



Bridging the Gap

March 2026

Alambique Slide Repair Wins Partnering Award



In March 2023, a 250-foot-wide landslide occurred on State Route 84 in San Mateo County near Woodside. The slide followed a series of atmospheric river storms and caused significant damage, forcing the closure of the two-lane highway.

The project was recognized in the 25th Annual Caltrans Excellence in Partnering Awards, earning a Project Level Partnering Award for exceptional teamwork, problem-solving, and timely delivery. The team's top priority was restoring public access, which they achieved by reopening the route to one-way traffic while repairs continued.

The Division of Engineering Services (DES)—which includes Structure Construction, Bridge Design, Materials Engineering and Testing Services, and Geotechnical Services—worked closely with contractors, local agencies, and other partners to complete the work in multiple phases. The first phase focused on controlling water flow and groundwater pressure by installing a new sub-horizontal drainage system. Crews then stabilized the lower slope using soldier piles, allowing one way traffic to resume.

After the lower wall was completed, it was backfilled for stability, fire protection, and traffic safety. With that access restored, teams had the space needed to reconstruct and stabilize the uphill wall. The upper diaphragm wall structural portion was completed, followed by a traffic shift and the completion of the lower soldier pile wall with concrete water and ground anchors. The lower wall was backfilled for stability, fire protection, and traffic safety. Following another traffic shift, the upper wall was completed with a new drainage system and an aesthetically pleasing architectural design.

Through exceptional teamwork, effective problem-solving, and consistent collaboration within DES, this project stayed on track and won an award. If you would like to join our team to work on projects like this, visit Working with the Division of Engineering Services for more information.

