



Natina News

Los Angeles County Completes Guardrail Replacement & Enhancement Project



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Project Contractor:
Ace Fence Company

**Product Manufacturer & Application
Specialists: Natina Products, LLC**
(A.K.A. Natina Desert Varnish Solutions)



Guardrails That Complement Nature

By Ryan Morey

Before



After



Los Angeles County Public Works (County) completed work on their Guardrail Replacement Project (Contract #RDC0014180) shortly after the beginning of the New Year. The goal of the project was to replace guardrails at 37 separate locations along Mulholland Highway in the unincorporated communities of Cornell and Monte Nido. As the existing guardrails were approaching the end of their useable life, and since roadway safety is of the utmost concern to the County, this project is one that the County and local residents took very seriously.

One of the goals laid out by the County in their Countywide Strategic Plan is to "provide improved infrastructure to better serve the public and enhance the quality of life in the affected communities." So as not to detract from the beauty of the

surrounding landscape, the County decided to implement weathering steel, conforming to ASTM A588, for the guardrails on this stretch of scenic coastal highway. A588 is a type of steel that quickly develops a layer of rust on the outermost surface and is typically used for aesthetic purposes as many prefer their rusty appearance when compared to the shiny metal appearance of a galvanized guardrail.

Unfortunately, the County found out from the guardrail manufacturer, Trinity Highway Products (Trinity), that end terminals (the last piece of each guardrail section ranging up to 50' in length) made from A588 steel are no longer approved for use by the Federal Highway Administration and were therefore unavailable. This created a problem for the County as they did not want to have the rusty looking guardrails



Uses: Permanent color enhancement for steel surfaces.

Color: Earth-tone hues ranging from medium to dark brown.

Application: Customized self-contained spray rig.



alongside non-matching, shiny galvanized, end terminals.

Fortunately Trinity was able to refer the County to Natina Products, LLC (A.K.A. Natina Desert Varnish Solutions). They offer their technologically advanced and patented product, called Natina Steel, which is applied directly on top of galvanized surfaces and is able to achieve a look similar to A588 steel without adversely affecting the protection offered by the galvanized layer. Lance Grindle, the Assistant Division Head of Design Division at the County said that “in order to make sure that the best solution was used for the job, the County took a look at various options and eventually selected Natina Steel for its longevity and ease of periodic maintenance.” In the end, in order to create a more uniform appearance, the County had Natina Products, LLC apply Natina Steel not only to the galvanized end terminals but to the guardrails as well.

Natina Products, LLC started applying their patented formula and finished this entire project in just 6 days. Natina Steel is an environmentally safe solution that is composed of natural oxidizers (found in soil) and soft, buffered organic acids. Once Natina Steel is applied to galvanized surfaces it quickly reacts with the zinc

layer and forms a rustic brown finish over the following 5 – 21 days (depending on sunlight and heat intensity). The best part, according to Ryan Morey of Natina Products, LLC “is that because Natina Steel contains no

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pigments but instead develops its color through the oxidation process itself the color will not fade from sun exposure.” So, these beautiful rustic guardrails will look great for many years to come

with little to no maintenance and their associated expenses!

On February 24, 2011 the County, along with representatives from Ace Fence Company (the guardrail installer) and Natina Products, LLC, completed their final inspection of the newly colored guardrails along Mulholland Highway and everyone is very pleased with the results. Now, and for many years to come, this stretch of scenic coastal highway will be enjoyed by tourists and residents alike.

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