

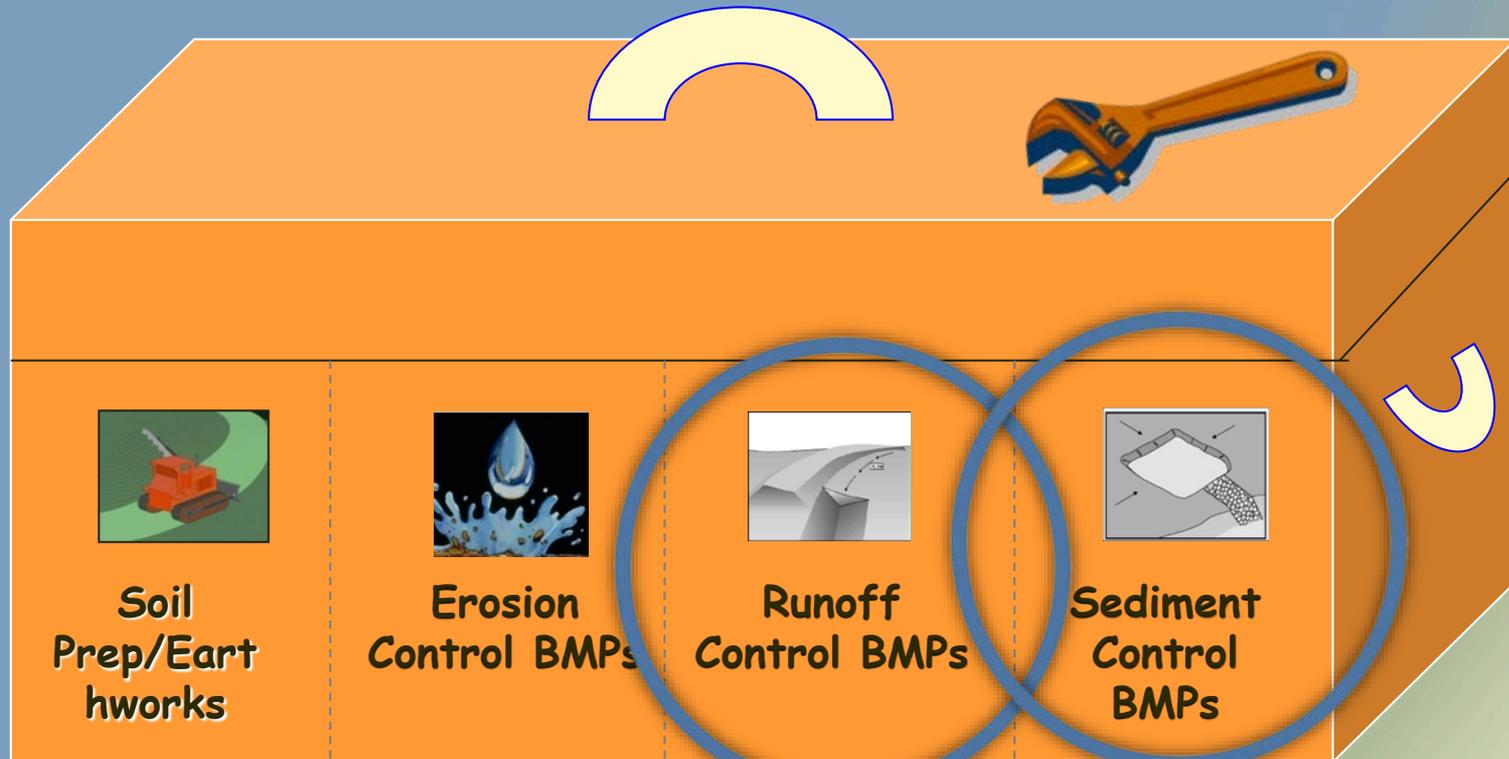
Mission Impossible- Advanced Methods for Steep Slopes

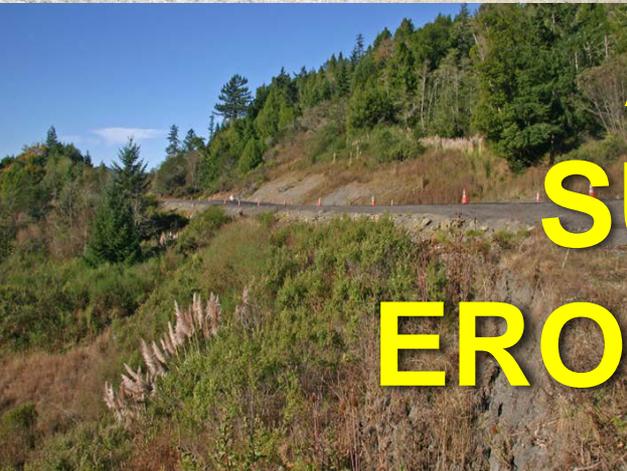
And More

Runoff Control BMPs

Sediment Control BMPs

Stabilized Construction Entrance



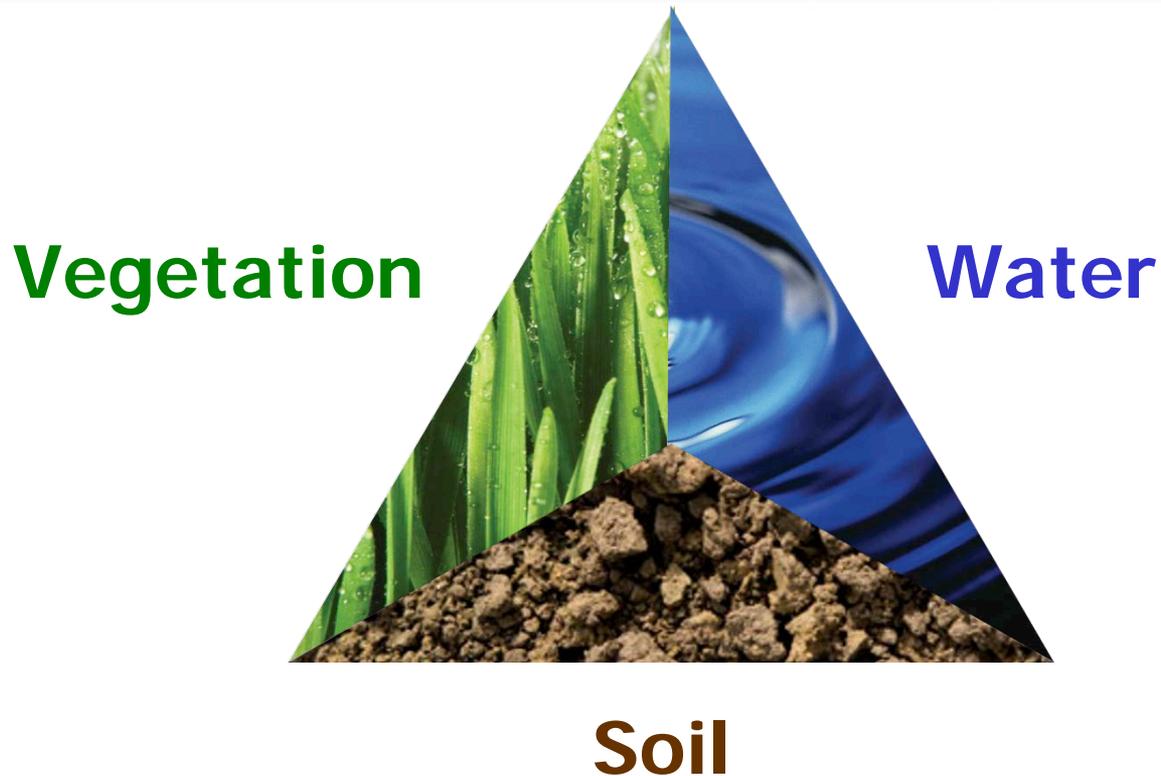


ADVANCED SUSTAINABLE EROSION CONTROL



CTSW-OT-11-255.13.1.D9

How Do We Define Sustainability?



Sustainable erosion control meets or exceeds **stormwater quality** requirements and minimizes **life cycle** costs by 1) creating long-term **soil health**, 2) establishing the most **appropriate vegetation**, and 3) achieving permanent **soil stabilization**.

Notice of Termination (NOT)

Methods for Documenting Final Stabilization of Disturbed Soil Areas (DSA)

- 70% Cover Method
- RUSLE or RUSLE2 Method
- Custom Method

Inspection and Certification

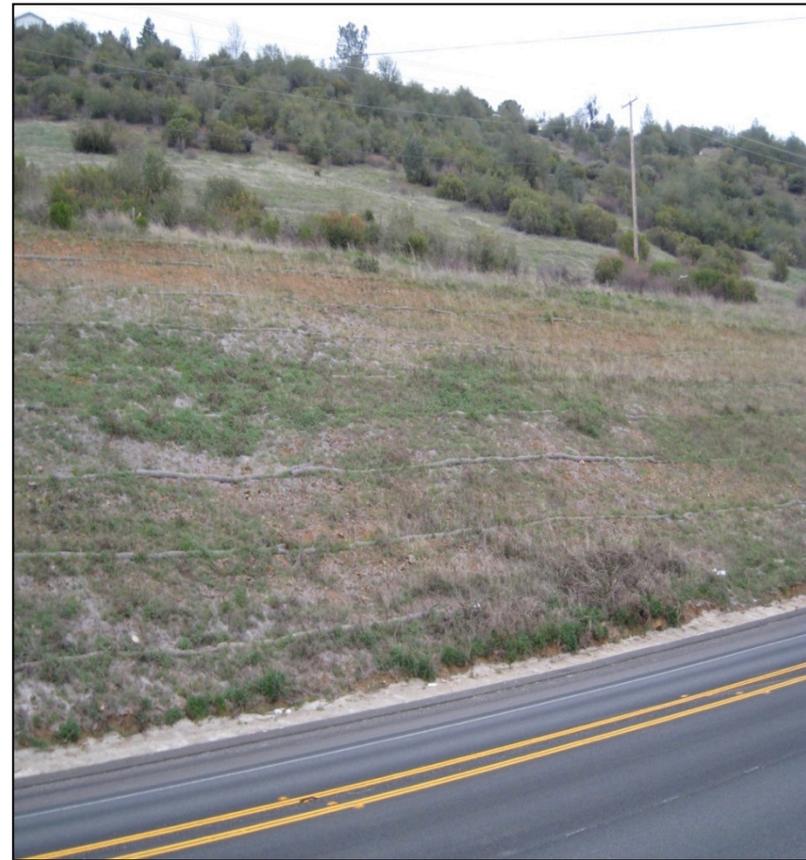
- Site Inspection
- Certification for Resident Engineer

Methods for Documentation-NOT

70% Cover Method Applies When

Construction is completed and permanent erosion control is in place and functional

Functional: A uniform vegetative cover equal to 70% of the native background vegetation coverage or equivalent stabilization measures have been employed



Until NOT is Submitted *

- The SWPPP must remain on Construction Site
- Site Inspections continue
 - before storms, after storms, during storms, daily-weekly depending
- Notice of Discharge requirements
- REAP (II and III)
- Quarterly Reports
- Annual Certificate of Compliance



Summary of Big Differences

- District Director is Legally Responsible Party – LRP
- SWPPP is viewable on-line
- Minimum BMPs required
- Inspections (sampling) required all year
- Discharges must be reported
- Permit Coverage continues until permanently “stabilized”
 - All Construction is complete
 - Final Stabilization is complete
- Implications
 - Caltrans takes more responsibility
 - BMPs MUST be effective
 - Techniques and BMPs must be updated as necessary
 - Final stabilization must be effective and timely
- Notice of Termination is very important

How Do We Define Steep Slopes?

