



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Jessica Kopach
ChristieCommunications
805-969-3744
jkopach@christiecomm.com

Ron Kutch
West Coast Contractors
541-267-7689
rkutch@westcoastcontractors.com

West Coast Contractors Receives Accolades for Road Work

Oregon-based contractor finishes the Sweet Creek Road Retaining Wall project

COOS BAY, OREGON – MAY 2013 – In the past seven years, West Coast Contractors (www.westcoastcontractors.com) of Coos Bay, OR has worked with the Lane County Public Works Department on three major public improvement projects. With WCC serving as the prime contractor for each, the projects have included the Coyote Creek Bridge Structure Repair, Bryce Creek Road Slide Repair, and most recently the Sweet Creek Road Retaining Wall project. The Sweet Creek Road project came with a high degree of difficulty that WCC completed within nine months. The Lane County Public Works Department had justifiable praise for the way WCC took on the challenges that arose during the duration of the project, Construction Services Manager for Lane County, David Brown, comments, “WCC, along with their entire team of subcontractors and suppliers, are to be commended for delivering an outstanding project to the citizens of Lane County.”

Founded more than fifty years ago, WCC has grown into one of the premier marine and heavy construction contractor companies in the Pacific Northwest. With a full line of heavy equipment and some of the most highly trained engineers and project crews in the region, WCC has demonstrated success in many project completions. The Sweet Creek Road project has been no exception. The area of roadway in question, which lies within a few feet of a bend in the Siuslaw River, had faced major weather damage and deterioration over many years. A quarter-mile length of this two lane road had one of the lanes slip into the river, which had severely limited traffic flow to residents, Forest Service, and lumber companies which rely on its connection to nearby Highway 126.

The initial replacement project planned for the installation of two tieback retaining walls that were to be connected with a 243 foot long concrete bridge. However, over the course of the project this design transformed into one with a bridge that has the current length of 1,130 feet. Surveying of the site prompted WCC to present the Lane County Government with a plan that would instead incorporate replacing the deepest sections of one of the retaining walls with another concrete bridge that would better withstand future flooding. After the plan was accepted and excavation of the remaining portions of the retaining wall began, the subsurface bedrock beneath the site was more difficult to manage than was originally anticipated.

WCC’s project design and construction teams came to the decision that due to the highly differing site conditions, it would be impractical to continue with the installation of retaining walls because the pile embedment would provide insufficient support for the forces placed on the walls. As a result,



and to avoid any further issues with tieback wall design, the final plan connects the two bridge sections into a single 15 span bridge with two lanes.

Another major challenge that the WCC team faced was the narrow width of their workspace, and the need to keep at least one lane of roadway open to traffic. WCC was required to open the road to traffic for 5 minutes each hour during the day, while much of the drilling and excavation work was carried out during the full nighttime road closures. They were limited to work within a 24 foot wide corridor, having a solid rock cliff on one side, and the Siuslaw River on the other. The bridge was constructed in two phases; with the river side half being constructed first. To account for the major changes in the project's design, WCC worked closely with Lane County on the contract cost.

As the project enters its final stages, the Lane County Government couldn't be happier. David Brown goes onto say that, "[Lane] County looks forward to working again with WCC in the future... I highly recommend WCC for any public works project they feel they are qualified to perform."

About West Coast Contractors

Founded in 1962, WCC is a general contractor that specializes in heavy construction projects including bridges, harbors, marine facilities, and governmental work. WCC is renowned for construction jobs that are able to withstand severe weather conditions, and is a leader in developing environmentally sound procedures for sensitive locations. Clients include the U.S. Corps of Engineers, Coast Guard, states of Oregon and California, Chevron, NOAA, Roseburg Forest Products, and the Ports of Morrow, Newport and Coos Bay. Find more information visit www.westcoastcontractors.com or contact Lindsey Beedle at Christie Communications at lbeedle@christiecomm.com or via phone at 805.969.3697.