



County of Santa Cruz

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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PRESS RELEASE

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County Supervisor
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CEMEX REUSE PLANNING

Santa Cruz County Supervisor Ryan Coonerty is pleased to announce the successful completion of negotiations that will bring \$425,000 to Santa Cruz County to help plan for the reuse of the decommissioned Cemex Corp. plant property in Davenport.

Last fall, Los Altos-based Sempervirens Fund received grants from the Moore Foundation, the Resources Legacy Fund and the California Coastal Conservancy to prepare a Coastal Restoration Plan and update of the Local Coastal Program for the site and explore reuse opportunities. After receiving the grants, Sempervirens reached out to inquire if the County was willing to be the lead agency to carry out the work of the grants. As the primary regulatory agency for local land use policy, Coonerty felt it made sense for the County to take on this role.

“I want to thank County staff, the Sempervirens Fund, and Cemex for working in cooperation with my office to make this exciting project possible,” Coonerty said. “In particular, I want to express my appreciation to the California Coastal Conservancy, the Resources Legacy Fund, and the Moore Foundation for providing the funding.”

The County will hire economic and environmental consultants to analyze reuse opportunities that are economically viable and acceptable to the community. In addition, a visitor center to provide public access to Coast Dairies Public Lands and the San Vicente Redwoods will also be considered as a high priority. The reuse plan is also expected to lead to a reduction in sewer and water fees paid by Davenport residents.

“We will work closely with the community, the property owner, the Coastal Commission, and other important stakeholders to develop a plan that will not only be economically



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viable but a long term asset for the County and our precious coastal environment,” Coonerty said.

The effort will be coordinated by County Economic Development Manager Andy Constable and the Office for Economic Development, working closely with other County departments.

The Agreement with Sempervirens, the agency that will administer the funds, is scheduled to appear on the Board of Supervisors March 15, 2016 agenda for final approval.

“We are the oldest land trust in California, and we work only in the redwood forests of the Santa Cruz Mountains. We are pleased to have secured this package of funding for the County of Santa Cruz to conduct thorough work to envision a sustainable and appropriate use for the existing closed cement plant in Davenport,” Sempervirens Fund President Fred Keeley said.