What are the challenges we face in dealing with slopes steeper than 2:1?

Slope
Stability

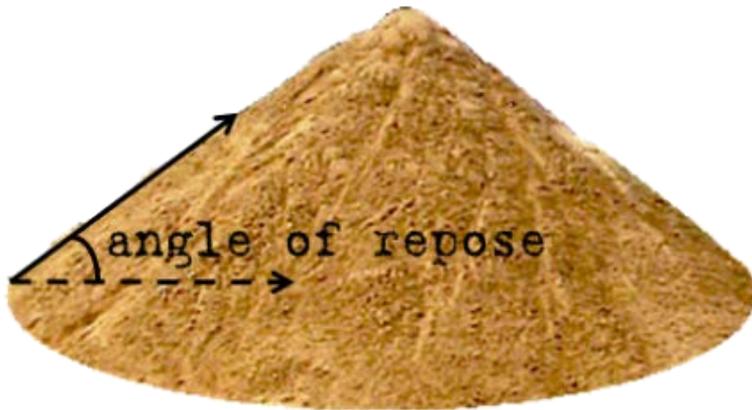
Vegetation
Establishment

Erosion and
Sedimentation



Angle of repose (aka Angle of Friction)

- Maximum slope granular material is stable
- Related to density, grain size angularity, water content,



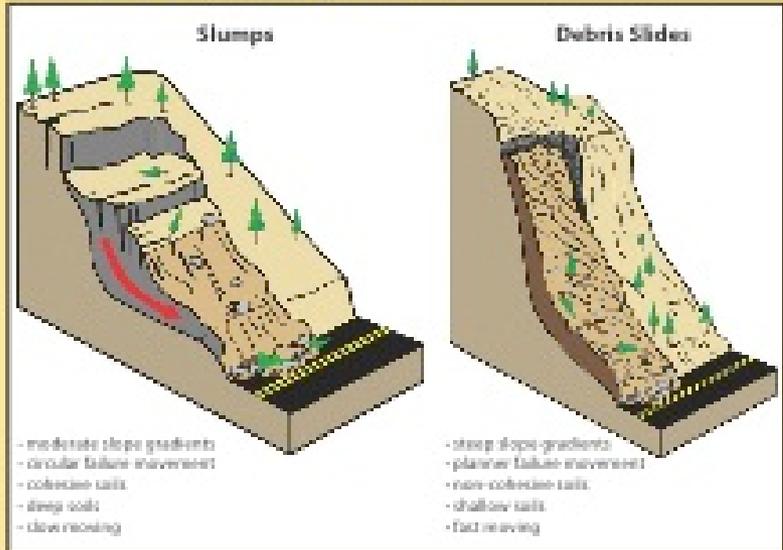
Angle of repose

Material	angle	ratio
Sand (dry)	34	2:1
Sand (wet)	45	1:1
Sand (water filled)	15-30	4:1
Shale (broken)	35	2:1
Clay (dry clump)	25-40	2:1
Clay (wet excavated)	15	4:1
Granite	35-40	2:1



Common slope problems associated with Roads *

Figure 5.55 - Common landslides typically associated with road construction. Modified after Varnes (1978) and Bedrossian (1983).



Site challenges

New constructed short cut slope 1.25:1 after first heavy rains. There was some grass growing prior to shallow failure. Not track walked, outer slope was loose.



Site Challenges

1.5:1 slope: Debris flow at base of fill due to surface infiltration in coarse-grained material after first heavy rain. Very loose outer fill material, no track walking.



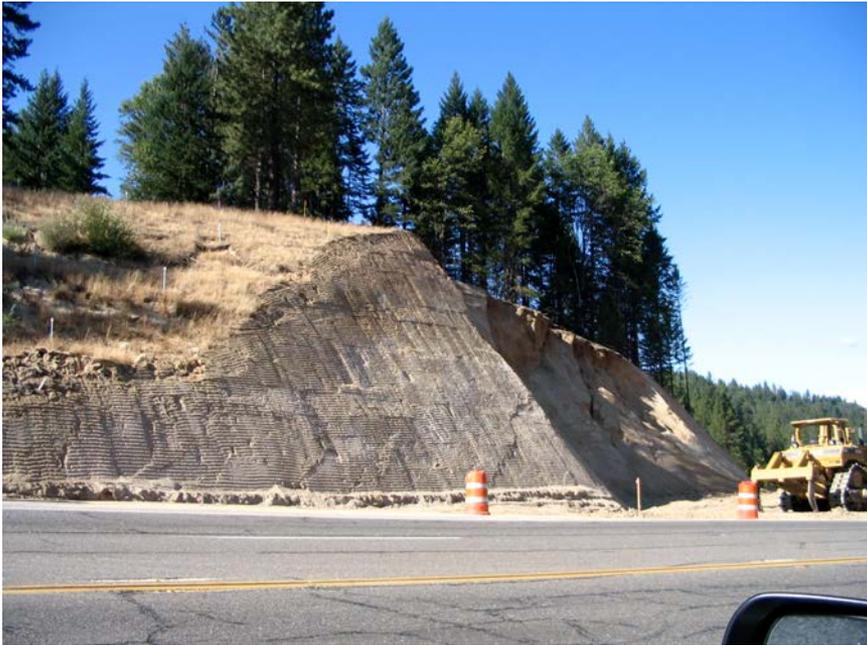
Site Challenges

Same location as previous slide, prior to complete failure of outer slope. Very loose to 3-foot depth, based on probe penetration.



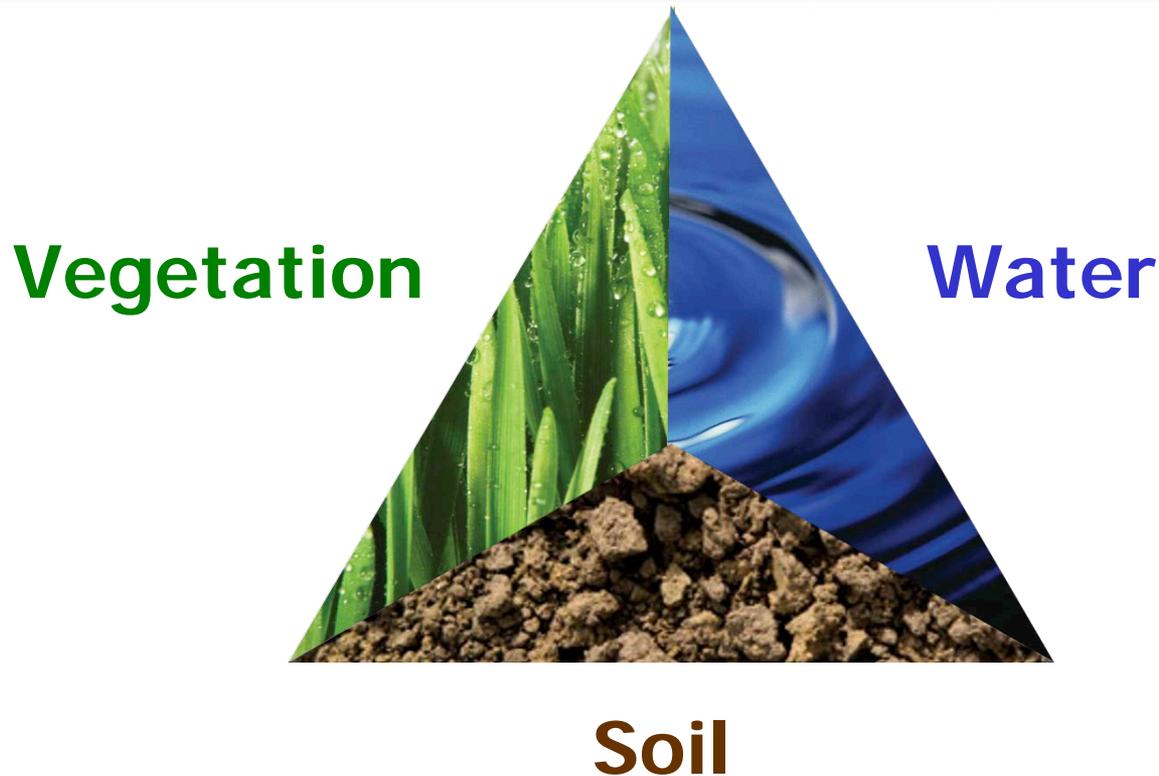
Hard Costs

46 million dollars worth of emergency contracts were issued in the winter of 2004-2005



Many of these contracts were related to repairing slopes with site challenges

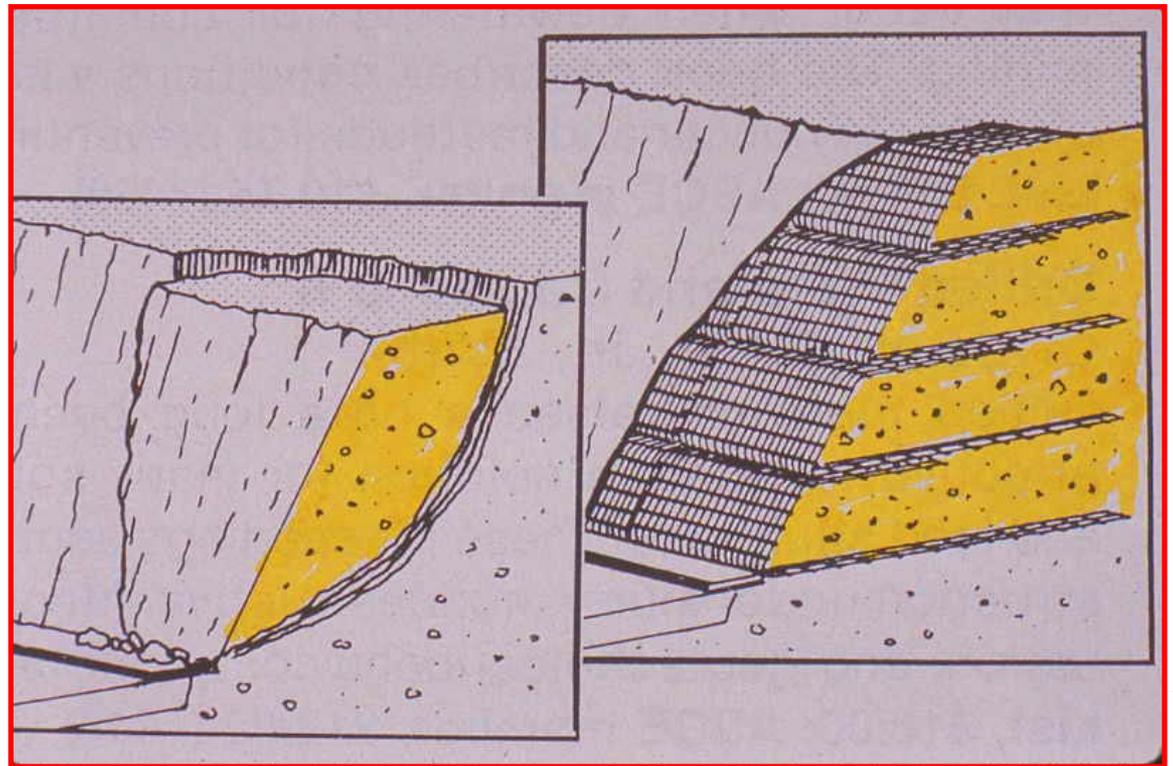
How do we best control erosion?



