



Using Mother Nature against Mother Nature

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In the end, it only took three weeks to prepare the Grososxx for the other half of the hill.

Federas and his crew started at the bottom of the hill and laid each of the Grososxx side-by-side and row-by-row up the hill. “We held the Grososxx in place using geogrid fabric (geosynthetic material used to reinforce soils), particularly in the steeper area,” Federas said. “This would keep the Grososxx from rolling down the hill and was particularly effective on areas that were steepest. We flattened the Grososxx to key them into the hillside and would lay another layer on them, going up the hill continuously. It’s called Mechanically Stabilized Earth (MSE),” he said. “In soil engineering terms, the goal is to contain, reinforce, and vegetate. Cosmeti-

cally, the ‘living retaining wall’ adds tens of thousands of flowers and attracts natural pollinators like bees, butterflies and hummingbirds.”

Once the grass seed roots, it ties the Grososxx bags together to form a “living retaining wall” of tubes interlocked above, below and between with root fibers. Deep-rooted, native flowers will replace grass after they start from seed. With over 10,000 planned plantings, buying flats from nurseries would be cost prohibitive.

“We’re ramping up about 1,000 seed plantings each weekend,” said Federas. “All plantings will be deep-rooted and native. Once they get established, their roots will grow deeper through the bag and root several feet into the ground.”

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The planting includes vegetables like sweet peas

Photo Gint Federas

Help!

It's so hard to find a place to rent in the Bay Area! Andrea, can you and your team find me a new home and handle all the frustrating details so I can rest easy?

Andrea and Team, I'm a real estate agent who doesn't handle rentals and my clients just closed on a fantastic property they'd like to rent out. **Can you take it from here?**

AndreaRentals, I have a great rental property, but my tenants just gave notice and the thought of dealing with it makes me want to scream. **Save me!**

We're moving out of Lamorinda, but we don't want to sell! **AndreaRentals**, can you find us some great renters who will love and care for the house while we're gone?



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