

Route 237 Guadalupe River Bridge

A HOCHTIEF Company

Owner

Santa Clara Valley Water District

Location

San Jose, CA

Value

\$16,500,000

Market

Bridges

Start - Completion Dates

3/2004 – 12/2006

- 269 foot long bridge
- Nine-span, reinforced concrete slab on 116 precast piles
- 134-foot long, 18-inch octagonal piles
- Numerous environmental and utility considerations

Project Description

This bridge widening accommodates flood capacity for the Guadalupe River, which runs north-south through the heart of Silicon Valley. The existing eastbound bridge at Route 237 could have restricted the river's water flow during a flood. Part of Flatiron's mission was to increase the vertical clearance by 10 feet by removing and replacing this bridge with one that is 269 feet long.

Flatiron constructed a new nine-span, reinforced concrete-slab bridge in two stages while maintaining traffic. The new structure is supported on 116 precast concrete piles. At 134 feet long, the 18-inch diameter octagonal concrete piles were the longest unspliced piling the precast plant had produced in 25 years of business. Other project improvements also included new, taller flood walls and levee improvements.

Crews also had to face the challenge of working in the muck of the river bank, owing success in-part to their construction of a temporary river crossing with culvert pipes and river rocks. Not only was the entire site environmentally sensitive, it is also surrounded by utilities on all sides—power lines overhead, high-pressure gas mains underground, waterlines, and two 45-inch diameter, pressurized sewer mains.

Company Role

Flatiron was the prime contractor for this project.