Sustainable erosion control meets or exceeds **stormwater quality** requirements and minimizes **life cycle** costs by 1) creating long-term **soil health**, 2) establishing the most **appropriate vegetation**, and 3) achieving permanent **soil stabilization**.

Examples of an Innovative Solution *

- **Additional Geotechnical Reinforcements** may be necessary if increased infiltration or soil roughening is desired.
- Mechanical Earth Reinforcements
- Geogrids
- Brushlayering
- Gravity Toe Wall
- Cellular Confinement
- Wire Mesh Confinement



Infiltration Topics

- Steep slopes with high infiltration rates can be stable when all stabilizing reinforcements are considered:
 - Optimum compaction 85-90% range
 - Root reinforcement – Varied length and type
 - Cohesion - OM can increase cohesion
 - Geotextile reinforcements as needed



Infiltration Constraints

Soil types and infiltration

Hydrologic Soil Group Descriptions

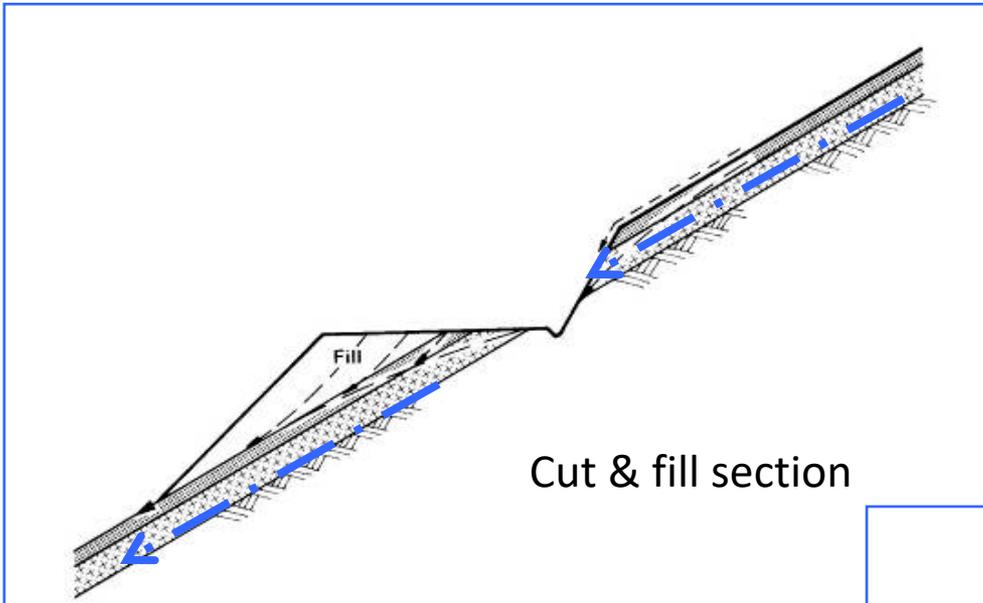
A -- Well-drained sand and gravel; high permeability.

B -- Moderate to well-drained; moderately fine to moderately coarse texture; moderate permeability.

C -- Poor to moderately well-drained; moderately fine to fine texture; slow permeability.

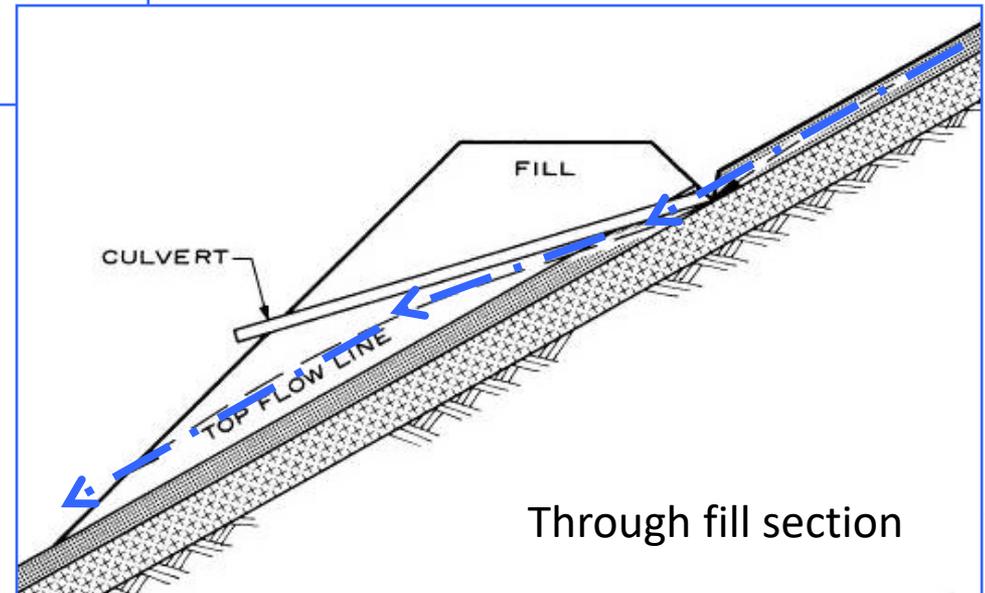
D -- Poorly drained, clay soils with high swelling potential, permanent high water table, claypan, or shallow soils over nearly impervious layer (s).

Both Drainage and Earth Reinforcement Can Be ****** Important in HSG A and B



Cut & fill section

Either infiltrating road runoff or seepage from blocked road ditch can saturate and destabilize road fill.



Through fill section

Granitic soils with little or no cohesion are very susceptible to surficial and seepage erosion

Root Strength - Geotechnical Benefits of Vegetation ***

- Root Reinforcement – roots mechanically reinforce a soil by transfer of shear stress in the soil to tensile resistance in the roots
 - Roots tensile strengths have been measured.
 - Strength becomes cumulative with time
 - Shrub roots have tensile strengths equivalent to trees
 - Grasses with fine, fibrous roots have high tensile strength and superior pullout resistance.
- Buttressing and Arching – Anchored and embedded stems can act as “buttress piles” or arch abutments to counteract downslope shear forces.

Geotechnical Benefits of Vegetation ***

Root Reinforcement

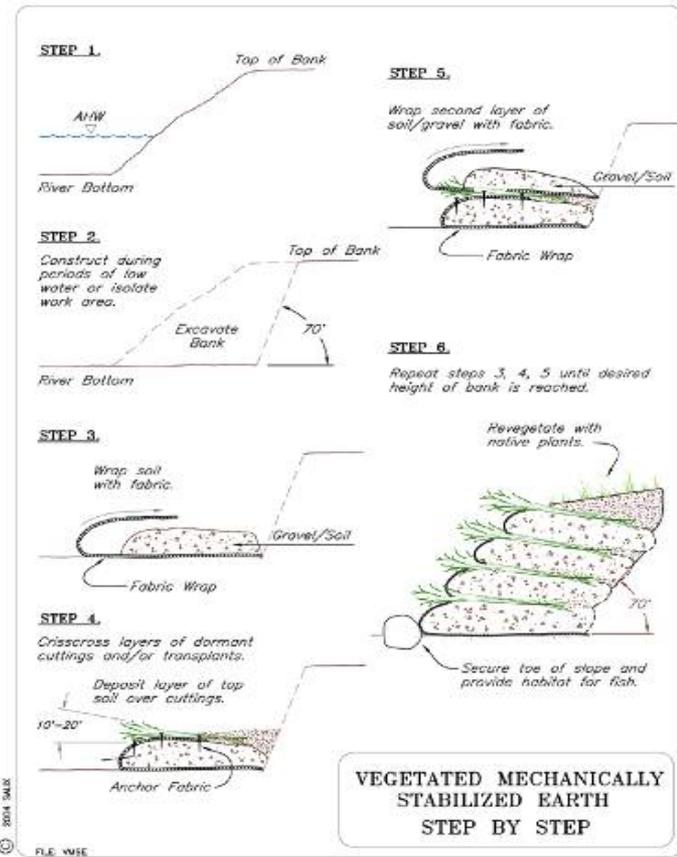
- These roots have grown in less than 1 yr!



Over **100'** of root in **9** months from **one** stake

During Construction vs Post Construction ***

- **Integrated Approach** – Installed during construction. Integrating structural and vegetative components in a mutually-reinforcing manner
- **Revegetation approach** – Installed post-construction.



Example of a Biotechnical Approach ***

Vegetative and structural components working in a mutually reinforcing manner



Brushlayering helps to both reinforce and drain slopes **

Figure 5.58 - Groundwater moves downslope above restrictive soil layers. Seeps are seen in road cuts where the restrictive layer is exposed. Increased soil water that occurs above restrictive layers can increase slope instability.

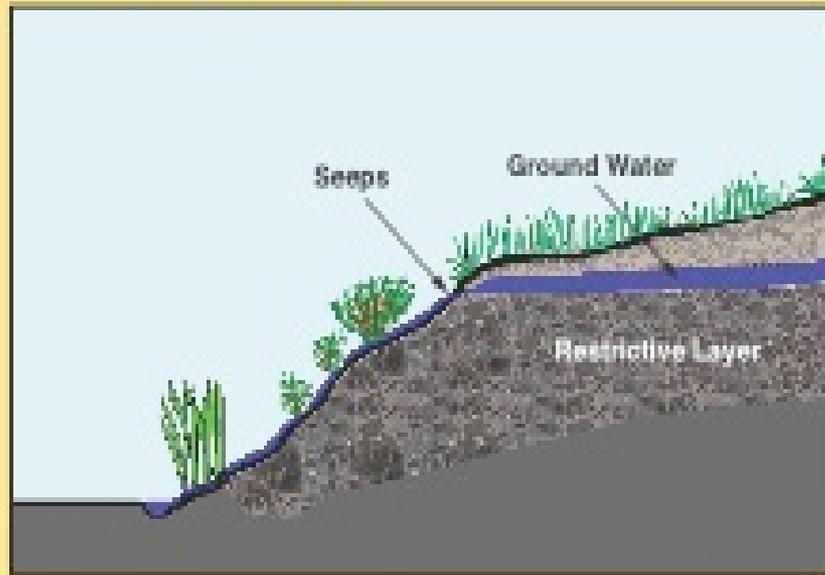
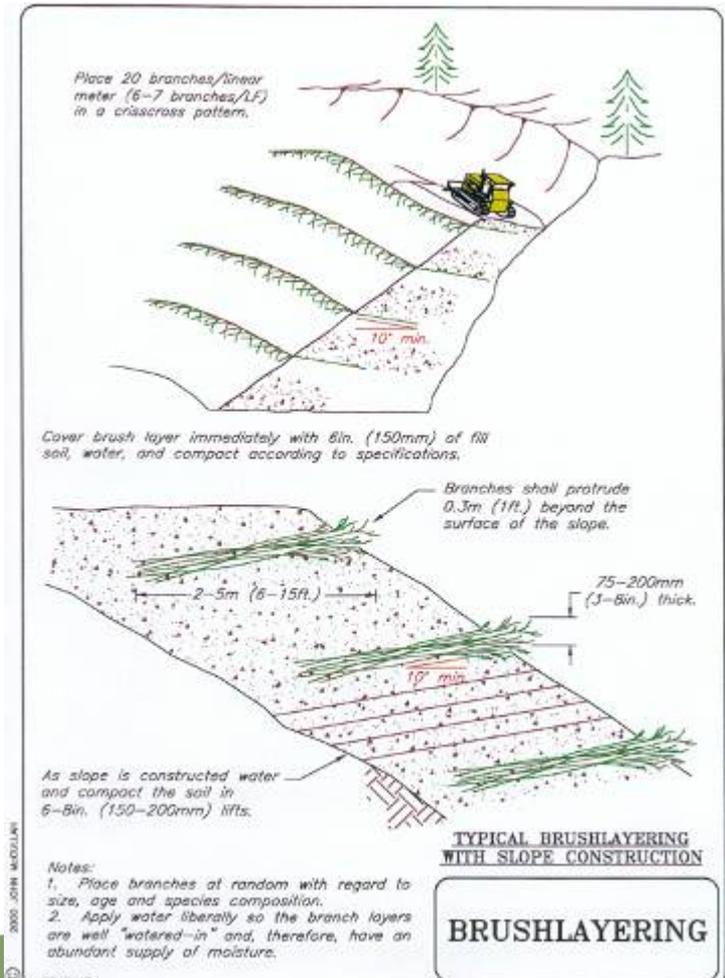


Figure 5.57 - In this photograph, a restrictive layer is very close to the soil surface. During a rain storm, water moved through the shallow soil layer and encountered a restrictive layer. Water then moved downslope, building up pressure, until the increased pore pressure and soil weight exceeded the strength of the soil to resist these forces. At this point, mid to lower slopes failed.





