

# In nod to past, future park renamed

Former Cemex Redwoods  
gets San Vicente moniker

*Davenport*

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**DAVENPORT** » A coalition of conservation groups are set to announce Tuesday that they are renaming 8,500 acres of forest, cascading from the Summit to the sea on the county's North Coast, as the San Vicente Redwoods.

The change emphasizes the main creek running through the property and ties the sprawling forest to the town of Davenport, briefly named San Vicente-by-the-Sea more than a century ago. And by wiping the record of references to Cemex, the Mexico City-based corporation that once owned the property, the renaming represents the dawn of a new era.

"It'll be good because it's an emphasis on changing Davenport from being a company town

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to a recreational town," said Noel Bock, chair of the Davenport North Coast Association. "I'm hoping that eventually the cement plant will become a visitor-serving center and a gateway to the San Vicente forest and Coast Dairies properties."

Larger than the city of Santa Cruz, the massive property lies east of the former cement plant and was purchased in 2011 for \$30 million by a coalition of conservation groups, led by Palo Alto-based Peninsula Open Space Trust and Los Altos-based Sempervirens Fund.

Cemex still owns the plant, which is being studied for possible reuse. In the meantime, many are happy not to have a permanent reminder that Davenport grew up in the shadow of

a plant with unquestioned historic significance — it helped rebuild San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake — but that was also a significant air polluter and hulking presence on a picturesque coastline.

The name also ties the property to San Vicente Creek, which supplies Davenport with water and is being protected under the new management of the property. Peninsula Open Space Trust President Walter Moore said required buffers around the creek have been doubled for any future timber harvests.

While it always was likely the property would change names, Moore said San Vicente seemed a good fit.

"This one came out as the clear leader," Moore said. "It just ties the water source to the former name of the community. It really evokes that this is another evolution for this property

from its commercial roots to being of, and much more supportive of, the community."

Sempervirens Executive Director Reed Holderman concurred.

"San Vicente is the premiere stream going through the property, so to pick the name of the dominant natural resource, the thing that connects the top of the watershed to the sea, seems natural," Holderman said. "The community was very interested in a change, and we were happy to oblige."

A public access plan is being drawn up by the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, with draft plans likely to be released this summer. The Santa Cruz-based group is sorting through questions related to land-use and access points, while trying to coordinate with the adjacent, Bureau of Land Management-owned Coast Dair-

ies property.

"Now that Coast Dairies is in the hands of the BLM, we're able to work with them so that hopefully when the trail system is complete, hikers will be able to hike through (both parks)," Land Trust Executive Director Teresa Corwin said.

The North Coast is the focus of a coordinated conservation effort. Along with higher-profile projects, a number of smaller parcels have been acquired or protected, all in the hopes of keeping tens of thousands of acres from development in the Santa Cruz Mountains, an effort known broadly as 'The Great Park.'

"I think the town is gratefully setting aside the Cemex era," Supervisor Neal Coonerty said, saying there can be a lot of negative impacts from living next to a plant. "They are more than delighted."