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**Whole Foods Market® Breaks Ground on New Oakland Store Opening Summer 2006**

*World's leading natural and organic foods supermarket repurposes historic Cadillac dealership into Oakland's first Whole Foods Market*

**Emeryville, Calif. (April 18, 2005)** – Whole Foods Market (NASDAQ: WFMI), the world's leading natural and organic foods supermarket and America's first national "certified organic" grocer, today breaks ground on its new Oakland store, opening Summer 2006. This is the first new major supermarket to open in Oakland in 25 years.

The Oakland store is located at the former Cadillac dealership at Harrison and 27<sup>th</sup> Streets. Consistent with its mission of sustainability and conservation, the new Whole Foods Market maintains the look and feel of the historic landmark building. The 55,000 sq. ft. Whole Foods Market features more than 200 parking spaces in an above-ground lot.

"Oakland is an incredible city, bustling with business, political and social activity," said Anthony Gilmore, president, Northern California region of Whole Foods Market. "The new Whole Foods Market reflects the distinct flavors of this ethnically and culturally diverse city. The store respects the character and renewed vitality of Oakland with a shopping experience designed specifically for the people who live and work there."

"One of my goals as Mayor of Oakland is to attract 10,000 people to live within the downtown area," said Jerry Brown. "The objectives to achieve this goal include lively streets, increased shopping and new places for people to meet and share the excitement of urban living. The new Whole Foods Market on Lake Merritt meets all of these criteria and we look forward to welcoming Whole Foods Market to Oakland."

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Whole Foods Market creates a distinctive retail environment by catering to the consumer. The company supports sustainable agriculture and the environment by featuring natural and organic foods free of artificial preservatives, colors, flavors, sweeteners and hydrogenated oils. Whole Foods Market emphasizes the highest quality and best-tasting fresh produce, chef-prepared foods, baked goods, natural meats and seafood.

In the Northern California region, there are currently 19 Whole Foods Markets. They are located in Berkeley, Campbell, Cupertino, Fresno, Los Gatos, Mill Valley, Monterey, Palo Alto, Petaluma, Redwood City, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Mateo, San Rafael, San Ramon, Santa Rosa, Sebastopol and Walnut Creek. In 2006, three additional Northern California Whole Foods Markets open in Mountain View, Novato and Roseville.

**About Whole Foods Market**

Founded in 1980 in Austin, Texas, Whole Foods Market ([www.wholefoodsmarket.com](http://www.wholefoodsmarket.com)) is the world's leading natural and organic foods supermarket and America's first national certified organic grocer. In fiscal year 2004, the company had sales of \$3.9 billion and currently has more than 165 stores in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. The Whole Foods Market motto, "Whole Foods, Whole People, Whole Planet™," captures the company's mission to find success in customer satisfaction and wellness, employee excellence and happiness, enhanced shareholder value, community support and environmental improvement. Whole Foods Market, Harry's Farmers Market®, and Fresh & Wild® are trademarks owned by Whole Foods Market IP, LP. Whole Foods Market employs more than 30,000 team members and has been ranked for the eighth consecutive year as one of the "100 Best Companies to Work for" in America by *Fortune* magazine.

**Editors, please note:** For images, b-roll, interviews or further information, please contact Nellie Wong at 415-561-0888 or email: [nellie@landispr.com](mailto:nellie@landispr.com).

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