- Slope #2 biotechnical slope reinforcement method



- Brushlayering was installed in September.
- Temperatures were over 100°
- Branches were not soaked (5-10 days current recommendation)
- Watering fill for compaction probably aided survival



Successional Restoration is Sustainable



2008 (after 16 years)

Mechanical Approach **

Engineered Solution for Improved Shear Strength

- Required when vegetation alone cannot stabilize slope
- This should include some vegetation component
- Yields: Full stability and Revegetation upon installation



Adding Organics *

Many ways to add organic materials

- Duff/Topsoil
- Mulch
- Compost
- Organic Fertilizers
- Mychorrizeae fungi
- Soil microorganisms



Mycorrhizal Fungi – Endo / Arbuscular Mycorrhizae

- AM Fungi availability imperative for native grass establishment



*Mychorrizaes Inoculums
\$200 per bag*



Steep Slope Solutions

Advanced BMPs

- BMP Selection Process
- RECP Wrap
- RECP Flap
- Brush Layering
- Stepped Slopes
- Soil Filled RSP

Other Steep Slope Options

Proceed with



Steep Slopes Solutions

Advanced BMPs

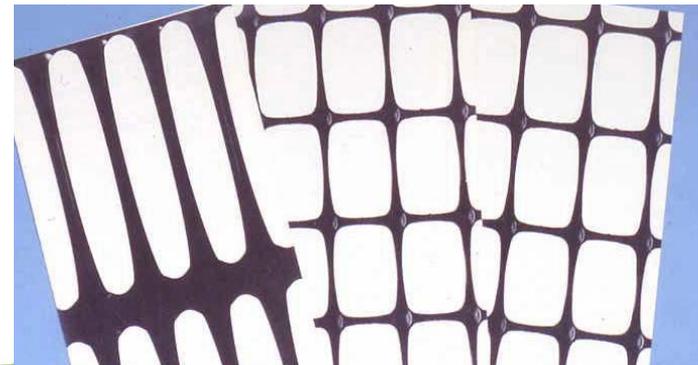
Best Management Practice	Specification
RECP Wrap (For Fills)	SSP Under Development
RECP Flap (For Cuts & Fills)	SSP Under Development
Brush Layering	Nonstandard Specification
Stepped Slopes (For Cuts)	SSP Section 19 Earthwork HDM (Chapter 300 Topic 304.5)
Rock Slope Protection (RSP) with Soil	Nonstandard Specification

* **R**olled **E**rosion **C**ontrol **P**roduct

Steep Slope Solutions

RECP Wrap Materials

- Netting – Biodegradable Coconut (**Coir Netting**)
- Erosion Control Blankets (**ECBs**)
 - Temporary or Permanent
 - Biodegradable filler
 - Not as strong or durable
- Turf Reinforcement Mats (**TRMs**)
 - TRMs have a permanent component (Polypropylene)
 - TRMs have higher strengths
- Alternative using polymeric **Geogrid** as wrap component



Steep Slope Solutions

Coir Netting:

400 g/m² **

- Large openings, can be hydroseeded
- Not too strong, degrades 1-3 yrs*

700 g/m²

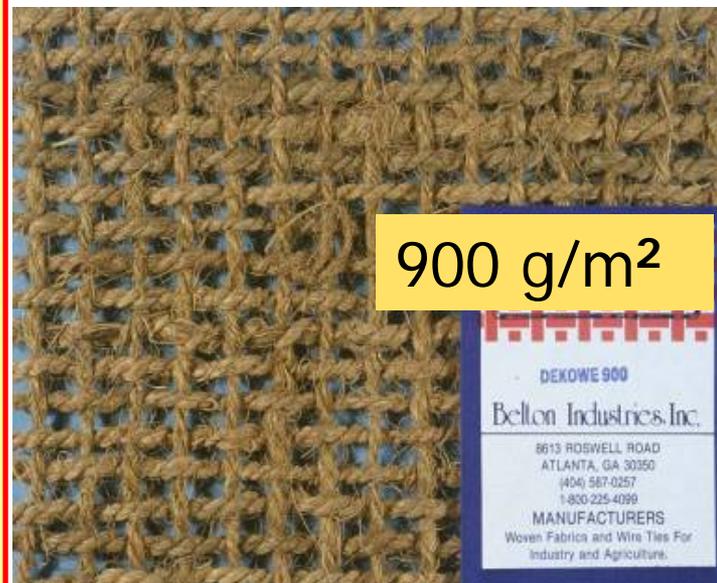
- Medium strength , degrades 2-5 yrs*

900 g/m²

- Small openings, cannot be hydroseeded
- High shear strength, degrades 4-10 yrs *
- Specified for RECP Wrap

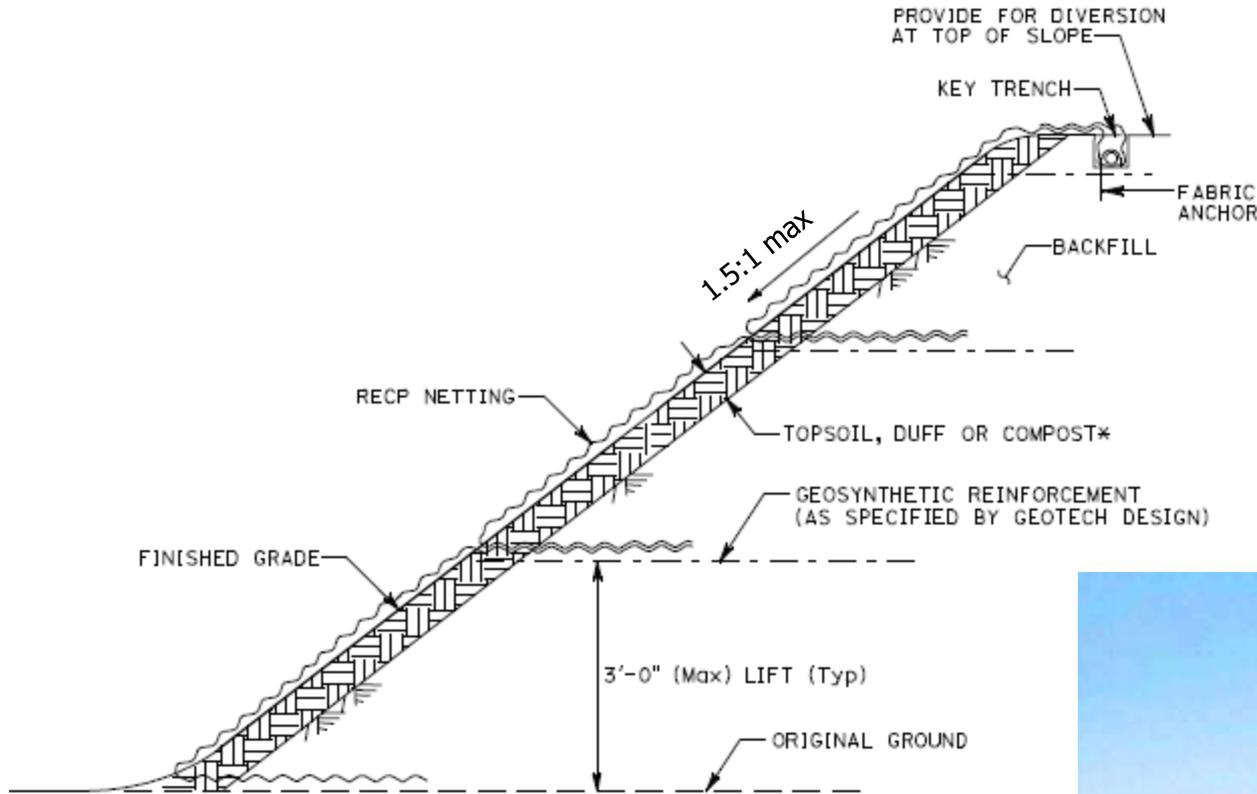
- ** Stronger and more durable than jute
- * Biodegradation rate dependant on climate, soil microbes, etc.

RECP Wrap Materials



Steep Slopes Solutions (Advanced BMPs)

RECP Wrap



* DIMENSIONS TO BE SPECIFIED

DISCLAIMER: THIS TYPICAL SECTION IS SCHEMATIC ONLY AND CAN NOT BE USED IN A CONTRACT DOCUMENT. THE SCALE, KEY DIMENSIONS AND OTHER CRITICAL DETAILS HAVE PURPOSELY BEEN OMITTED.



Steep Slope Solutions

RECP Wrap Materials



- Using biaxial geogrid
- Planted with grasses

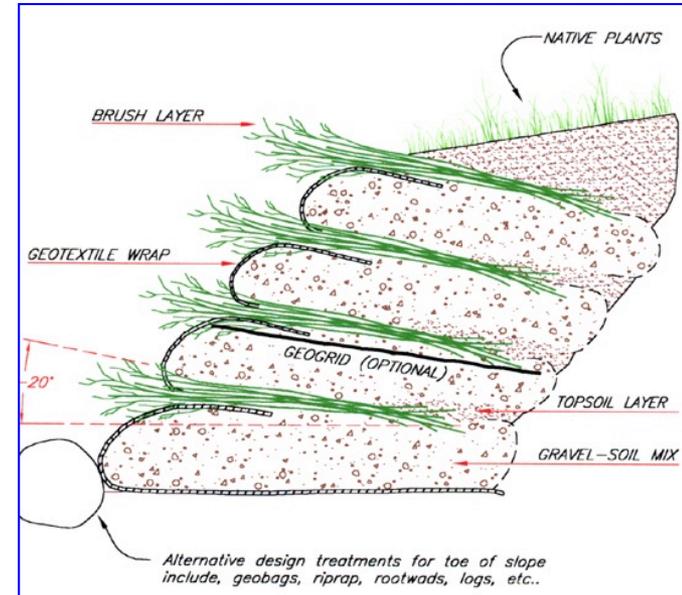
Need method to pull wrap tight or build form or ??



