



HIGHWAY 17 EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL

Project Description

The project will stabilize the existing cut slope adjacent and above the southbound lanes of SR 17 to reduce sediment discharge into the Carbonera Creek and the San Lorenzo River Watershed. This project will help achieve compliance with the requirements identified by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Environmental Protection Agency's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit program.

Project Features

Invasive and Native Vegetation Removal

The non-native invasive acacia trees, which have shallow roots, top-heavy canopy, and expose loose soil when they fall, will be removed and planted with native trees, shrubs and erosion control. Some native trees, removed along the slope due to poor stability, will be replanted with native trees.

Drainage System Upgrades

Existing damaged concrete gutters along the slope will be replaced with new permeable drains that will flow into underground down pipes, which guard against erosion by safely removing water from the slope and into the drainage systems at natural depressions.

Rock Slope Protection

Rock slope protection, rock placed on the surface of the soil to protect against water erosion, will be placed on top of the buried drainage down pipes in natural depressions.

Erosion Prevention

Erosion control blanket, made from coconut fibers, will be used to stabilize and protect the disturbed soils from rainfall and soil erosion, to promote the growth of native hydroseed erosion control and vegetation establishment and to reduce sediment discharge.

Soil Stabilization

Low-visibility wire mesh will be attached to the slope to hold soil in place, manage erosion, allow native seed and vegetation to grow and natural seepage to occur through the mesh.

Native Vegetation

Native grasses along with willow bundles and willow cuttings will be planted along the slopes at the natural drainage depressions. Native shrubs and trees will be planted above the slopes to revegetate the areas where the acacia trees are to be removed.

Vegetation maintenance

Control of invasive vegetation and the establishment of planted native erosion control, shrubs and trees will provide a natural native appearance to the project site after revegetation.



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Environmental Document

The environmental study is currently under review and scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2014. The Caltrans study determined that the proposed project would not have significant adverse environmental impacts.

Construction Information

Periodic southbound closures in the right lane of Highway 17 will occur. Work may occur during either day or night. Construction will take place within Caltrans' right-of way and on an access road at the top of the slope.

**CONSTRUCTION COST ESTIMATE/SCHEDULE:
\$7.4 million**

Construction – Fall 2016

Invasive vegetation removal, demolition and reconstruction of slope and drainage improvements, erosion control, and 1yr plant establishment and invasive plant species control.

Complete Construction & Begin Plant Establishment– Spring 2018

Native tree and shrub mitigation replacement planting and 3yr plant establishment.

Complete 3yr Plant Establishment – Spring 2021

View of existing slope

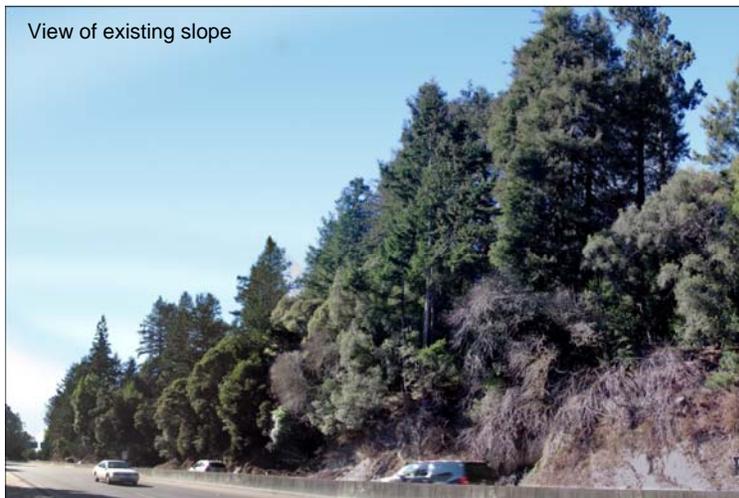
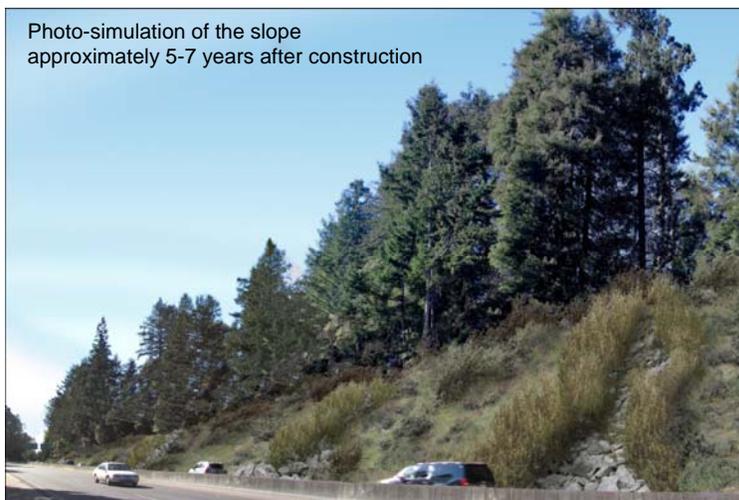


Photo-simulation of the slope approximately 5-7 years after construction



These images show the existing and proposed views of the slope on the southern portion (above) and the northern portion (left).

View of existing slope



Photo-simulation of the slope approximately 5-7 years after construction



ADDITIONAL PROJECT INFORMATION

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