The finished retaining wall supports the access road above and faces the exposed slope of soil and rock that resulted from the new home’s construction. The concrete paver driveway provides the perfect aesthetic complement.

**PRODUCT**
Anchorplex™ retaining wall system, incorporating Diamond Pro® wall units

**MANUFACTURER**
Sierra Building Products
Fontana, California

**BELGARD®**

**WALL DESIGNER**
Daya Bettadapura
ABI Engineering Consultants
Irvine, California

**WALL CONTRACTOR**
Henri LaBorde
Stabilized Retaining Systems, Inc.
Castaic, California

**WALL AREA**
2,070 square feet

**THE CHALLENGE**
Excavation for a required fire access space between a slope and a newly built dream home in Newbury Park, California, brought about a near-vertical slope of exposed soil and rock. This slope caused the homeowners to look for solutions to stabilize the hillside cut, which also supports an access road. Given the geotechnical requirements, the area’s high seismic accelerations and the scant space available for further excavation, a structural engineer recommended a complex and very expensive caisson-supported cantilever retaining structure. However, the savvy homeowners challenged their contractor to look for more economical alternatives.
The Anchorplex™ retaining wall system uses segmental retaining wall units, which are backed with a zone of structural backfill.

The Anchorplex system is a retaining wall built with Anchor™ products reinforced with structural backfill placed immediately behind the block. This system eliminates the need for the construction of a mechanically stabilized earth zone behind the wall face and requires less excavation and compaction than is usually necessary in a geogrid-reinforced retaining wall.

One benefit of using the Anchorplex wall system was the significant amount of money it saved the homeowner. “The original plan for the caisson-supported system would have cost more than $200,000,” said the homeowner. “I’d estimate we saved nearly $90,000 by using the system.”

THE RESULT
This project is a perfect example of how the Anchorplex retaining wall system can be used to build a retaining wall in a tight space. The construction of the 2,070-square-foot wall went quickly and smoothly and was completed in three weeks.

“The contractor was a gem to work with,” the homeowner said. “He really researched the project, worked with the engineer and listened to our needs. The wall is a lovely complement to our new home and landscaping. And, even after very heavy rains here this year, the wall looks great.”

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