Steep Slope Solutions

RECP Wrap – Case Study

- Slope failure of road fill
- A “coconut composite” *
TRM was selected for reinforcement and wrap
- * 3-layers high tensile, permanent polypropylene with biodegradable coir “filler” to hold moisture for seeds



Steep Slope Solutions

RECP Wrap – Case Study

4' vertical lifts with
brushlayering

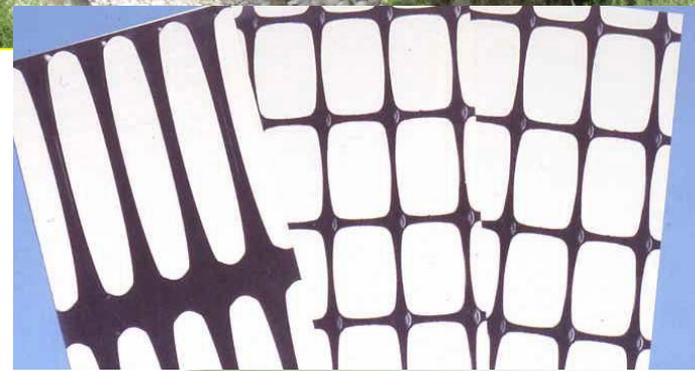
Geotextile was placed
atop brushlayers

Compaction achieved by
track walking



Highway 330 to Big Bear – RECP Wrap w Geogrid

Approx 2007



Hwy 330 – San Bernardino

RECP Wrap – Case Study – Wire Mesh Reinforced section (upper) and Soil Flap Section (lower)



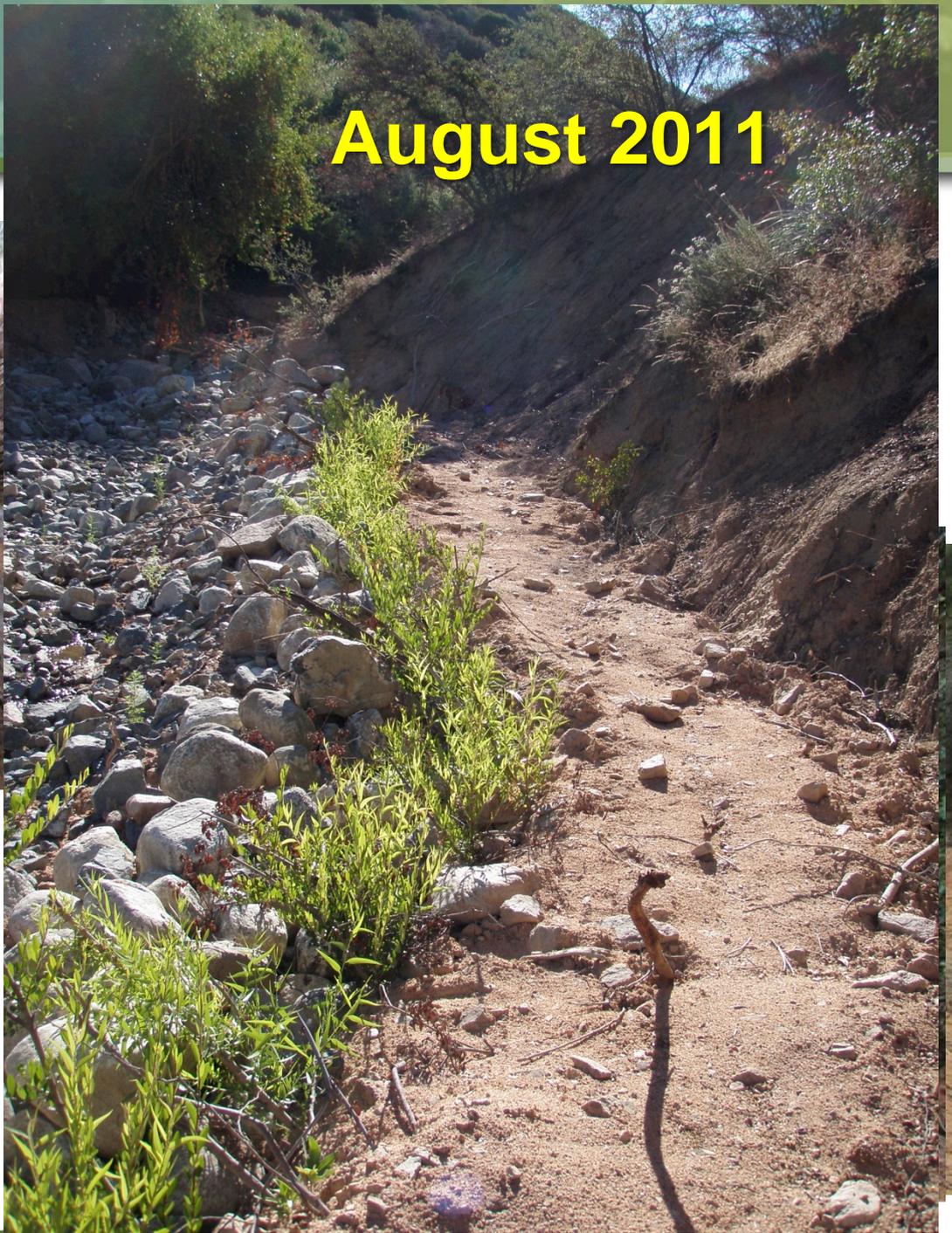
- Estimated 60K CY failed, SKANSKA removed 15K CY.



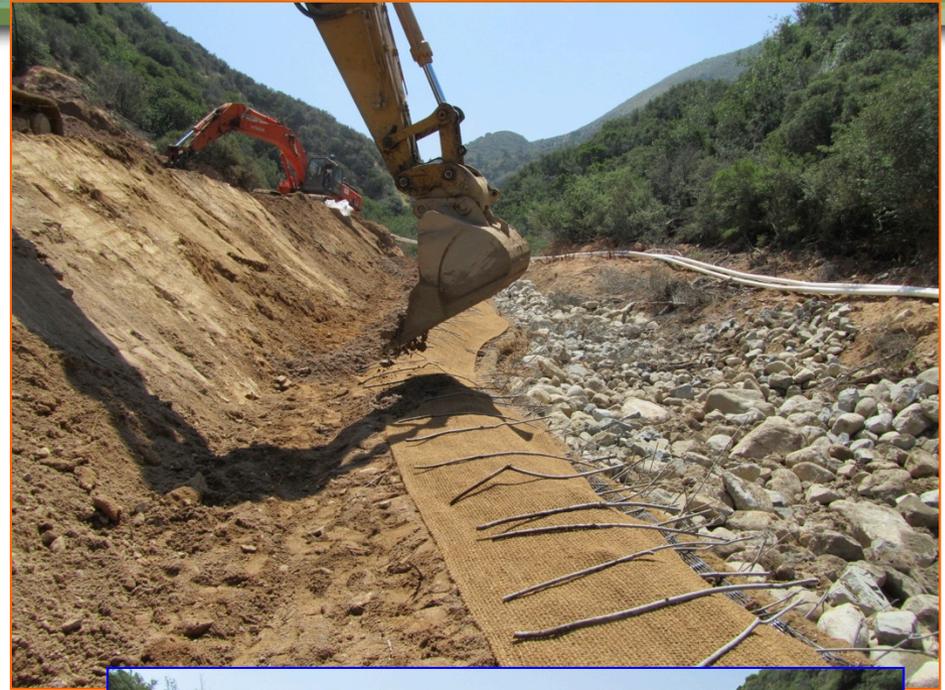
May 2011



August 2011

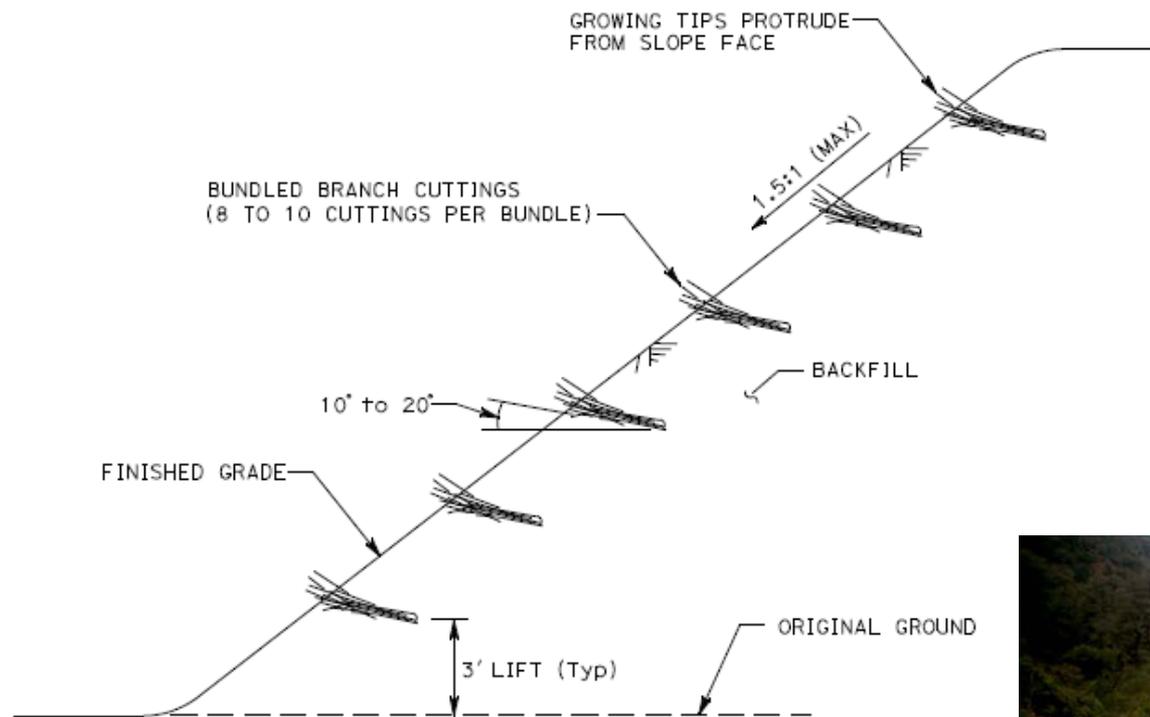


RECP Flap / Geogrid / Brushlayering





Steep Slope Solutions



Brush Layering

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Steep Slope Solutions

Brush Layering – SHA 299, 1991

- Installed in September.
- Temperatures over 100°
- Branches were not soaked (5-10 days current recommendation)
- Watering aided survival





