



PRUNUSKE CHATHAM, INC.

DUTCH BILL DAM REMOVAL PROJECT, 2010

Client: Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District

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In the summer of 2009, PCI participated in a long anticipated dam removal project in the small community of Camp Meeker in Sonoma County. For decades, the seasonal dam backed up water in summer as a swimming hole for residents of Camp Meeker. However, regulators determined the dam acted as a barrier to coho salmon and steelhead trout passage and requested that the dam be removed. PCI acted as the general contractor for the project and in the course of construction demonstrated its ability to construct complex projects in a short time frame. PCI worked with Camp Meeker residents, local, state, and federal regulating agencies, and the Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District to implement a successful restoration project which opened 3.4 miles of potential salmonid habitat.

Before construction could begin, PCI coordinated a fish rescue to safely move salmonids from the construction site to pools upstream and downstream. PCI then dewatered the site by pumping the creek flows around the site and proceeded to remove the dam and off-haul the debris. Once the dam was removed, PCI installed concrete abutments and a 75' long pedestrian bridge. PCI armored the slopes next to the new bridge and replaced the existing damaged wooden steps with concrete steps and handrails. The creek had aggraded as a result of the dam, so PCI restored the creek to a more natural, stable geometry by removing sediment and reshaping the channel. Roughness features such as woody debris structures and large boulders were placed to provide high and low flow refugia for salmonids and sort gravels for spawning. During construction, PCI encountered occasional constructability problems. With our design staff working on solutions in the field and producing shop drawings we were able to continue construction without delay.

