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MENASHE SECTION



Menashe Regional Council chair Ilan Sadeh signs the plan for the new industrial zone: *Menashe Regional Council*

The Industrial Zone in Menashe: Planning completed for the Iron Industrial Zone

The Menashe Regional Council has completed planning for the Iron Industrial Zone, with all approvals in hand

Architect Leah Perry, engineer for the Menashe-Alona Regional Planning and Building Committee, noted that the land area chosen – part of the Menashe regional jurisdiction between the Menashe Regional Center and the Barkai

intersection – is close to the country's main transportation network, in proximity to the Iron interchange on Trans-Israel Highway 6 as well as Highway 2, Route 65 and Israel Railways. The location is also consonant with the master plan for Wadi Ara development. The industrial zone has a total area of 1085 dunams (c. 268 acres), with 628,000 square meters for industrial and commercial buildings and another c. 15,000 square meters of public buildings.

by Yaniv Golan

This week Menashe Regional Council chairman Ilan Sadeh and architect Leah Perry, the council engineer for the Menashe-Alona Regional Planning and Building Committee, signed off on the plans, which were forwarded for registration with the Haifa District Planning and Building Committee, prior to final approval of the plans.

The Iron Industrial Zone will be shared by six Jewish and Arab local councils in the northern Sharon area of Wadi Ara.

The new industrial zone is an initiative of Menashe Regional Council chairman Ilan Sadeh. Behind this project is a unique Jewish-Arab partnership involving Jewish councils – the Menashe regional council and the Harish local council – alongside a series of Arab councils in Wadi Ara – the Umm al Fahm municipality, the Kfar Qara local council, the Basma local council (comprising Barta'a, Ein a-Sahle and Muawiya) and the Arara local council. This is an area where there have been nationalism-driven incidents in the past, and in recent years the area's local leadership under Menashe Regional Council chairman Ilan Sadeh has been actively promoting better relations between the Arab and Jewish populations.

Planning for the new industrial zone was done by architect Eran Mebel. Architect.

Although the new industrial zone is located within the Menashe regional council's jurisdiction, property tax revenues will be divided between the participating councils based on their respective size, unlike other shared industrial zones where the arrangement is that the local council where the zone is physically located enjoys about 50 percent of the property tax revenues. The new industrial zone was planned to preserve open spaces, and its area was trimmed to accommodate a rerouting of the Iron River and the preservation of an ecological corridor for the passage of wildlife.

Menashe Regional Council Chairman Ilan Sadeh explains: "We initiated the establishment of this industrial zone to generate numerous new sources of employment for residents of the Menashe region and environs, both Jewish and Arab, and to add to the property tax revenues for the councils partnering in the project, with a view to sustaining the ongoing momentum for prosperity in our region."