

Martin Iron Works

Project: The Sierra Nevada Project

Contractor: Martin Iron Works

Project Category: Meeting the Challenge
of a Difficult Job

Project Size: Over \$500,000

Some contractors believe in the credo, "If you can imagine it, we can build it." That's exactly the case with the Sierra Nevada Project. Martin Iron Works was asked to put up the steel structural columns on the building, and some 60 percent of those beams were tapered, double-rolled and reassembled.

The construction site sits directly in front of a mountain lake on one side, and a busy highway on the other. The site sits literally on a cliff. This was one of the most difficult projects in the 70-year history of Martin Iron Works.

Because of the close proximity to the highway, the project required extreme coordination for the layout of the steel structure. There was no room for a layout area. The loads required precise coordination so the steel could be erected directly off the truck and set in place by a tower crane, also sitting on the side of a cliff. The trucks barely had enough

room to park off the highway. The site was located in a national forest area, so no trees could be removed. A fire watch was maintained at all times because of the welding operations.

The detailing of the steel fabrication was another issue Martin had to overcome. The columns required 18 splices on each piece, with full penetration, welded-moment connections. This was not the only problem on the columns, as the material was scarce and Martin had to call around the county until the wall pipe was located in Texas.

The beams had to be rolled to match the many different radiuses of the roof — some had to be double rolled. The steel erection and fabrication was one of the most complex and labor intensive projects ever to go through Martin Iron Work's fabrication shop.

The owner of the project asked for a "very sculptural design" and Martin Iron Works complied.

Jerry Morgan, with Q & D Construction, the general contractor says that "having Martin Iron on this project ensured success."

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