

Tuesday, February 8, 2000 ♦ www.pasadenastarnews.com

LOCAL

1,000 workers to occupy site

County to consolidate 3 administrative staffs

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ALHAMBRA — The Ratkovich Co. announced a 10-year, \$50-million deal Monday that will eventually bring 1,000 county employees into an office complex at 1000 S. Fremont Ave. Workers from the Sheriff's Department, Department of Health Services and Public Works Department will occupy about 210,000 square feet in the complex, called The Alhambra.

The complex will allow the county to consolidate the admin-

istrations, which had been located in Monterey Park and Los Angeles.

"We didn't expect this to happen this quickly," said Wayne Ratkovich, whose firm bought the complex in November for \$76.8 million from CF Braun Engineering. "This is happening faster than we projected, which rarely happens for a developer."

Alhambra officials knew of the plan weeks ago and said

they welcomed the announcement, considering the recent departure of Ortel Corp. from the city. Ortel's move to Irwindale cost the city about 600 jobs.

"This is a real positive gain for Alhambra," City Manager Julio Fuentes said. "We are bringing in more jobs to the area."

Fuentes said the addition of the county employees will make up for Ortel's loss, but officials

are still looking for a high-tech company to move into the city to replace Ortel.

"It's always good to get nice jobs into the community," said City Councilman Paul Talbot. "It's a good opportunity for our residents to get the jobs."

The Alhambra has about a million square feet and, once the county employees move in, about 620,000-square feet will be occupied by tenants, he said.

The company envisions 3,000 workers at the complex, said Ratkovich. Right now there are 1,300 employees from various companies there, he said.

The property houses more than 20 buildings grouped around a large courtyard. The office campus encompasses two full city blocks and has 22-acres of buildable land.

The health services department will occupy 140,000 square feet; the Sheriff's Department, 41,000 square feet; and the public works department, 30,000 square feet.