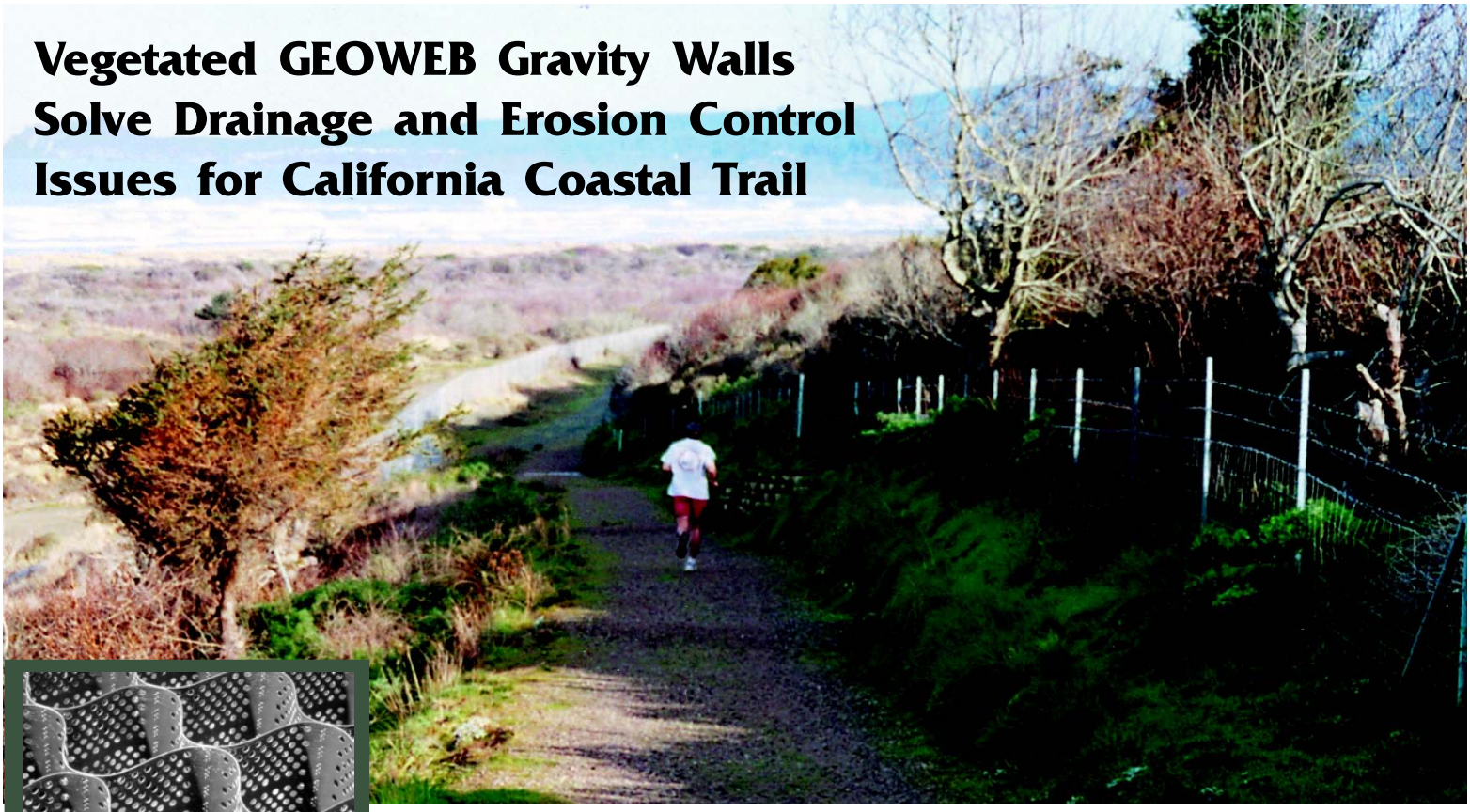
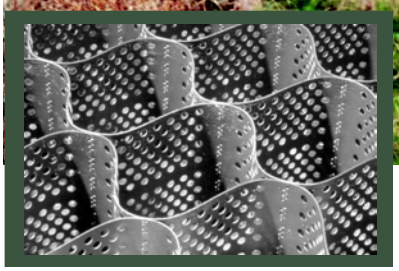
Vegetated GEOWEB Gravity Walls Solve Drainage and Erosion Control Issues for California Coastal Trail





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One of the most diverse ecosystems in the world is located where the Pacific Ocean collides with the Redwood Forests of Humboldt County, California. This region's environmental credentials are high. It is home to ten California State Parks, one of which is part of the United Nations designated "Biosphere Region & World Heritage Sites." Eighty percent of the county's 2.3 million acres is either forest, protected redwoods or other recreational areas.

Eager to retain the natural beauty of the region while constructing the multi-use Hammond Coastal Trail, **GEOWEB** Cellular Confinement System was chosen by project engineers and owners to stabilize the silty sand embankments on the latest phase of this California Coastal Trail project. The Hammond Coastal Trail project, located in McKinleyville, is administered by the Natural Resources Services, a division of the Redwood Community Action Agency (RCAA). The RCAA is one of over 50 non-profit community action agencies providing assistance to local communities in California. Primary funding for this project was provided by the California State Coastal Conservancy and by a CalTrans Environmental and Enhancement Mitigation Grant. The trail, servicing local and tourist pedestrians, bicyclists and equestrian users, runs along Highway 101 near Mad River and ends 1/4 mile from the Pacific Ocean, with spectacular ocean views.

Soil Stabilization Products Company, Inc. worked with RCAA in design of the gravity retaining wall structures along the uphill and downslopes of the trail. Tan-facia **GEOWEB** sections were used for aesthetic appeal until local vegetative growth was established. Chris Turner, RCAA staff, comments that the **GEOWEB** System was chosen because of it's ability to catch and disperse water instead of creating a ditch diversion system. **GEOWEB** walls at this site run approx 600 feet long and range in height to six feet tall. The ease of construction with the **GEOWEB** System allowed for primary installation by a San Deigo based youth crew from the National Civilian Conservation Corps. They commented that this was one of the most pleasant installations they had experienced. Project engineers forsee continued use of the **GEOWEB** System on future phases of the Hammond Coastal Trail.

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Photos courtesy of Chris Turner, Redwood Community Action Agency.