



During World War II, renowned industrialist Henry J. Kaiser developed the Cushenbury limestone quarry to supply his steel making operations in Fontana, California. The end of World War II created a population boom in California and demand for industrial minerals to support the construction industry. Kaiser built a cement plant at Cushenbury in 1957 and in anticipation the AT&SF built a branch line to the plant the prior year (1956). The facility was modernized in 1982 and Mitsubishi Cement purchased the plant in 1988.

Hopper cars are lined up to transport Portland cement from today's Mitsubishi Cement Corporation Cushenbury Plant to the national rail network via today's BNSF Cushenbury Branch. The hills in the background in the southward view are the 11,000-foot San Bernardino Mountains, which create a rain shadow. The desert at Cushenbury is replaced upslope by ponderosa pines and firs, beyond which lies Los Angeles and its Mediterranean climate created by Pacific moisture.



Another view of hoppers at the end of the Cushenbury Branch and mine tailings on the slope.