



Hamilton Wetlands Restoration, 2019 Sausalito, CA



Project Information

Prime Contractor:
Rod Construction
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Owner:
US Army Corps of Engineers
San Francisco District
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The Hamilton Wetlands Restoration Project (HWRP) is a 648-acre tidal marsh restoration on the former Hamilton Army Airfield in Novato, California. The North Seasonal Wetlands Berm is an interior berm separating to ponds. Rod Construction constructed a temporary berm with one (1) yard bags filled with borrow material. The berm had previously been overtopped multiple times and caused two erosion areas.

Project Highlights Included:

- Site Access & Restrictive Hours – Limited Productivity
- Differing Site Conditions – Tidal system and dewatering

The 648-acre tidal marsh area access proved to be a hamper to the day to day operations. The two-mile drive from the street entrance to the borrow site and back occupied approximately 50 minutes (due to 10 mile an hour enforced speed limit and the 3 gates that needed to be secured at each pass) of our 8 hour scheduled day. We were not allowed to access the front gate entrance until 7AM and our hours stated in the contract were 7AM to 5PM. Due to the high tides at 3:30pm each day, we had to ensure that we secured (BMP's and erosion control) the temporary fix area so we could keep the that area as dry as possible. All deliveries (equipment, materials & subcontractors) required an escort to access the site in and out. These obstacles reduced our daily production time from 8 hours to 6 hours based on the amount deliveries needed.

The forecasted tidal predictions for the Hamilton Wetlands proved to grossly underestimated. The months of September and October were predicted at the highest elevation of 5.64. On September 30th we experienced the water elevation of 6.84 ft. within 30 minutes (from .34 ft.) and the next week average of 6 ft. Our original dewatering plan to use earthen berms to control the water was insufficient and therefore could not handle the unexpected flow of water. With the soft silty sand material that continued to deteriorate exponentially, this original ground elevation decreased from elevation 6 ft to elevation 4.5 ft (due to our equipment) and the silt quickly increased the turbidity of the water to unacceptable limits. We had to stop work and install BMP's to control the silt that was flowing into the wetland's waters.

