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Haggen accepts bids for 55 stores, including 33 from Albertsons

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Haggen has accepted bids for 55 of its non-core stores, which were sold for more than \$47 million. Albertsons LLC, which along with Safeway sold 146 stores to Haggen less than a year ago in order to secure FTC clearance of the Albertsons-Safeway merger, had 33 of the winning bids.

Haggen intends to submit the results of the auction for approval to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for Delaware at a hearing Nov. 24.

Among other winning bidders were Sprouts Farmer's Market with four stores, Tawa Inc. with three, Carnival Supermarkets Inc. with two and Stater Bros. Markets with one store.

Smart & Final also submitted four bids that were accepted by Haggen. In addition to those locations, Smart & Final purchased certain assets of 28 stores located in California for \$56 million under a separate agreement. The bankruptcy court confirmed the sale of the 28 Haggen stores on Friday, Nov. 13.

The court also confirmed the sale to Gelson's of certain assets related to eight stores located in California for approximately \$36 million.

