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Pac-12 production unit will move to San Ramon and exit San Francisco

Production studio for sports conference signs lease for East Bay relocation



Bishop Ranch office complex that includes 3001 Bishop Drive in San Ramon.

(Bishop Ranch, Sunset Development)

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SAN RAMON — The Pac-12 production center will shift its operations to San Ramon — and exit San Francisco — after the organization signed a lease to rent a big chunk of office space at the Bishop Ranch business park.

The production operation will move to Bishop Ranch 15, which has addresses that range from 12647 to 12677 Alcosta Blvd. in San Ramon.

The relocation to San Ramon is expected to occur this summer and marks another high-profile corporate departure from San Francisco.

“The studio will focus on live sports content with the facility being built with cutting-edge production technology,” the organization said. “The office is expected to welcome more than 100 staffers and freelancers on busy game days.”

Pac-12 leased about 42,000 square feet in Bishop Ranch 15, the sports organization stated.

“For the Pac-12, this is not an office, it’s a studio,” said Alex Mehran Jr., president of San Ramon-based Sunset Development, the principal owner and developer of the Bishop Ranch office, retail, restaurant and hotel complex.

It’s anticipated that 850 live events a year will be produced from the center, along with in-studio and other programming, the college conference said.

“They are building out a very significant studio here,” Mehran Jr. said. “This is an important brand to have for our region. It’s kind of cool to get this deal done with this kind of creative organization.”

The Bishop Ranch 15 office complex will be the new home for the Pac-12 state-of-the-art broadcast and content production facility along with flexible workspace and meeting rooms for in-person meetings and events.

“This is the kind of creative use that you would normally have expected in San Francisco or Berkeley,” Mehran Jr. said. “Here they have a location and a setup in a place that’s safe and is in a great place to come to work.”

Bishop Ranch attracted another high-profile creative company in a sign that the business park continues to diversify its tenant basis.

In recent years, Striking Distance Studios signed a lease for space in Bishop Ranch at 6111 Bollinger Canyon Road. Striking Distance is a video game maker that developed “The Callisto Project,” a survival horror game.

Pac-12’s production studio and Striking Distance, along with other unique tenants such as The Lot cinema complex and Equinox fitness center, have landed in recent years at City Center Bishop Ranch.

City Center, by adding numerous restaurants and shops, has effectively become a downtown for San Ramon.

Plus, Bishop Ranch took steps to retain Chevron, a major occupant at the business park, with a deal to pay \$174.5 million to buy the energy titan’s Chevron Park headquarters complex.

As part of that deal, Chevron agreed to lease nearly 400,000 square feet in the BR 2600 office complex in Bishop Ranch, a rental transaction that enables Chevron to keep its world headquarters in San Ramon.

Deals such as the Pac-12 production center are crucial in a post-coronavirus world where more than a few traditional corporate tenants are eyeing numerous ways to scale back their office space.

“With what’s happening in the office market, we are looking for a lot of different kinds of uses to be tenants at Bishop Ranch,” Mehran Jr. said.

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