

Wal-Mart clears hurdles on two Supercenters

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Photo courtesy of Daily Press

VICTORVILLE • A mysterious citizens' group has dropped lawsuits that stalled development of two local Walmart Supercenters. Construction on the Supercenter slated for the Dunia Plaza shopping center, just south of the Mall of the Victor Valley, is now free to move forward. A second Walmart Supercenter planned near Palmdale Road and Highway 395 is also cleared to break ground.

Walmart officials did not respond Tuesday to requests for planned opening dates.

A settlement letter shows Walmart agreed to make some concessions regarding the stores' environmental practices, such as using desert-friendly landscaping and implementing a recycling program.

"Walmart has taken a huge step toward doing the right thing for the environment," said Upland-based attorney Cory J. Briggs, who represented Grow Victorville Smart in both suits.

In December, Briggs, on behalf of two clients, settled suits over the planned Walmart Distribution Center in Barstow, paving the way for that 900,000-square-foot facility along Lenwood Road to move forward. And earlier this year a Hesperia group represented by Briggs settled its suit over the Walmart Supercenter planned at the southeast corner of Main Street and Escondido Avenue. That store is now scheduled to open in summer 2012.

The third Supercenter planned for Victorville along Tamarisk Road has come up against a great deal of protest from residents of nearby Spring Valley Lake.

The only local Walmart project in the works that appears to have escaped legal woes is Apple Valley's site, slated to replace the current Highway 18 store with a Supercenter located along Dale Evans Parkway immediately north of Civic Center Park.

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