

Supplemental Figure S1 -

Fig. S1. Vulval morphogenesis defects of *vab-23* RNAi larvae. (A,B) Nomarski images of RNAi control (A) and *vab-23*(RNAi) (B) worms at the L4 stage. Scale bar: 10  $\mu$ m.

Supplemental Figure S2 -

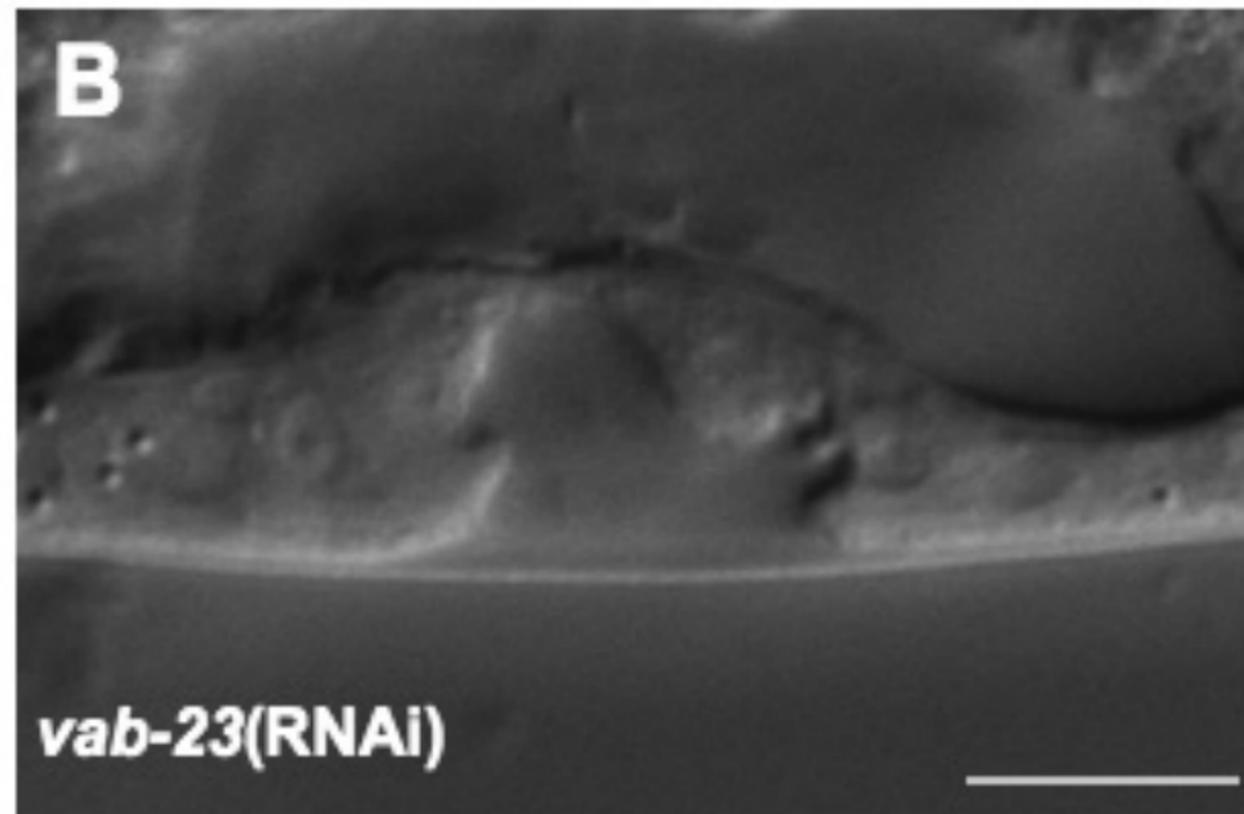
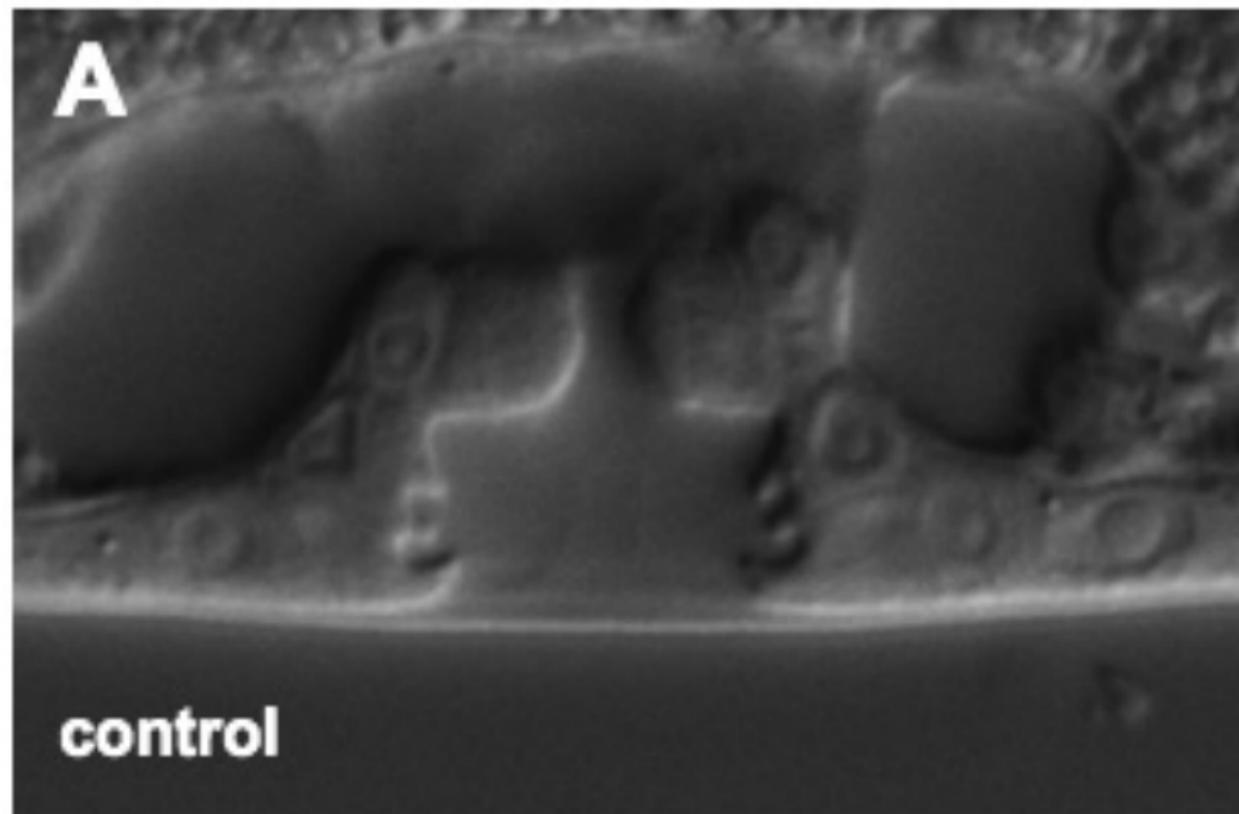
Fig. S2. ChIPseq analysis of the *smg-1* and *egl-26* loci. (A,B) For each gene, the read coverage is plotted over the locus. The *smg-1* locus (A) contains a broad and tall peak with the highest coverage at the end of intron I, whereas the *egl-26* locus (B) contains a relatively sharp but smaller peak at position -500. The control ChIP experiments did not display any significant peaks in the two genes (not shown).

