

AIS Construction Company

Completes Remediation of Phase I Part II on the Colorado Lagoon Project for City of Long Beach



Knowledge, innovation and cost-effective solutions, for even the most difficult projects, are what truly distinguish AIS Construction Company. They have specialized in this type of work since 1995, when they first began providing their professional services to jobs that include: steep slopes, mitigation of landslides, rockslides and mudslides, rockfall mitigation, debris flow mitigation and rock scaling. They also have developed extensive experience in installing soil nails, rock anchors, rock bolts, geogrids, MSW walls, geo-synthetics and geo-textiles.

AIS Construction Company started out in marine construction working on docks, piers, seawalls and groins. They expanded their offerings over the years to include hydraulic and mechanical dredging and pile driving. They have built a solid reputation as the premier source for excavation and dredging services particularly in tight access areas, steep slopes and hard to reach areas like canals, lagoons, lakes and ponds.



(Top L to R) Bob Buff, AIS Construction Company Branch Manager with Kent Porter, General Manager, Heavy Equipment Rentals and Spencer Ingraham, AIS Construction Company Manager. (Above) AIS Construction Company uses their Hyundai 60' long reach excavator rented from Heavy Equipment Rentals to dredge more than 65,000 yards of silt and debris from the Colorado Lagoon in Long Beach.

They have built a solid reputation as the premier source for excavation and dredging services particularly in tight access areas, steep slopes and hard to reach areas like canals, lagoons, lakes and ponds. CalContractor recently found AIS construction working on just such a job for the City of Long Beach. It was

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here that AIS Construction Company’s services were called on to complete the remediation and restoration of the Colorado Lagoon located in Long Beach. This will mark the first time this lagoon has received this type of cleanup since it was first disconnected from the Alamitos Bay back in 1932. This particular phase of the project came in at \$7 million and began back in January, with the actual dredging process commencing in February of 2012. The final survey was

completed at the end of June and everything was open to the public in early July.

Spencer Ingraham, construction manager for AIS Construction Company oversaw all of the dredging and excavation on this project. “With around 65,000 yards being dredged on this project by jobs end, our goal was to move approximately 1,000 cubic yards a day. We started out by constructing a decontamination pad where the dredged sediment could be stockpiled, mixed and tested before being loaded and trucked out to the Port of Long Beach. Once at the Port, the material was used at one of the container ship slips as fill on a large subsoil project”, he said.

The concrete contamination pad was constructed at 4 inches in depth and encompassed

close to three-quarters of an acre on the project site. Getting the material moved out on a timely basis was important due to the fact that the pad was limited to a capacity of 4,000 cubic yards. “The Colorado Lagoon was once connected to the ocean and

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(Right) Hyundai 60’ longreach excavator dredges approximately 1,000 tons of material per day from the Colorado Lagoon.

received tidal flow,” continues Ingraham. “It was later built-up so that a recreational park could be built on the site. When this happened, the tidal flow was greatly diminished, allowing for silt and runoff from neighboring streets and neighborhoods to be trapped at the lagoons bottom, leading to unwanted contamination. This job, like so many of our other projects, was fairly complex and called for the use of specialty equipment like 60’ long arm dredging excavators and custom designed equipment and material barges. In addition, there were various access issues, as the lagoon is surrounded by

neighborhoods and golf courses on all sides. Because of this, we had to remain conscious of our neighbors, being especially mindful of any dust or other contaminants escaping from the site”.

Because AIS Construction Company works predominantly in poorly accessible areas like steep slopes and lagoons, they require non-conventional heavy equipment not utilized on your garden-variety jobsites. For instance, AIS Construction has the largest fleet of Kaiser spyder walking excavators in the United States. These amazing machines allow them to work on just about any type of terrain. They also maintain a fully equipped marine division with two dredges and a fleet of support equipment, including barges, cranes and landing craft. Their metal fabrication shop allows them to quickly adapt any piece of equipment to just about any application. Because they work all over the United

States and even internationally, AIS Construction will often turn to rental equipment companies for their machinery needs. On the Colorado Lagoon project, AIS was in need of additional long-reach excavators, as well as conventional excavators, dozers, wheel loaders, skip loaders and sweepers. For this, they turned to the folks at Heavy Equipment Rentals, LLC out of Corona, California. Spencer Ingraham further explains, “We rented two Hyundai 60’ long reach excavators from HER for dredging the lagoon and also rented an additional Hyundai 480 excavator for unloading the barges onto the decontam pad. HER took care of a lot more of our equipment needs on this job and Bob, Mike and Kent over at HER were as helpful as always. If we ever have any issues, they have a mechanic on site within a couple of hours. Working with HER on this project allowed us to actually minimize our downtime, which is critical on a dredging project where machinery seems to go down more frequently. HER makes it their mission to keep us up and running and we appreciate this great service. For instance, when we first took delivery of the wheel loader on this job, it came with a 3-yard bucket. HER went to work and found us an 8-yard bucket and

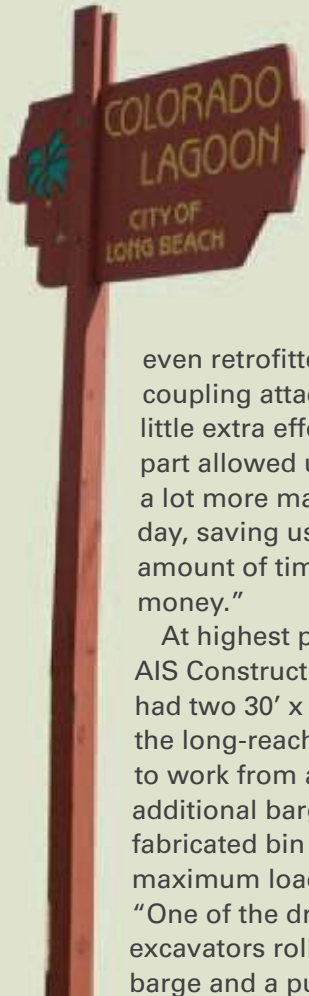




(Above Left) Cat wheel loader rented from Heavy Equipment Rentals moves and loads filtered silt, sand and dirt onto end-dumps for transport to the Port of Long Beach to be used as fill material. (Above Right) Sweeper rented from HER keeping dirt and dust levels down to a minimum.



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even retrofitted the coupling attachment. This little extra effort on their part allowed us to move a lot more material each day, saving us a substantial amount of time and money.”

At highest production, AIS Construction Company had two 30’ x 40’ barges for the long-reach excavators to work from and four additional barges with fabricated bin walls for maximum loading capacity. “One of the dredging excavators rolls off one barge and a push-me boat

pickups it up and takes it to the unloading area, while one of the other barges pushes the now empty barge. Then the full barge makes its way over to the decam pad for unloading”, explains Ingraham. “As the water runs off of the decam pad it is directed to two additional holding cells that filter the dirt from the silt. Next, another wheel loader located at the other end of the pad, loads the filtered material in to end-dumps for delivery to the port”, he continues.

Now that Phase I, Part II is complete, the lagoon will be used for swimming, boating and even an annual sailing camp for kids.

picks it up and takes it to the

Around 75% of the shoreline will be turned into an environmental habitat and a small portion of the beach will also remain open for public use. The environmental advocacy group, Friends of the Colorado Lagoon will also conduct tours and work with UC Long Beach and their marine biology department to build a microenvironment study area on the gentle slope areas.

For more information on AIS Construction Company or to learn how they can help you with your difficult and seemingly impossible job, call 805-684-4344 or check them out online at www.aisconstruction.com. 