## Micro Pile and Rock Anchor Wall Construction

Anson McCook and Boris Irahola Western Bridge Engineers Seminar September 2009

#### Accomplishments

Awards received for this project include,

- "Exceptional Award" in the Transportation Category from the Western Council of Construction Consumers.
- " Capella Award" from the PRSA-CEIC Polaris Awards for the Upper Ortega, SR 74 public outreach program.
- "Partnering Award" in the transportation category.





## Historic Culvert



#### SCOPE

- Culverts were down rated from significant historic culverts to historic culverts.
- Change from viaducts to retaining walls.
- Save time
- Save money
- Improved safety for motorists

## Project Challenges



Bedrock and harddecomposed granite ground.
Tight access for equipment.
Appropriate equipment
Environmental constraints
Permit requirements
Construction administration



#### ENVIRONMENTAL

Environmentally Sensitive Area
Migratory Birds
Arroyo Toad
Fire Safety Plan



## Permit Requirements

US Forest Service
Reg. Water Quality
US Army Corps of Engineers
Archeological

Monitoring



#### Project Solutions



Equipment innovation
 Partnering.
 Environmental constraint management

#### CALTRANS DESIGN ORTEGA HIGHWAY





## MICROPILE RESOURCE

#### FHWA Micropile Design and Construction Guidelines



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- Change environmental permit.
- Change Order to change from viaduct to retaining wall.
- Shore culvert.
- Retrofit culvert
- Construct Retaining Walls
- Monitor culvert.

## Culvert Retroili





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# MICROPILES

Definition and Description
Construction Techniques & Type
Contract Administration
Testing

#### MICROPILES BASIC TYPES

Displacement pile
Driven or vibrated into the ground
Displacing the soil laterally during installation
Replacement pile
Placed in a drilled borehole
Replacing excavated ground

## MICROPILES EQUIPMENT



## MICROPILE DRILLING TECHNIQUES



#### MICROPILE DRILLING





#### WHY MICROPILES?

Difficult Access ■ Low Headroom Environmental Constraints Installed in all Soils Types Minimal Disturbance Structures ■ Soil Environment

















# Uniteel eliqoration

 Proof Test
 Cooperative Venture (Contractor & FTB)



## **Quitzel eonsmotrel**



## Verify Conceptual Design Test to Geotechnical Failure

## **Proof Testing**

QA Verification
Service Load Testing
2 or 10%
Random



## Rock Anchor Walls





# **Dulling Solution**



# Drilling



## Rock Anchor Capacity



- Soil characteristics
- Density
- Anchor rod diameter and length
- Hole diameter
- # grout stages and grout pressure

#### Submittal Reviews

Testing details:
Test setup & loading frame Info.
Test equipment calibration
Bonded tieback dimensions
Theoretical anchor elongation

stimouz



## Material Inspection & Release

Anchor Heads
HS rod
Bearing plates
Inspection documents



## Centralizers and Spacers









## Rock Anchor vs Tieback Testing

2 to 5 % are Tested

100% are tested

 Verification Test
 validates installation and geotech criteria

Proof Test - validates product. nail capability Proof Test - validates product.

Performance test

## Types of Rock Anchor Testing

- Verification
- Proof Test
  - Cycle Loading
  - Load Carrying Capacity
  - Correct Unbonded Length
  - Rate of creep stabilizes within specified time







#### Test Loads:

Loading as specified within the Special Provisions Test load,  $M = \pi * D * L_b * \sigma_b * F.S.$  where:

- σ<sub>b</sub> = ultimate bond stress
 • provided within General Notes in Plans

D = drilled hole diameter for test nail
L<sub>b</sub> = actual bonded length
F.S. = factor of safety for pullout = 1.5

Test Load	Hold Time
AL (0.10T)	Until Stable
.20T	2 min.
.40T	2 min.
.60T	2 min.
.80T	2 min.
1.0 T (Creep Test)	60 min. (10 min. PT)
1.25 T	2 min.
1.50 T	10 min. (2 min. PT)
AL	Until Stable



Be safe around drilling and stressing operations!

# **Environmental**

Water Quality



#### ⇒ Air Quality



