

expire each year and any member may be reappointed. One member must be a resident of Howard County. The Authority selects its own officers and staff.

Chapter 729, Acts of 1975, revised the composition of the Advisory Council to consist of eleven members, with five members appointed by the Maryland Agricultural Commission, and five appointed by produce merchants who are tenants in the Maryland Wholesale Produce Market. The Executive Director of the Authority serves as the non-voting, *ex officio* Chairman of the Advisory Council. This same Act changed the name of the Authority from the Greater Baltimore Consolidated Wholesale Food Market Authority to the Maryland Wholesale Food Center Authority.

The goal of the Authority is to construct a modern, efficient food distribution center capable of satisfying most of the wholesale food requirements of the Baltimore and Washington metropolitan areas. This endeavor was based on the recommendations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture after a two year investigation of the antiquated, inefficient and unsanitary markets in Baltimore. Maryland was the third area in the world to undertake such a development. This concept is now being followed by most of the world's large metropolitan areas.

The Authority is developing a 398-acre site at the intersection of U.S. Route 1 and Maryland Route 175 in Howard County near Jessup for the establishment of a Maryland Wholesale Food Center. The Center will provide better quality food products to the consumers of Maryland more efficiently and at less cost. As of June 30, 1976, approximately 990,000 square feet of food warehousing space had been constructed within the Maryland Wholesale Food Center at an estimated cost of \$24 million. Furthermore, the Authority has signed commitments for construction of an additional 860,000 square feet of food warehousing space. Of 326 salable acres, approximately 150 acres had been sold or leased as of June 30, 1976. It is estimated that approximately \$100 million will be invested in food

distribution facilities by the completion of the project.

The State's total investment of \$9 million will be completely repaid over a period of years. The original Act provided an initial loan of \$4 million in State general obligation bonds for land acquisition and development. An additional \$5 million loan for Produce Market construction was provided by Chapter 409, Acts of 1969.

The original Act permitted the Authority to issue \$6 million in negotiable revenue bonds. As of June 30, 1976, \$2 million had been privately sold, with \$1 million being purchased by the Equitable Trust Company in order to finance a portion of the Maryland Wholesale Produce Market. The revenue bonds sold are structured in such a manner as not to be a direct encumbrance on Authority revenues.

During 1976 the Authority will construct roadways and utilities to serve the Phase III area of the project which is the only remaining undeveloped portion. In January 1976, the long-awaited Maryland Wholesale Produce Market began operation. This facility, containing 204,500 square feet, is fully leased and has 26 produce merchant tenants who were formerly in the Baltimore metropolitan area. This achievement, combined with the previous separate land sales to Giant Food, Inc., Distribution Centers, Inc., Smelkinson Brothers Corporation, American Food Services, Albright Wholesale, and Equitable Trust assures that the Maryland Wholesale Food Center will be both operationally and financially successful (Code 1957, 1971 Repl. Vol., 1975 Supp., Art. 41, secs. 410, 412, 413, 416).

Maryland Wholesale Food Center
Authority — General Administration

Salaried Staff: 1975, 3*; 1976, 3*;
1977, 4**.

Maryland Wholesale Product Market

Salaried Staff: 1975, 0; 1976, 10***;
1977, 11*.

*Two positions are part-time

**Three positions are part-time

***One position is part-time