

# THE SHORELINE TRAIL SLIDE IS REPAIRED

Last winter's heavy storms caused a landslide of our most popular trail, causing hundreds of tons of dirt, rocks, and trees to slide down the hill, opening up a 40 foot gap in the trail, with water and mud continuing to drain.

Because China Camp State Park is operated by FOCC, the volunteers are entirely responsible for any repairs to the trails, even one of this magnitude. We were advised the California State Dept. of Parks and Recreation (DPR) would supply no support, funds, equipment, recruitment, or materials, but that FEMA might be willing to fund a bridge over the gap, if we were willing to go through their two-plus year process (and this was before the hurricanes and fire, which would have delayed the project another year or two.) It was clearly up to Friends of China Camp to fund and plan this repair, which would require heavy equipment, hundreds of tons of materials, and cost an estimated \$100,000.

Friends of China Camp is fortunate to have an experienced trail building volunteer team, led by Ed Westbrook, a professional whose company has built trails in Yosemite and elsewhere. We had never attempted anything of this magnitude, but after Ed's engineers assessed it, we submitted the paperwork for the project to the California DPR for environmental, historical, archeological and tribal approval. After a 3 month review the project plan was approved and we were given the OK to proceed.

The project involved using heavy equipment to excavate the landslide down to solid ground, moistening the dirt from a portable water tank source and several hundred feet of fire hose, build wire cages called gabions to hold rocks and form a heavy retaining wall, fill the remaining area with gravel, then cover with dirt, tamp down the trail, cover the disturbed soil with jute netting to allow regrowth of grass, and build split rail fencing for safety.

The total amount of material was approximately 300 tons of rock and gravel. This had to be transported up the switchbacks down the trail approximately ¾ mile to the work site, using motorized carriers called toters. By the end of the project, the toters had traveled approximately 400 miles back and forth on that trail section. FOCC contacted with the California conservation core for an eight day session moving the rock and assembling the gabions. Our volunteers, ranging in age from 18 to 84, continued the job, assembling the gabions, filling them with rock, and finishing the job.

The scale of the task was Herculean, but we did it: on October 22, at about 3:00 PM, the trail was reopened to all users.

## WE ARE:

**54 Park Champion volunteers**, working over 1100 hours, with the support of the [California State Parks Foundation](#). [VIPP core volunteers](#), showing up individually and in small groups on weekends and weekdays, doing whatever was necessary.

[Generous donors](#), who stepped up to buy us needed equipment and supplies, and helped us cover the cost of 1224 paid hours.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Ed and Missy Westbrook's formidable Quarry House crew, including Eric Logan, Steve Schupp, Ulysses Contreras, and Pablo Valencia.

The California Conservation Corps, Cathy Barr and Cedar Long

Mike Nelson and Cyndy Shafer at California DPR

Kevin Brown at Herc Rentals

Tom Dweyer at Michael Heavey Construction

Marin Sanitary Service

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