

Chicago Tribune Real Estate has stretched its boundaries.



Near West firm to expand to Goose Island

By Jeanette Almada | Special to the Chicago Tribune
January 6, 2008

Aiming to encourage redevelopment of industrial property in the Near North Side's Goose Island - and retain 200 industrial jobs in the process -- the city will provide financial assistance for a longtime Near West Side manufacturer.

The Chicago Community Development Commission last month approved \$3.8 million in tax-increment financing to renovate a plant on the Near West Side and redevelop the second facility in Goose Island.

This will allow the Water Saver Faucet Co. and Guardian Equipment Inc., both owned and operated by the same family since 1946, to split the operations.

In September 2006, the owners purchased a 71,000-square-foot building at 1140 N. Branch St. A 75,000-square-foot facility serving Water Saver and Guardian is at 701 W. Erie St.

Guardian, which makes emergency eye wash and shower equipment used in science labs, plans to move to Goose Island, the first phase of the company's expansion that will include a new facade and structural improvements to the building.

In a second phase, it will modernize the building on Erie, including a four-story addition with 45,000 square feet and an employee parking lot at 660 N. Halsted St.

That will help keep the company's 200 jobs there with the promise of additional jobs.