



East Cliff Drive, San Lorenzo Point Bluff Protection Santa Cruz, California

Civil and Structural Engineering



Mesiti-Miller Engineering together with Steve Sutherland of SSA Landscape Architects accepted the challenge to design a prominent reinforced earth retaining structure fronting the Pacific Ocean.

Because of our local experience and familiarity with the characteristics of the underlying geologic formation, we were able to reduce the height of the wall from 35' to 22', saving the City an estimated \$150,000 during construction. With concerns for creating an aesthetically pleasing design, we pushed and pulled the original monolithic wall into a gently undulating, terraced structure, mirroring the ebb and flow of the ocean-sculpted adjacent bluff and allowing space for plantation of native vegetation within the wall.

By selecting a facing material color to match the natural color of the bluff, the resulting project blends in nicely with the surrounding environment. Steve Sutherland was solely responsible for development of an all-native planting regime to restore the area above and below the structure to its original beauty.



Client Reference:

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Budget: \$420,000