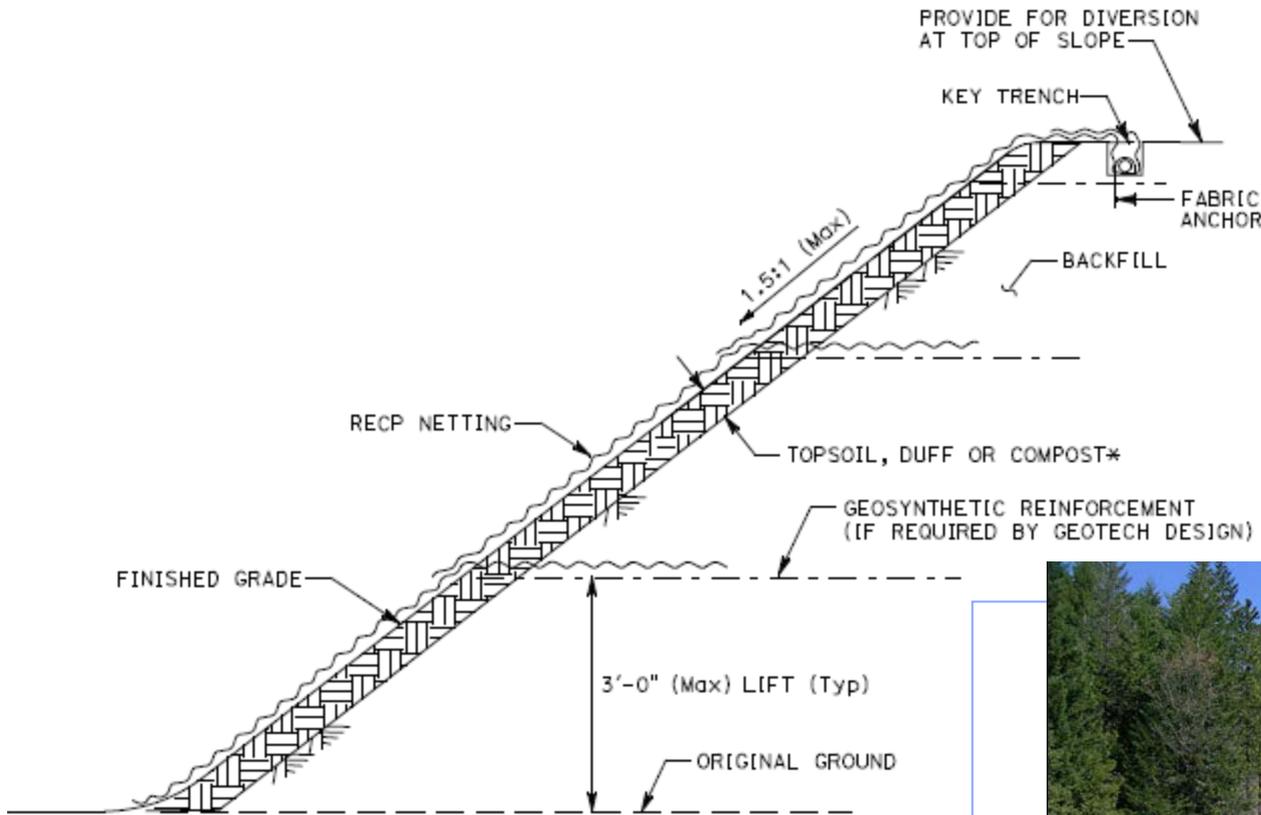
**VENTURA
HIGHWAY So. CA
16" avg. annual
rainfall**

After 2 years

**After
6
years**



Steep Slope Solutions



* DIMENSIONS TO BE SPECIFIED

DISCLAIMER: THIS TYPICAL SECTION IS SCHEMATIC ONLY AND CAN NOT BE USED IN A CONTRACT DOCUMENT. THE SCALE, KEY DIMENSIONS AND OTHER CRITICAL DETAILS HAVE PURPOSELY BEEN OMITTED.

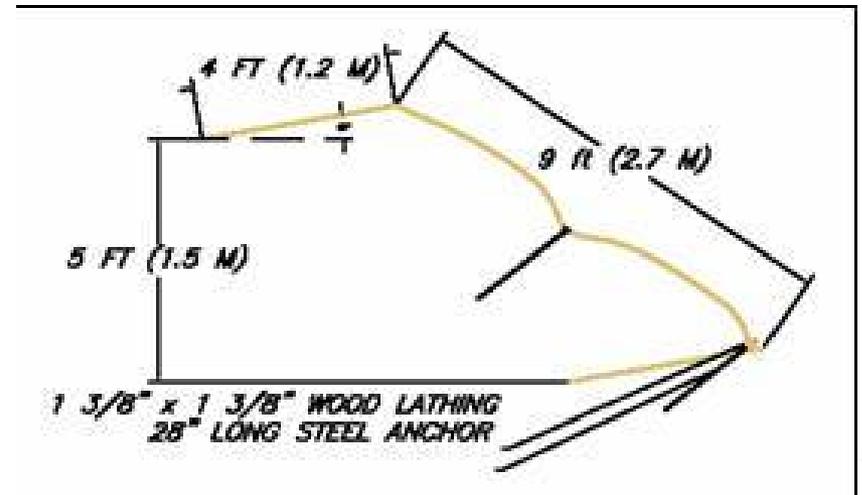
REC P Flap





ESenSS

RECP Flap



RECP Flap



Mixing soil and compost



Spreading compost



Laying coir blanket



Lift construction























JUL 3 2006

Coastal Bluff Repair Santa Cruz, California

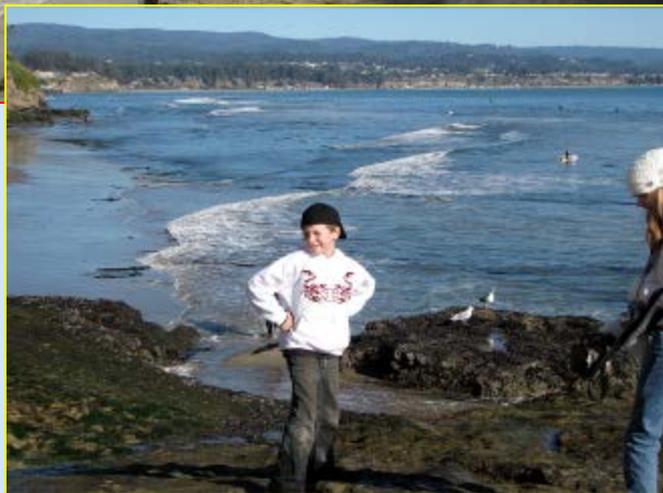


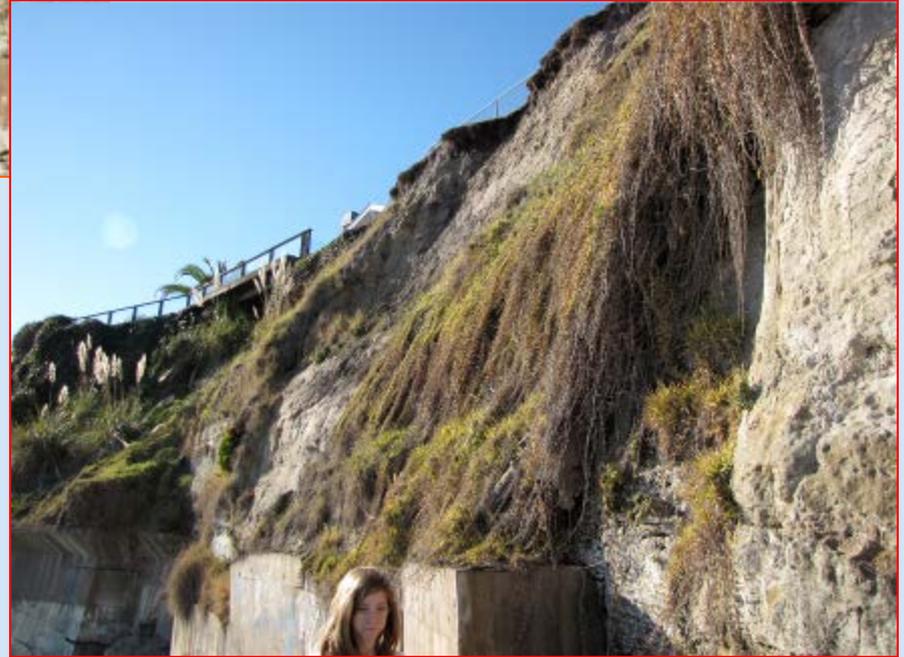
John McCullah

President

Salix Applied Earthcare LLC

Pleasure Point



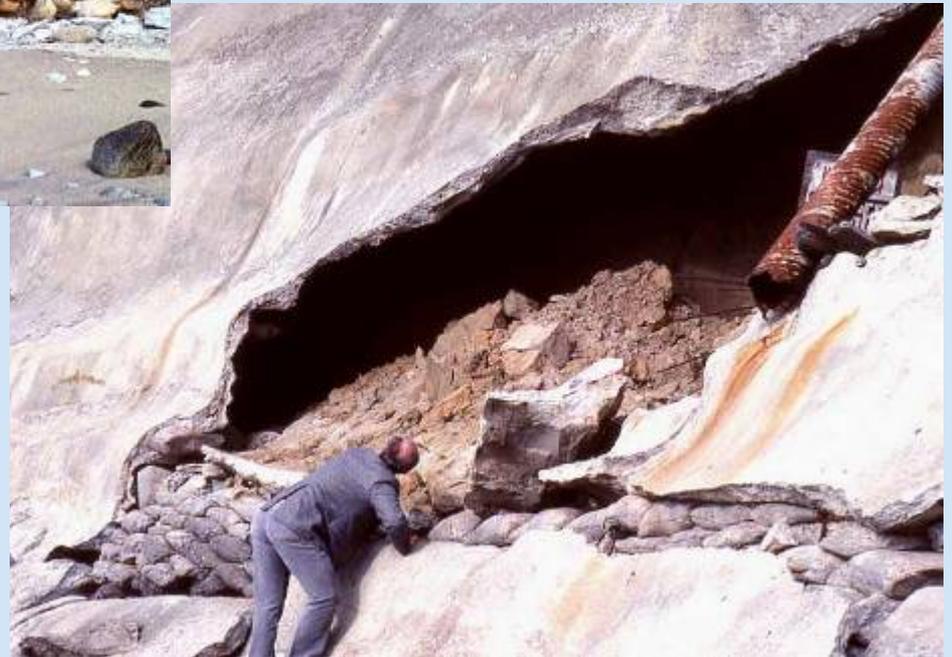


How Not to Repair Coastal Bluff



<---failed concrete (gunnite)
protective curtain

Curtain was blown out as a result of unrelieved pore-water pressure build up in bluff behind curtain



Eroded Bluff (before repair)



<---looking South towards
Monterey Bay



looking North along coast--->

Bluff Repair Sequence



Preparing to install (drape)
Enka mat over bluff face

Enka Mat anchored 1' oc



Anchoring (“nailing”) Enka mat to bluff face



<---Enka mat anchored to bluff face







While willow stakes were cut Alex takes a nap! Notice willow, 35 yrs old, on neighbors cliff



Installing Willow Stakes



Inserting (tamping)--->
live cuttings thru
mat into bluff face



Bluff Repair Sequence (cont)



- Flexterra @ 4000# /ac
- Native Grass seeds (Maritime)
- Jumpstart (Profile) humic acid
- BioPrime (Profile) mychorrizeae,

