the transformation of the Emporium building and the existing San Francisco Centre into a combined venue that will be a world-class shopping, office and entertainment destination,” said John Tindall, project developer for Forest City Development, California.

(more...)

The new 1.5 million square-foot, \$410 million project under development by The Westfield Group and Forest City Enterprises will be home to the West Coast flagship of Bloomingdale's and the second largest Nordstrom in the country. In addition, the combined Centre will feature a mix of 200 specialty stores and exclusive boutiques, fine dining, an international gourmet marketplace, first-class office space and a nine screen, state-of-the-art large auditorium multiplex.

The process of elevating the dome is as unique as the structure itself. It involves several steps.

- The dome's glazing, paint and roofing materials have been removed and the dome is wrapped in a protective blanket.
- A temporary tower has been built to support the dome in place for nearly a year while the new building is constructed around it.
- A custom designed "lifting table" with four "jacks" elevates the dome in two phases.
- Earlier this month the dome was lifted 30 feet. After "extenders" were affixed to support the dome, it was raised another 30 feet. Each lifting took four hours.
- After the new building frame is in place, the jacks will lower the dome two feet to its permanent location, remove the temporary steel frame, restore the dome and replace historic decorative features.

The custom dome raising system was developed over several years by Swinerton Builders and Sheedy Drayage Company. Sheedy is the subcontractor performing the dome raising. Westfield is the general contractor.

The Market Street façade is also being restored to the way it appeared in the early 1900s and will be a magnificent feature of the new development. The new centre is expected to attract 25 million visitors each year and to generate \$500 million in annual sales. During construction, the existing San Francisco Centre and Nordstrom remain open.

Forest City Enterprises, Inc. is a \$5.7 billion NYSE-listed real estate company (FCEA and FCEB) headquartered in Cleveland, OH. The Company is principally engaged in the ownership, development, acquisition and management of commercial and residential real estate throughout the United States. The Company's portfolio includes interests in retail centers, apartment communities, office buildings and hotels in 22 states and the District of Columbia.

The Westfield Group is an internally managed, vertically integrated, shopping centre group undertaking ownership, development, design, construction, funds/asset management, property management, leasing and marketing activities and employing in excess of 4,000 staff worldwide. Westfield has investment interests in 127 shopping centres in four countries (US, Australia, New Zealand and UK), with a total value in excess of a \$39.5 billion and is the largest retail property group in the world by equity market capitalization.

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Note: Company information updated from original release.