



County of Santa Cruz

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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PRESS RELEASE

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SEARCH UNDERWAY FOR DAVENPORT PLANT REUSE CONSULTANT

In partnership with the Sempervirens Fund, the County of Santa Cruz has begun the process of recruiting a consultant to work in conjunction with the partners, the community and ownership on a reuse plan for the decommissioned Davenport cement plant.

By issuing a request for proposals, the County is engaging in a nationwide search for an experienced consultant to assist in a project unparalleled along the California Coast. The former plant helped rebuild San Francisco after the 1906 Earthquake and supplied cement for everything from the Golden Gate Bridge to the California Aqueduct. But the future of the 106-acre site is likely to be much different.

“We hope to identify an experienced firm which can help us find a path forward for this unique property. Our intent is to write the next chapter in a manner that is economically viable and consistent with coastal protection values, while assuring that the needs of Davenport residents are met,” said Andy Constable, Economic Development Manager for the County of Santa Cruz.

“This project represents a fantastic opportunity for the community, the property owner and the County to reuse a critical coastal resource in a manner that provides environmental, economic and public benefits,” said Supervisor Ryan Coonerty, who represents Davenport and the North Coast.

The consultant will be tasked with providing a Coastal Restoration and Reuse Plan, with priority consideration of a public entrance to the Cotoni-Coast Dairies and San Vicente Forest properties. Together, the two properties represent 14,000 acres of pristine North Coast land soon to be opened for public access.



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The property is currently a mix of heavy industrial and agricultural uses, with several historically significant buildings on site. The process outlined in the County request for proposals includes community meetings at each step in the process, and a cooperative working relationship with the property owner. The final proposal would have to be approved by the Board of Supervisors, the California Coastal Conservancy, the California Coastal Commission, Sempervirens Fund and the property owner, Cemex Corp.

With support from the Coastal Conservancy, the Moore Foundation and the Resources Legacy Fund, Sempervirens Fund is providing \$425,000 for the reuse plan. Bids are due May 20, with final selection likely in June.