Applying (spraying) hydroseed solution to bluff face ----->



Green Armor System



Spraying hydro mulch--->
over (& thru) Enka mat





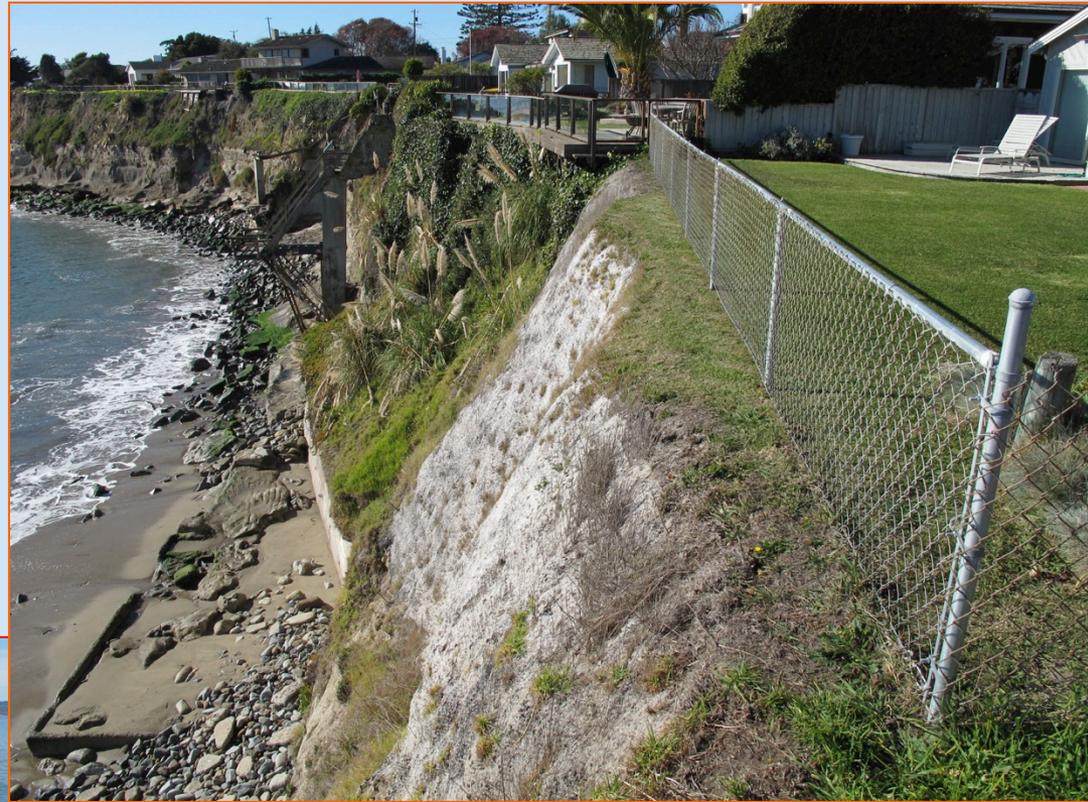
7" rain in the first week after construction



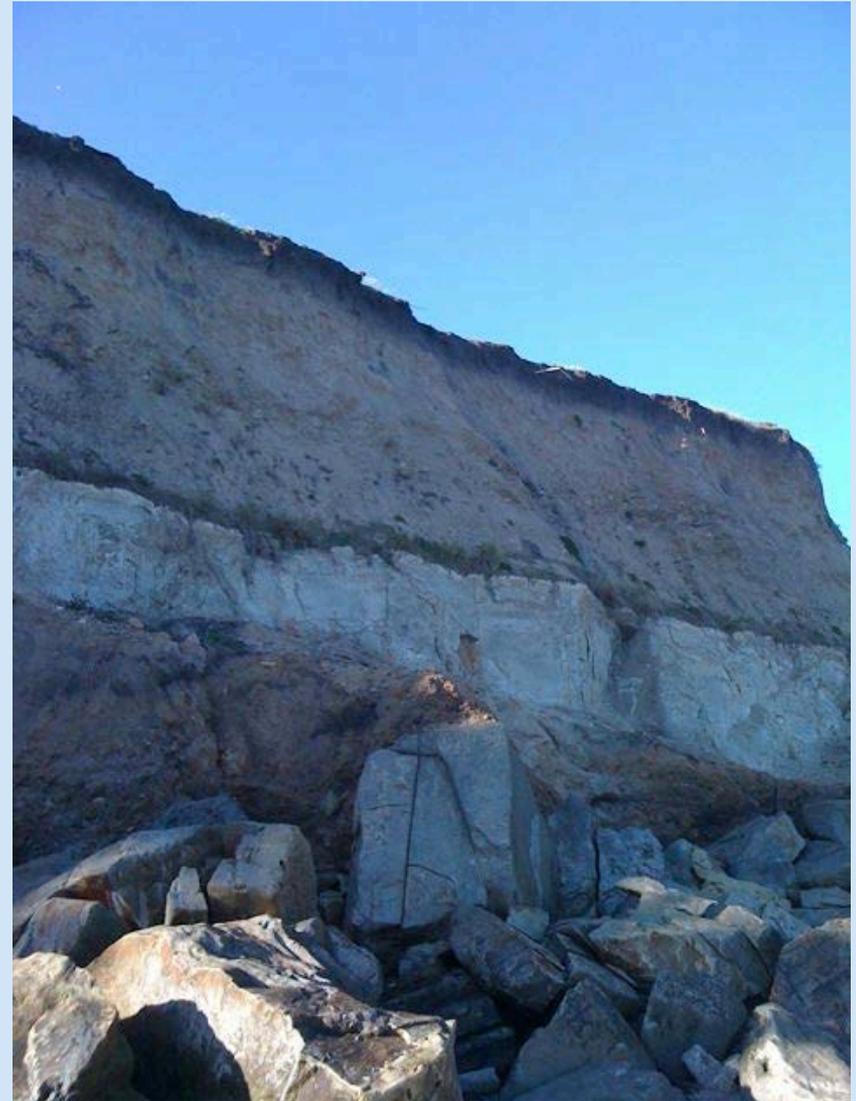
1st Month



After 1 year



November 2009





After 2 year

East Cliff Drive up coast prepares for \$\$million fix, soil nails





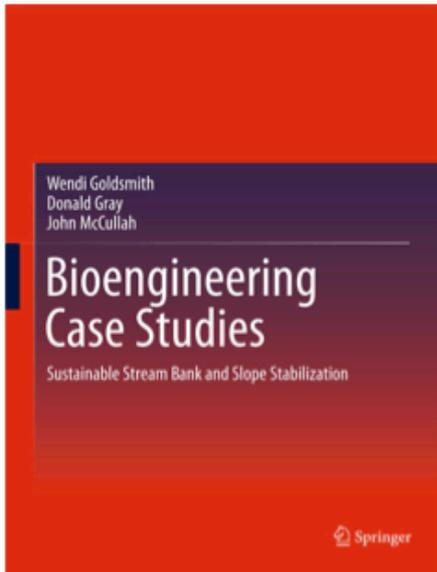
Jack O'Neills House







More at [Dirttime.tv](https://dirttime.tv) archive
or in **Bioengineering Case Studies**



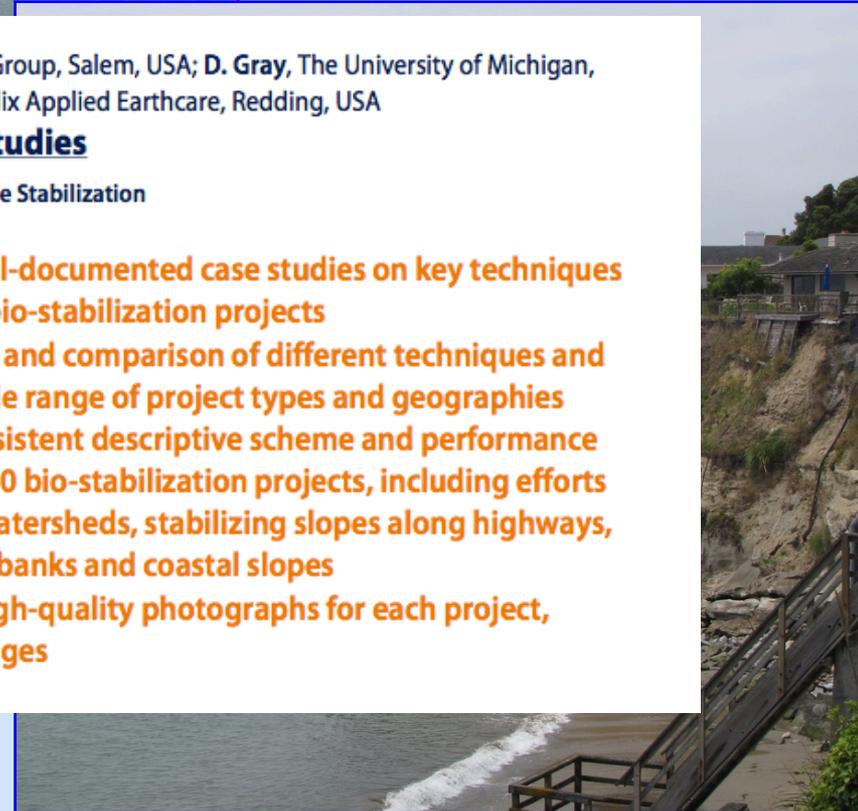
W. Goldsmith, Bioengineering Group, Salem, USA; D. Gray, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA; J. McCullah, Salix Applied Earthcare, Redding, USA

Bioengineering Case Studies

Sustainable Stream Bank and Slope Stabilization

- ▶ **Presents a range of well-documented case studies on key techniques and best practices for bio-stabilization projects**
- ▶ **Emphasizes evaluation and comparison of different techniques and challenges across a wide range of project types and geographies**
- ▶ **Adopts a clear and consistent descriptive scheme and performance evaluation rubrics for 30 bio-stabilization projects, including efforts protecting/repairing watersheds, stabilizing slopes along highways, and protecting stream banks and coastal slopes**
- ▶ **Features four to five high-quality photographs for each project, totaling nearly 150 images**

2014, X, 202 p. 241 illus., 85 illus. in color.



<https://dirttime.tv/2014-8-9-project-opal-cliffs-chapter-from-bioengineering-case-studies-html/>

Root Architecture and Types



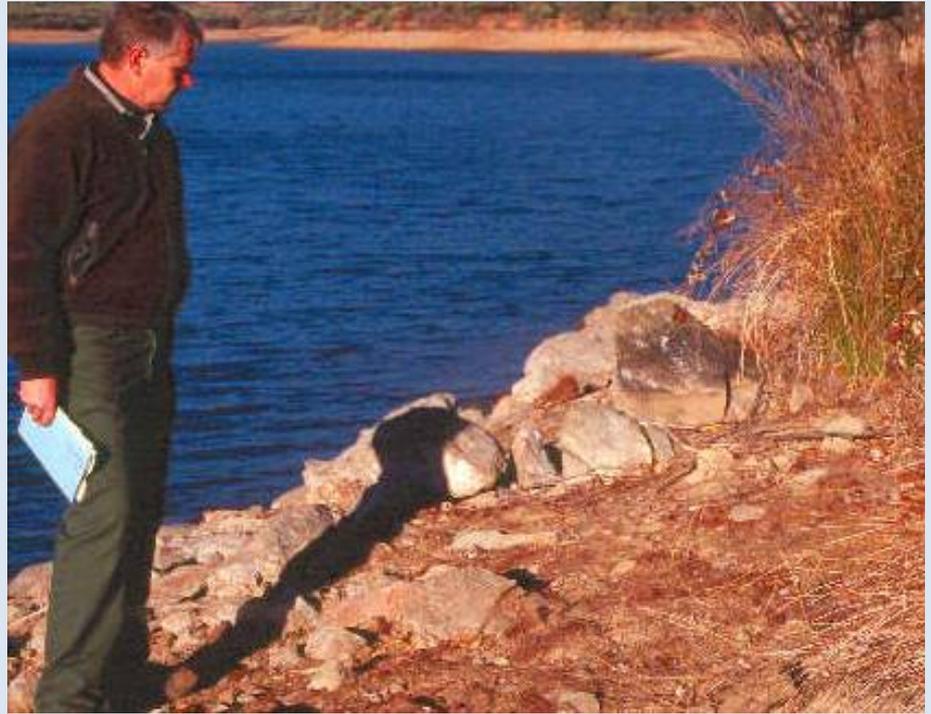


Sand dune permeated by roots of woody dune vegetation. Roots reinforce the soil and increase the coherence and stability of sandy slopes.