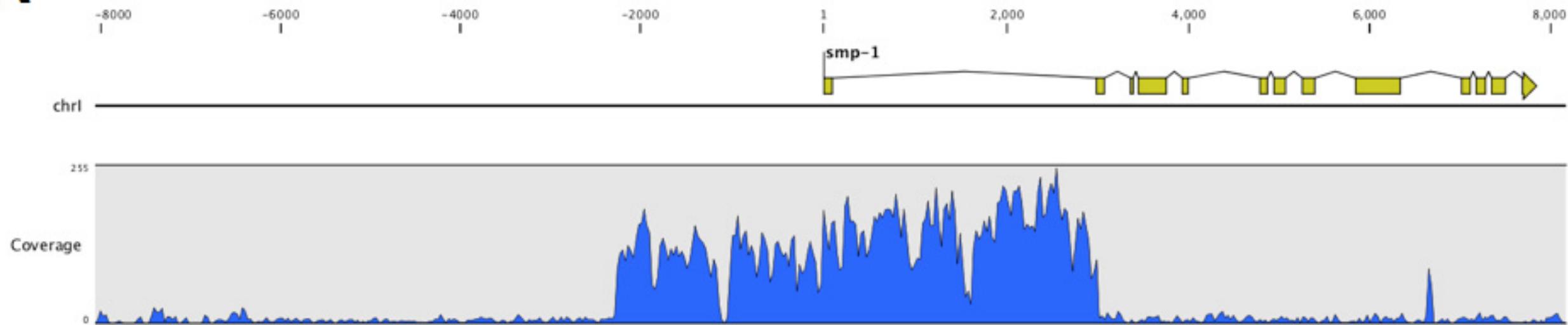
Supplemental Figure S3 -

Fig. S3. Quantification of VAB-23::GFP expression in the *sos-1(cs41ts)* background. *sos-1(cs41); vab-23::gfp* and *sos-1(+)* *vab-23::gfp* control worms were synchronized by starving them as L1 larvae, transferred to media containing *Escherichia coli* and allowed to feed for 27 hours at 20°C until they had reached the late L2/early L3 stage. At this time, worms were up-shifted to 25°C. VAB-23::GFP expression was scored 5 and 8 hours later in animals, which had been up-shifted after vulval fate specification and, hence, showed normal induction of P5.p, P6.p and P7.p. The expression of VAB-23::GFP was categorized as normal, reduced and weak/absent as described for Fig. 7.

Supplemental Table S1 -

Table S1. Annotated list of VAB-23 ChIPseq peaks. Peak identification was implemented in an R-script by making use of the ChIPseq package. From the computed coverage, we identified all regions with a coverage of 20 reads or more and merged neighboring regions if they were <100 bases apart. In order to reduce the false positives, we kept only regions that (a) had a less than threefold difference in the ratio of the average coverage with positive-strand-matching and negative-strand-matching reads, and (b) had a width between 50 and 300. As the read length (50) was less than the fragment length, true positive peaks are also expected to have a bias of the coverage contribution of the positive reads to the left-hand-side and negative-reads to the right-hand-side. Therefore, we required additionally (c) that for the ten left-most bases of the peak region, the positive coverage was five reads higher than the negative coverage, and vice versa for the ten right-most bases of the peak region. For each peak region, the position, width, maximum height and the genes located within 2 kb up- or downstream are listed



**A****B**