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**Lane County's Sweet Creek Road Retaining Wall Replacement Project
Named APWA 2014 Public Works Project of the Year**

KANSAS CITY, MO. – Lane County's Sweet Creek Road Retaining Wall Replacement Project was recently named a 2014 Public Works Project of the Year by the American Public Works Association (APWA). APWA selected Public Works Projects of the Year for 2014 in five categories: Disaster/Emergency, Environment, Historical Restoration, Structures and Transportation. For 2014, the team of winners of Lane County, Oregon, Public Works Department as the managing agency; West Coast Contractors, Inc. as the primary contractor; and OBEC Consulting Engineers as the primary consultant; will be presented with the award during APWA's 2014 International Public Works Congress & Exposition Awards Ceremony in Toronto, Ontario, Canada during August 17-20, 2014.

The Sweet Creek Retaining Wall Replacement Project is being honored in the Transportation category at a cost less than \$5 million. Sweet Creek Road is located near the community of Mapleton, Oregon, approximately 15 miles east of the Pacific Ocean, and is a vital transportation link between State Route 126 and large tracts of public and private forest lands. This includes 30,000 acres of National Forest System Lands where approximately five million board feet of timber is harvested annually. The road also provides the only all-season access route to 68 rural residences.

The section of road between Mileposts 1.90 and 2.20 has been a constant maintenance challenge for Lane County due to settling pavement, sunken grades, and a failing retaining wall that was constructed in the early 1970s. Maintenance issues were compounded by a roadway only 22 feet wide and bordered on either side by a sheer rock bluff and the steep banks of the Siuslaw River. In January 2011, one lane of the roadway sunk severely, resulting in a huge crack in the roadway and making the westbound lane impassable. Access through this section of the roadway was limited to one-way traffic, with Lane County installing traffic signals to control traffic flow.

The Sweet Creek Road Retaining Wall Replacement project was designed to replace the failing retaining wall and reconstruct both lanes of this vital connector for two-way commercial, residential and life-support traffic. Lane County secured a grant from the Federal Highway Administration through the Western Federal Lands Highway Division (WFLHD) to construct two tieback retaining walls connected with a 243-foot pre-stressed concrete bridge.

The Sweet Creek Road Retaining Wall Replacement project was initially designed as a 243-foot-long pre-stressed bridge, together with a 906-foot-long tieback retaining wall. The project was completed as a 1,130-foot-long pre-stressed concrete bridge structure and 40 feet of retaining wall. The construction limitations initially imposed by the river, the rock bluff and the narrow and heavily utilized roadway were compounded by soil and bedrock conditions discovered during construction. Eight change orders were issued during construction which resulted in significant modification of the project as it was initially designed. The bridge bents, bent caps and concrete slab plans were developed as the project was being constructed, resulting in "just in time design."

For more information on the APWA 2014 Projects of the Year, please contact APWA Media Relations/Communications Manager, Laura Bynum, lbynum@apwa.net, or call 202.218.6736.

About APWA

The American Public Works Association (www.apwa.net) is a not-for-profit, international organization of more than 28,500 members involved in the field of public works. APWA serves its members by promoting professional excellence and public awareness through education, advocacy and the exchange of knowledge. APWA is headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri, has an office in Washington, D.C. and 63 chapters in North America.

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