Fine red willow roots exposed on streambank and streambed, often seen after high flows wash gravels away.

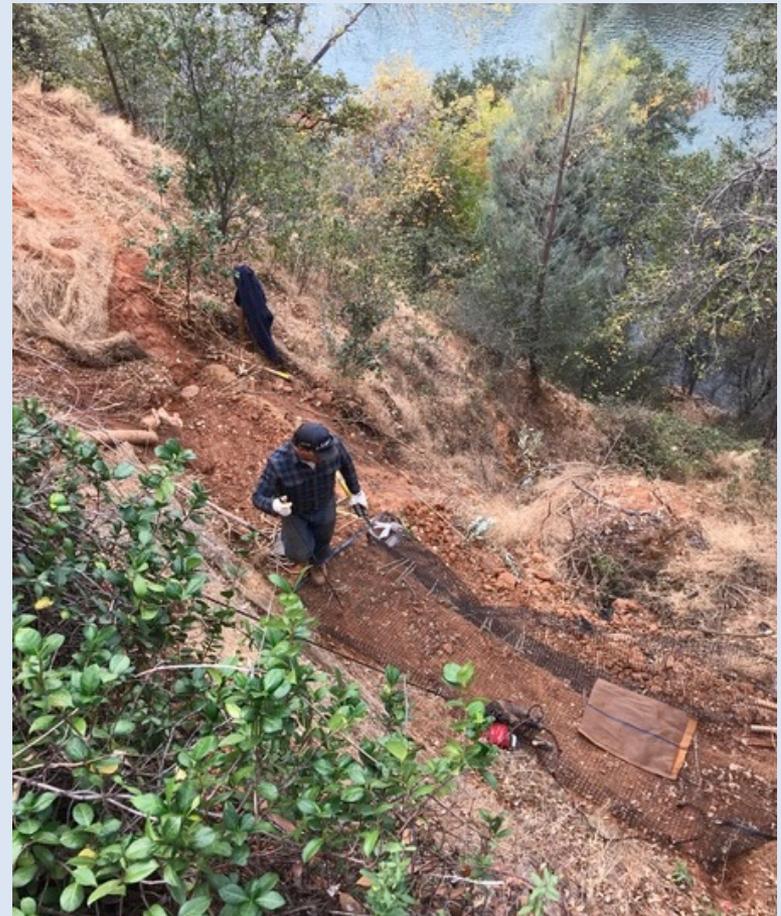


Willow Roots

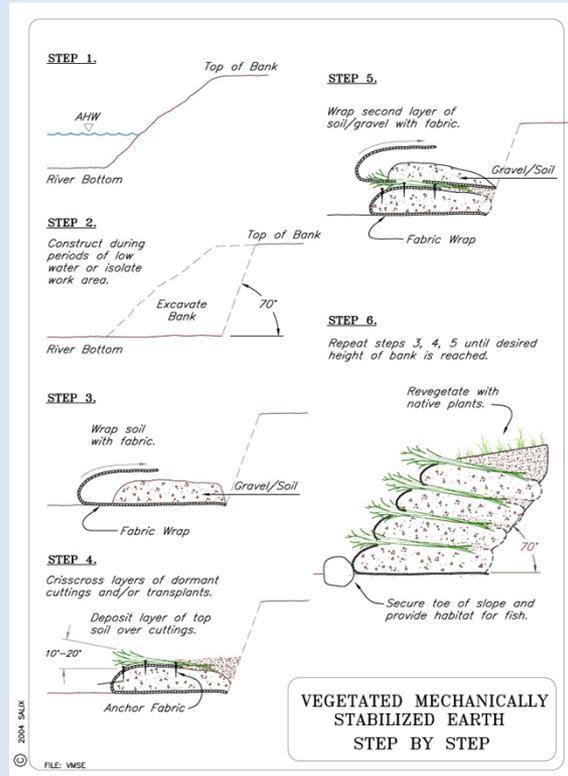
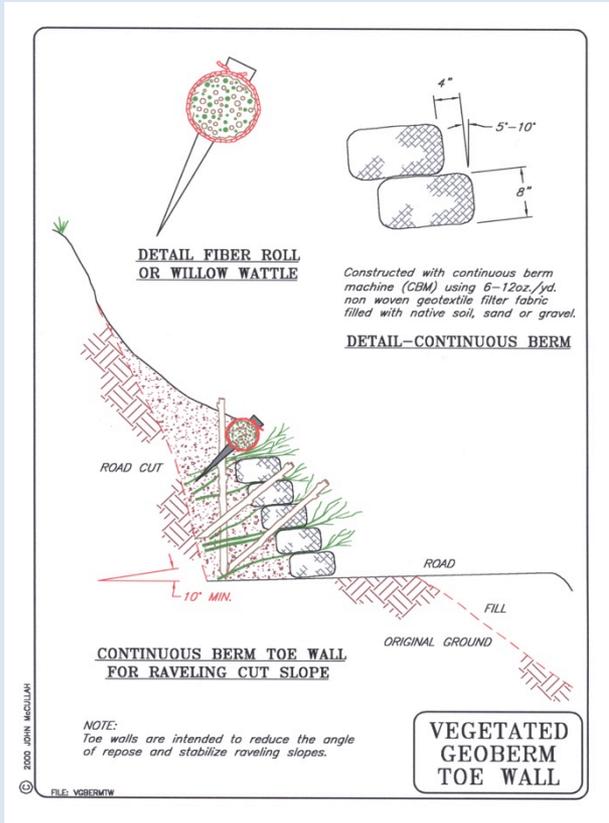


BLUFFS Project - high bank to Sacramento River

Root reinforcement knowledge was utilized in developing design criteria for this current project.

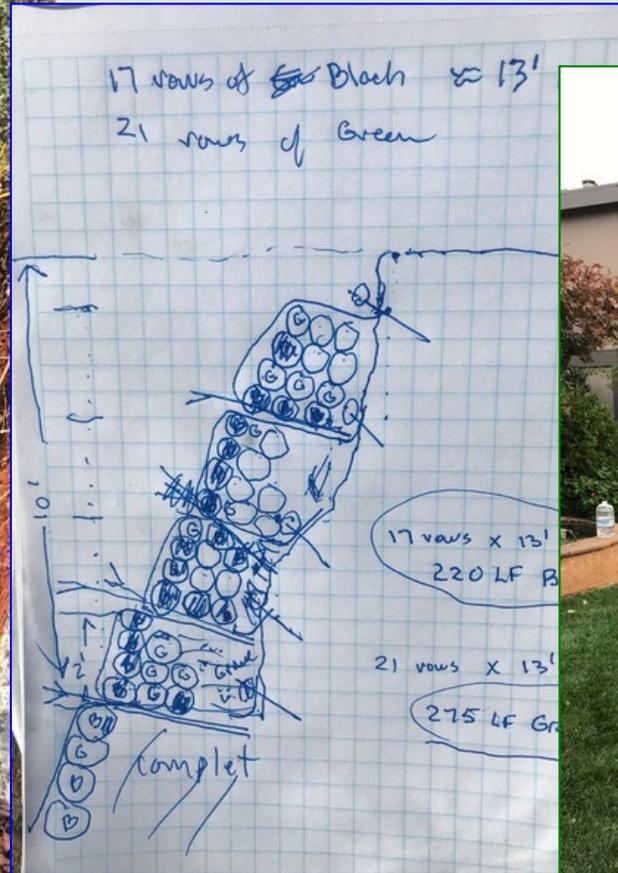
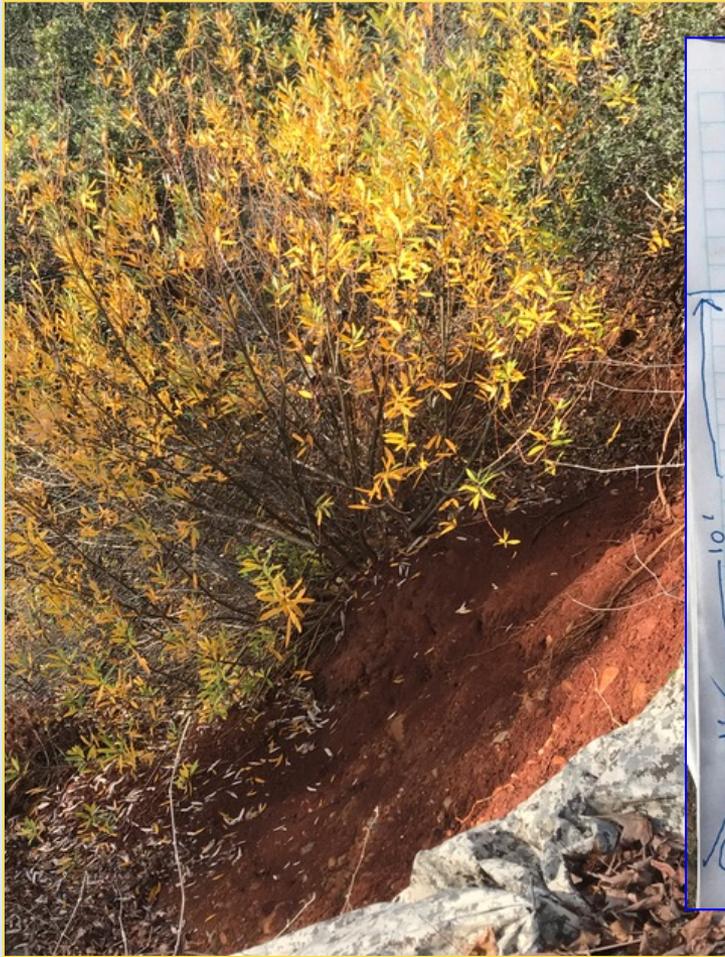


Bluffs - VMSE Design considerations



Had experience designing and building similar gravity-type, VMSE toe walls before

Bluffs -SITE Factors and LIMITATIONS



Willow and native grasses exist nearby! "Reference Site Concept"

Very steep and access by hand labor and wheelbarrow only

Bluffs VMSE Contd.



Two courses of Coir Logs w/
Brushlayering was used at base.



Bluffs VMSE Contd.



Biaxial Geogrid added for structural reinforcement



Gripple Anchor System used to tieback geogrid to slope - 500 lbs. working strength

Bluffs VMSE Contd.



3.5 days w/ 3 workers



Bluffs VMSE Contd.



Elymus glaucus - Blue Wildrye



Nassella pulchra - Purple needlegrass

Bluffs VMSE Contd. Root Reinforcement

The image shows three terracotta pots containing grass plants. The plants are arranged from left to right. The first pot on the left has a label that reads 'Mycorrhiza added at seeding'. The middle pot has a label that reads 'Mycorrhiza added at week 3'. The third pot on the right has a label that reads 'No mycorrhiza added'. A wooden stake is visible in the middle pot. The plants in the first two pots appear slightly denser than the one in the third pot.

Mycorrhiza added at seeding

Mycorrhiza added at week 3

No mycorrhiza added

AM Mychorrizaes -
Glomus. AM120

Hyphae network on
immature plant

Bluffs VMSE Contd.



Bluffs VMSE Contd.



July 2019







