

Spring 2010 Newsletter



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Since 1979 SHN has served customers throughout Northern California and Southern Oregon. Our wide-range areas of expertise provide our clients one convenient point of contact to move their projects forward to completion. For more information visit our website at [www.shn-engr.com](http://www.shn-engr.com).

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Client-Focused Solutions

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Civil Engineering Environmental Services Geosciences Planning & Permitting Surveying



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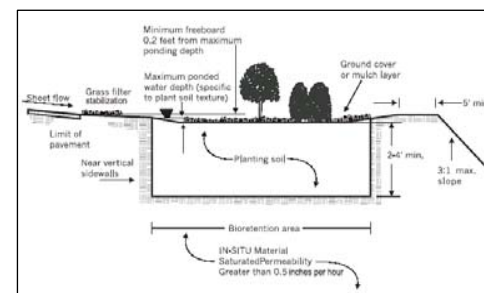
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**2008 ASCE Project of the Year Award  
Ecotone Conceptual Storm Water Plan**

In 2009 SHN received the North Coast ASCE 2008 Project of the Year Award for the Humboldt County Office of Education, Educational Resource Center Ecotone Design Project.

SHN completed the design and permitting for the ecotone construction at the Humboldt County Office of Education (HCOE) - Educational Resource Center. Extensive environmental planning and creative site design were required to develop the site due to historical site contamination, geologic setback restrictions on the project parcel and additional buffer setbacks for Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHA), including tidal wetlands, in the adjacent Cooper's Canyon.

The proposed 6,500 square foot facility and associated parking areas required a reduced



buffer width from the Cooper's Canyon ESHA to accommodate the proposed project within the building envelope. The reduced buffer was designed to function at a high capacity to best protect the ecological function of the ESHA. Due to the lack of any significant edge communities or ecotones, within the lower portion of the site, the solution for the reduced buffer zone was to create a functional ecotone in this area. The ecotone was designed to provide a functional buffer between the hardscape of the building and parking lot and the ESHA that it is intended to protect.

The reduced buffer for this project will not only fulfill its function as an effective buffer



to the ESHA, but the creation of an ecotone will establish lasting ecological benefits to Cooper's Canyon, especially in comparison to existing site conditions.

Bioretention treatment cells were recommended at the project site to manage and treat stormwater runoff from the developed driveway and parking areas. Bioretention treatment uses a conditioned planting soil bed and planting materials to filter runoff stored within a shallow depression. A typical bioretention system consists of a grass filter inlet area, shallow surface water ponding area, bioretention planting area and soil zone, an underdrain system, and an overflow outlet.

Upon completion of the facility construction, the grounds and ecotone areas were landscaped using plant species native to Humboldt County

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## From the CEO

Jeff Nelson



### Client Needs Come First

As the economy continues to crunch traditional project sources, we at SHN are stretching our services in new directions. SHN project managers, while busy with projects, must continue to stress customer service, and work hard to keep communications open with our clients, old and new.

At SHN, project management starts and ends with client communications. Clients seldom like surprises and if we're not talking to them, surprises are what they get. SHN Project Managers help avoid those situations by keeping in regular contact with their clients—whether they have an active project or not.

Our mission is to provide comprehensive, creative solutions to our clients' needs. In short, that means getting it right, getting it done on time, and getting it done within budget. Now more than ever, we are all focused on meeting our commitments. By doing so, we are all contributing to SHN being the firm of choice in Northern California and Southern Oregon.

We, and our clients, are all feeling "recession crankiness" but we can't let it pull us down. We'll get through this and be better for knowing we can overcome very difficult conditions. One of our core values is to ensure our success by approaching every task with optimism, enthusiasm, and flexibility. So let's celebrate our successes, even the small ones and take pride and a sense of accomplishment in doing a job well done.

## Tribal Environmental and Development Services

Recognizing that Native American tribes have unique projects, technical challenges, and practical constraints, SHN assembled an internal design team with our tribal clients' needs in mind. In contrast with the more compartmented approach often used in the industry, we offer a comprehensive strategy to help tribes solve problems and achieve long-term goals. We envision our role as an extension of tribal capacity, supporting our tribal clients' efforts in site development or redevelopment, environmental investigation, site cleanup, and management of their natural resources.

SHN personnel have worked extensively on tribal projects before and understand the regulatory, legal, political, economic, and social context in which the tribes work. The members of our multi-disciplinary team are well versed in the applicable regulations, guidance and programs, and are sensitive with regard to the cultural context.

SHN has performed work for numerous tribes and tribal agencies, corporations and associations:



- **Yurok Tribe Watershed Restoration Department's Requa Center Deconstruction**
- **Susanville Indian Rancheria 2009 Roads**
- **Hoopa Fisheries Underground Storage Tank Investigation**
- **Trinidad Rancheria Studies and Design for U.S. 101 Access**
- **Wiyot Tribe's Indian Island Cleanup**
- **Karuk Housing Authority Yreka Housing Project**
- **Sherwood Valley Band Water/Wastewater System Design**



## Focus On:

### Coos Bay Office, Regional Manager: Steve Donovan



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### Projects:

#### **"Town of Butte Falls Goes On Line" Butte Falls WWTP Improvements Project Completed October 2009**

SHN recently completed start-up of the Town of Butte Falls wastewater treatment facility, completing a four year system wide improvement project. The project, funded by Oregon Economic and Community Development Block Grant and the State Revolving Fund administered by Oregon DEQ came in at a budget of 1.5 million. With this funding, the Town completed a wastewater lift station upgrade, sewer system inflow reduction program, biosolids harvest, and constructed a new 0.42 MGD treatment facility. Steve Donovan, SHN's Coos Bay Regional Manager and the Project Manager had the following comments about the project: "After the first 60 days of start-up, the new treatment facility has performed remarkably well, effluent quality is well below the facilities permit limits, BOD and TSS are consistently less than 5 mg/L with some of the BOD results indicating no detection. When we started the project, I never imagined we could deliver a new wastewater treatment facility with this capability for \$ 2.21 per MGD capacity. It works extremely well and we are pleased to see the level of pride the Mayor, Council, and Operator have taken with this facility." The high efficiency process, has reduced the power demand at the treatment facility by nearly 50 %, also allowing the Town to receive rebates from the Oregon Energy Trust for significant energy savings. Butte Falls wastewater system is set to address future permit limits including TMDLs for the Rogue River in Southern Oregon.



#### **Wedderburn Sanitary District – Phase I Improvements Project**

SHN opened bids on January 26, 2010 for the Wedderburn Sanitary District's Phase I Improvements Project, and the District awarded the project to the low bidder, R&G Excavating, Inc. from Scio, Oregon. The project includes the upgrade of three lift stations, construction of a headworks building and coarse screening system, conversion of an existing secondary treatment pond to a seepage pond, construction of a wetlands treatment cell, and infiltration and inflow (I/I) reduction projects. Benefiting from a highly competitive construction market, the District received very favorable bids. The project is being funded by a loan/grant package from USDA-Rural Development, and the low bid of approximately \$1.2 million is well within the District's construction budget. SHN is currently looking into expanding the I/I reduction work, and possibly adding some wastewater treatment system disposal capacity as part of the project. SHN is providing construction management and inspection services for the one-year construction period, which is expected to begin in March 2010.

