



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **MAYOR JERRY SANDERS FACT SHEET**

### **MAYOR SANDERS KICKS OFF JOB FAIR IN OTAY MESA**

The Jensen Meat Company plans to hire 150 new employees

Mayor Jerry Sanders joined event host, the Jensen Meat Company (Jensen Meat) to kick off a much anticipated job fair in Otay Mesa.

The company – which at one time was being courted by Texas and Colorado to relocate operations out of California – is planning to open a new 74,000 square foot facility in Otay Mesa and is expected to hire 150 new employees and retain another 100 positions.

“It is always a good day when you hear about local companies like Jensen Meat looking to grow their workforce,” said Mayor Sanders. “I know at one time we were close to losing the company to another state, however, city staff along with our regional partners worked very hard to keep the company in the region, keeping good paying jobs right here.”

Jensen Meat was founded by Reggie Jensen in 1958. The company – a supplier of steak cuts to restaurants, hotels and schools – first opened its doors near downtown San Diego. In 1986, the company transitioned into meat processing and made the jump to a 30,000 square foot facility in Vista in 1990 in order to accommodate the company’s expansion.

In 2010, the company contemplated expanding its operations once again in order to meet the growing demands of existing clients. Close competitors of Jensen Meat had already begun the process of consolidating and relocating operations out of California in order to compete with other meat processing companies.

The City of San Diego, the South County Economic Development Council (SCEDC), and the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation (SDREDC) met with Jensen Meat representatives to help them better understand how they could leverage existing state and local incentive programs like the San Diego Regional Enterprise Zone and the Foreign Trade Zone so they could continue to operate in California and remain competitive.

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Additionally, the city's Economic Growth Services team and its partners helped Jensen Meat identify a facility that could accommodate their need to build out a state-of-the-art food processing facility with space for additional expansion if needed. The city is also working with the company to expedite the permitting process.

The city, SCEDC, and the South County Career Center assisted Jensen Meat today with their first job fair.

"We are very pleased with both the number and quality of job applicants that showed up today," commented Jose Valencia, Director of Human Resources for Jensen Meat. "We look forward to working closely with the Otay Mesa Community in the years to come."

For more information about the Jensen Meat Company, contact Jose Valencia at (760) 727-6700.

Additional information about the San Diego Regional Enterprise Zone and the Foreign Trade Zone is available on the City of San Diego website at <http://www.sandiego.gov/economic-development/>, or by calling Lydia Moreno, Business Incentives Program Manager, at (619) 236-6320.

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