

Davenport's Cemex plant to shutter permanently

Kurtis Alexander, Bay Area News Group, 1-23-10

DAVENPORT — Manufacturing giant Cemex announced today that it will permanently shut down its cement plant and quarry on Santa Cruz County's North Coast.

The factory, which has been in operation for 133 years, had closed temporarily in March because of the weak national economy. Company officials said the plant would re-open when the demand for cement improved, but notice given to employees today indicates otherwise.

"Unfortunately, market conditions have not improved and the company has made the very difficult decision to permanently shut down operations," wrote Cemex Vice President of Human Resources John Andrews in a letter to employees.

The facility employed about 120 people. The plant was by far the biggest employer and social mainstay in the small town of Davenport.

"It's like a death. We're feeling it," said Eric Karo, an electrician who had worked at the plant for three years. "We didn't know this was going to happen. There was always talk of it starting up again."