

## Rancho Cordova Firm Serves as Eyes and Ears on High-Speed Rail Construction

“As I was growing up, I always wanted to be an engineer,” said Abhijit Naik. In 2001, he started living his dream when he began working as a student assistant with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Office of Earthquake Engineering. It wasn’t long before he started working full time and found his niche in the agency’s Structure Design & Structure Construction unit. “I realized that I liked working in both design and construction at the same time,” Naik said.

After a five year stint at Caltrans, Naik’s job took him around the world. He worked on Sacramento city and county bridge projects. Then he was off to India for the Chenab Rail Bridge project, which will be the world’s highest railway bridge when completed. He also worked in Bahrain on the Mina Salman Bridge Interchange, which features seven bridge spans.

Last year, Naik was hired by the Hanna Group, a certified small business based in Rancho Cordova that specializes in bridge construction projects. The company has a subcontract with Arcadis, the lead construction and project management team for Construction Package 2-3 (CP 2-3). Naik relocated to Fresno to serve as the Independent Site Engineer (ISE) Lead Segment Manager for the 65-mile stretch of high-speed rail which runs from Fresno to the Kern/Tulare County line. The Hanna Group will review, assess, evaluate and certify construction work done by Dragados Flatiron, the design-build team for CP 2-3.

Naik and his team will keep a close eye on grade separations along the alignment -- bridge structures and embankments that

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Independent Site Engineer  
Lead Segment Manager  
The Hanna Group

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separate high-speed rail trains from roadways and other railroad lines. CP 2-3 will feature more than 50 bridges and approximately 19 million cubic yards of embankment.

Right now, while the design-build team is completing construction designs, the Hanna Group only has three people working on the project – two in the Central Valley and one in the Rancho Cordova office. But as Dragados Flatiron starts ramping up for heavy construction, Naik expects his team to grow. “The Independent Site Engineer is [in charge of] a very exhaustive oversight program.” Naik explained. “We will be an on-site presence during construction. We expect to be working on more than 30 bridges and seven embankments at the peak time of construction between 2017 and 2019.”

When it’s finished, Naik will be able to look at the high-speed rail project with pride. “It’s



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Lead Segment Manager Abhijit Naik with The Hanna Group, is working with Arcadis to provide construction and management oversight for Construction Page 2-3. This oversight function helps the Authority and the design-build contractor work together to deliver this portion of the high-speed rail program.

a well thought-out transportation program which will get people where they’re going in a shorter amount of time than conventional means of surface transportation,” Naik explained. “It should be able to draw businesses and provide employment opportunities along with increased wealth and development for the Central Valley. It’s going to mean big dividends for future generations.”

Karen Massie