DISCOVER GILROY
and spice up your business plan.

- Excellent Transportation Access
- Highly Skilled Workforce
- Lower Business Costs
- Business-Friendly Environment
Gilroy, California:  
A Great Place to Build Your Business

Located at the southern gateway to Silicon Valley, Gilroy is a family-friendly community and a major retail destination that is fast becoming an economic hub. Gilroy is the ideal place to build your business, with convenient freeway and rail access to the Bay Area, Salinas Valley and Central California. Other benefits include affordable housing, a diverse population, development-ready land, skilled workers, and business incentives for qualifying companies.
The Community
with a Spice for Life

Gilroy is one of the fastest growing cities in Santa Clara County. Its peaceful neighborhoods, affordable housing, and pleasant weather make it a wonderful place to work, live, and play.

There truly is something for everyone in Gilroy. The area abounds with outdoor activities, with several award-winning parks, golf courses, hiking trails, and nearby lakes for camping, fishing and water sports. Gilroy’s quaint downtown features numerous local restaurants and boutique shops, which blend historical charm with a modern energy. In the foothills around the city are several world-renowned wineries that offer tastings and tours. Gilroy Gardens Family Theme Park is a local treasure, providing good old-fashioned fun for the whole family.

Garlic put Gilroy on the map, and we are still proud to call ourselves “The Garlic Capital of the World.” Every summer, thousands of visitors from around the globe come to celebrate the “stinking rose” at the Gilroy Garlic Festival. This volunteer-run event brings the entire community together and has raised more than $9 million for local charities and non-profit organizations.

“Syngenta Flowers, Inc. is committed to creating superior plant experiences for consumers. Gilroy’s strategic location, stable, skilled workforce, and favorable climate provide Syngenta with an outstanding environment for breeding and testing flowers for the global marketplace.”

-Liz Hunt
Head, Marketing
Syngenta Flowers, Inc.
Five factors that will help your business grow in Gilroy

1. **Convenient Transportation Options**

Gilroy’s central Bay Area location makes it an ideal place to do business. Located at the intersection of U.S. Highway 101, CA State Highway 152, and CA State Highway 156, Gilroy is a short drive from San Jose and Silicon Valley, as well as the Monterey Peninsula and Salinas Valley.

Gilroy is about 30 miles from San Jose International Airport. The city is also located on a main rail line for Union Pacific and has a downtown Caltrain station for commuter trains. The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) offers convenient bus service throughout Gilroy and the South Bay region.

2. **Highly Skilled Workforce**

The community of Gilroy is focused on fostering students’ learning and preparing them for the future. Gilroy Unified is one of the few school districts in the county that has shown continual improvements in performance and achievement scores.

Gavilan Community College is a vital asset to Gilroy residents, providing a wide range of academic and career training programs. Many local businesses collaborate with Gavilan College to provide ongoing training to their employees, which helps them to develop new skills and network with other local professionals.

There are also several excellent universities located nearby, including San Jose State, Santa Clara University, CSU Monterey Bay, Stanford, and UC Berkeley. As a result, the region is home to a large number of well-trained, highly educated workers.

3. **Large Labor Pool**

Gilroy’s location enables employers to draw from a labor market that encompasses Silicon Valley, the South Bay Area, Salinas Valley, and Monterey Peninsula. Local businesses can benefit from an extensive labor pool of talented, motivated, and experienced workers.

“With excellent transportation access and close proximity to shipping lanes, the Gilroy location is strategic for serving our customers both foreign and domestic”

-Mike Thomas
Senior Director Operations
Olam International
Employees cover a broad spectrum of skill levels, ranging from entry-level assembly workers to expert engineers and scientists. Gilroy’s close proximity to Silicon Valley makes it easy for local businesses to connect with major national and international corporations.

4. Partners in Conservation

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) works closely with Gilroy businesses to implement energy-saving techniques that reduce energy consumption and help cut utility costs. Certain types of industries are eligible for economic incentives to decrease utility spending.

The City of Gilroy provides water and sewer waste services and also actively promotes water conservation measures. Other utility providers include Recology South Valley for garbage and recycling, Verizon for telecommunications, and Charter Communications for cable TV services.

5. Business-Friendly Environment

We want you to grow your business here! The advantages of choosing Gilroy include:

- **Support Services**

  The Gilroy Economic Development Corporation (GEDC) offers several programs and resources to help employers start or build their businesses. The GEDC provides information about financing, site locations, city economics and demographics, as well as ongoing support through the City of Gilroy’s development process. Working closely with the Workforce Investment Board for the region, work2future, the GEDC also helps coordinate support services, including on-the-job training and hiring assistance, to qualifying companies. Other GEDC programs include business ombudsman and expansion services, workshops, and one-on-one business counseling.

- **Business Incentives**

  The City of Gilroy offers a wide range of incentive programs that include one-stop permit processing, permit expediting, and financial incentive programs for high sales tax or job-creation businesses. The GEDC also helps businesses determine eligibility for any other local or state level incentives.

- **Unlimited Potential**

  Unlike other locations in the Bay Area, Gilroy has land that is ready for development, including parcels zoned for commercial, industrial, or residential use. The City’s infrastructure is strong and ready to accommodate new growth.

- **Community Banking**

  Gilroy has a number of community banks that combine small-town personal service with sophisticated modern banking technology and conveniences, including business financing, remote deposit, online banking, cash management, and merchant services.
Who’s doing business in Gilroy?

LARGE BUSINESSES

Gilroy is home to several large businesses that employ many local workers. Reflecting the region’s agricultural economy, major employers include Christopher Ranch, Olam International, Syngenta Seeds, and Headstart Nursery. The City is also home to a growing number of food processing manufacturers, including Monterey Gourmet Foods and Silva Sausage.

Gilroy’s strategic location and access to major transportation routes make it an ideal choice for warehouse and distribution operations.

St. Louise Regional Hospital and Kaiser Permanente are the region’s major employers of health care workers. As the city continues to grow, more technology and light industrial companies are finding Gilroy to be an excellent business location.
SMALL BUSINESSES

Smaller companies thrive in Gilroy’s family-oriented community, where residents naturally care about and support the locally-owned shops, restaurants, wineries, and other companies that make the city unique. These innovative small businesses are a vital part of Gilroy’s economy and employment.

RETAIL STORES

Gilroy is already one of the Bay Area’s premier retail destinations, with over $1 billion in annual taxable retail sales. Even in tough economic times, city sales tax revenues continue to grow at a consistent rate.

Gilroy features several large retail complexes, including the prestigious Gilroy Premium Outlets, which are widely popular with shoppers searching for designer brand collections at a discount. The City’s power centers include such major retailers as Target, Wal-Mart, Bed Bath and Beyond, Kohl’s, Lowe’s, Home Depot, and Best Buy.

Gilroy’s charming, historic Downtown district includes a diverse mix of retail boutiques and local service-oriented businesses. Gilroy’s significant retail sector provides unlimited opportunities for innovative stores, both large and small.
Here to Help, Every Step of the Way

The Gilroy Economic Development Corporation (GEDC) provides all the resources you need to open, expand, or relocate your business in Gilroy, California.

As an independent non-profit organization, we offer an integrated approach to programs and services and provide a “one-stop shop” for new and existing companies seeking to grow in Gilroy.

Contact us today to find out more!

www.GilroyEDC.org

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