RECLAMATION
Managing Water in the West

"Mormon Island Auxiliary Dam Key-Block Project" Wins *ENR California* Best Projects 2013 Award

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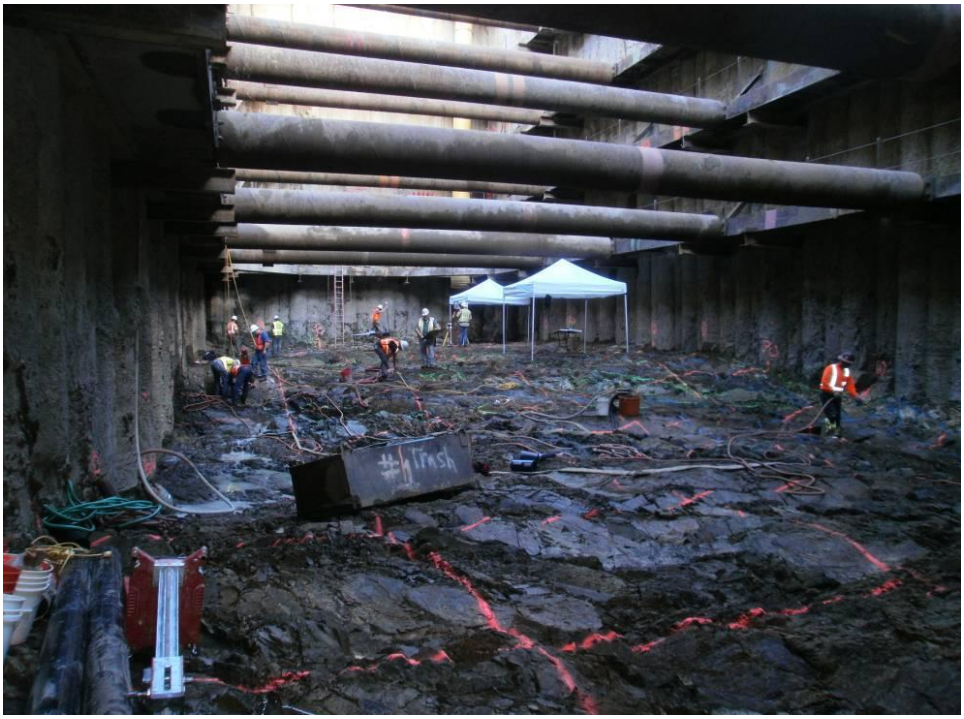
L to R: John White (Shimmick), Trace Porter (Shimmick), Drew Weichert (Shimmick), Richard Welsh (MP Construction Office), Eric Lindquist (Berti-Lindquist Consulting Engineers), and Rob Jameson (Malcolm Drilling)

Congratulations to the Bureau of Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Construction Office who won the McGraw Hill Construction's *Engineering News-Record* – or ENR California – Best Projects 2013 Award for Mormon Island Auxiliary Dam Key-Block Construction Project. Construction Engineer Richard Welsh, in conjunction with the construction contractor, Shimmick Construction Company of Oakland, Calif., attended an awards ceremony and banquet on December 3 at Hotel Nikko in San Francisco. The ceremony honored all of the project teams for northern California, as well as the winners of the ENR Northwest Best Project competition.

Built in 1956 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the 105-foot-tall Mormon Island Auxiliary Dam had a foundation that was deemed at high risk of liquefaction during an earthquake. As a remedy, this $43.6 million Key Block Construction Project called for an excavation support system that satisfied the time-critical schedule by allowing excavation, bracing, foundation preparation, concrete placing or backfilling two "cells" simultaneously. Six "cells" were excavated, braced and backfilled; each "cell" was 150' x 50'. Despite a significant number of challenges encountered, the contractor and Reclamation worked collaboratively to develop successful solutions.



One cell of six total cells, approximately 150' x 50' wide

Each year, projects managers throughout California and Hawaii submit entries for their projects to McGraw Hill Construction's ENR California – Best Projects 2013– Best Projects contest. In 2013, more than 100 entries for projects located in California and Hawaii were received. The MP Construction Office won in the category "Best Project (Northern California), Water and Environment." Congratulations, MPCO!