

**RECOVERY ACT PROJECT CREATES JOBS AT SAN FRANCISCO COMPANY
AND BENEFITS THE NATIONAL ELK REFUGE**

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Intro: The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is making a difference in local communities across the country. As just one example, \$4.3 Million in Recovery Act funding is providing a major benefit for both Yerba Buena Engineering and Construction based in San Francisco, California and the National Elk Refuge, located in near the heart of Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming.

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NEW JOBS ARE BEING CREATED AND LIVES ARE CHANGING THANKS TO 4.3 MILLION DOLLARS IN RECOVERY FUNDING FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW IRRIGATION SYSTEM AT THE NATIONAL ELK REFUGE IN JACKSON, WYOMING - NEAR YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK.

MIGUEL GALARZA, PRESIDENT, YERBA BUENA ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION:

“We were excited to be apart of this program.”

MIGUEL GALARZA, OWNER OF SAN FRANCISCO BASED FIRM YERBA BUENA ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION RECEIVED THE RECOVERY CONTRACT FROM THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE.

“To actually win the project was something that our company had been working toward so that we can continue to grow the business outside of our corporate San Francisco office and out to our Utah office where this project is being matched out of.”

SOME 40 TO 50 NEW HIRES AT ANY GIVEN TIME WILL REPLACE AND EXPAND THE IRRIGATION SYSTEM ON THE 25 THOUSAND ACRE REFUGE. IT IS THE LARGEST RECOVERY PROJECT IN THE MOUNTAIN-PRAIRIE REGION FOR THE SERVICE.

LEE BARRUS, PROJECT MANAGER: “This irrigation system will provide irrigation to 5000 plus acres of the refuge. The system is fed from water supplied by a local creek there that runs through the reserve. The water will be discharged into the piping system that we will install that will go throughout the 5000 acres and provide the resource to sprinkle water irrigated as any other agricultural sprinkler system does.”

MORE THAN A MILLION PEOPLE VISIT THE NATIONAL ELK REFUGE EACH YEAR. IT’S HOME TO SOME 7 THOUSAND ELK DURING WINTER, AND 46 OTHER MAMMALS, INCLUDING BISON, AND NEARLY 75 SPECIES OF BIRDS. THE HERD HAS HELPED TO REESTABLISH ELK POPULATIONS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES. REFUGE MANAGER STEVE KALLIN SAYS THE NEW IRRIGATION SYSTEM WILL BE VERY BENEFICIAL TO THE PROPERTY.

STEVE KALLIN, NATIONAL ELK REFUGE, MGR

“The purpose for this project is to grow more forage in a larger area on the refuge so we can reduce the reliance on our supplemental feeding program.”

IN THESE TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES MANY BUSINESSES ARE STRUGGLING – BUT GALARZA SAYS THANKS TO OPPORTUNITIES SUCH AS THIS, YERBA BUENA HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE NATION’S FASTEST GROWING INNER CITY OWNED BUSINESSES-- AND THE RECOVERY ACT IS YET ANOTHER INCENTIVE TO KEEP THE COMPANY GOING STRONG.

“How has the award affected your life and your business?”

MIGUEL GALARZA

“The last few years we had a consistent solid track record and this year at the beginning we started very strong, but it soon became very evident that things were not going to be the same. As soon as the wheels of the new economy and the new administration began to roll in the Recovery Act and the funding for that became evident, this ended up being a banner year for Yerba Buena Engineering.”

THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT HAS PROVIDED 3 BILLION DOLLARS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND OF THAT FUNDING, THE SERVICE RECEIVED \$280 MILLION TO HELP COMPLETE PROJECTS AND PROMOTE NEW JOBS IN COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS ACROSS AMERICA. THE EFFORT IS PROOVING A WIN-WIN SITUATION FOR EVERYONE.

MIGUEL GALARZA: “It means a lot to us because the people that work for us are no different than any other spectrum of Americana – people who are trying to raise families, trying to pay house notes, trying to pay car payments. We’re not trying to make a killing. We’re trying to make sure that our people have the opportunity to have what’s called the American dream.”

LEE BARRUS: “Well it’s just a delight to work with the local subcontractors to know that they are receiving business and it’s helping the local economy.”

IN WASHINGTON, DC, KIM BETTON, FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.