

Kilns

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United States. In 1880, for instance, out of the 250,000 barrels of lime produced in California, 115,000 of them came from Santa Cruz County.

The kilns proved costly to the area's old-growth redwood stands, though. Seventy cords of redwood were burned each time a load of limestone was fired to extract the barrels of lime used to make mortar and concrete.

The Pogonip kilns may be the oldest of the 12 kiln sites remaining in the county. Historians pressed the council to preserve them for that reason, along with the fact that the history of the limestone industry, no matter how exploitive it was to natural resources, must be studied and maintained.

"It's one thing to read about history, but it's quite something else to see history, as you can there at Pogonip," said local historian Frank Perry.

Others, however, suggested that the future is important, too.

"We're on a self-destructive path," said Allen Lange, who urged the council to save the trees and the benefits they produce. "Our past is important ... but what is even more important is our future."

In the mid- to late 1800s, Santa Cruz County was the lime capital of the United States. In 1880, for instance, out of the 250,000 barrels of lime produced in California, 115,000 of them came from Santa Cruz County.

The city expects to pay \$36,000 to remove the trees. There is no estimate yet on how much it will cost for some level of preservation to ensure the kilns don't deteriorate any further.