



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia and Kings Canyon  
National Parks

47050 Generals Hwy.  
Three Rivers, CA 93271

559 565-3341 phone  
559 565-3730 fax

---

## Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

For Immediate Release: December 19, 2013

Contact: Matt Fagan

Phone: (559) 565-3131

### Sequoia and Kings Canyon Employee Receives Regional Award

*Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, CA* – Jerry Torres, Roads/Auto/ Trails Facility Manager at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI), received a regional citation for superior service at the parks’ recent all-employees meeting on December 12 in Three Rivers, California. The award, which was signed by National Park Service (NPS) Pacific West Regional Director Christine Lenhertz, was in recognition of his outstanding performance in the completion of a rehabilitation project on the main road (Generals Highway) that runs through Sequoia National Park and the protection of natural and cultural resources.

Torres led the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Federal Highway Administration and Denver Service Center team to complete the planning, design, and compliance for this project in a way that would preserve the integrity of the National Register eligible highway, while protecting the natural resources within the project corridor. The highway work entailed widening existing travel lanes to a consistent 10-foot width and improving the turning radius of the switchbacks for a 22-foot vehicle. While this work may not seem complicated, the grade, curvature, and steepness of the Generals Highway, along with the parks’ desire to maintain visitor access, made it especially challenging. Complex work included stabilizing the road shoulders, replicating historic retaining walls, rock slope blasting, and constructing cantilevered bridges. This project also included rehabilitation an 8.5 mile section of the highway and constructing a bridge over Halstead Meadow, a critical park resource, to restore the meadow’s natural water flow.

The citation stated “the successful completion of the project in 2013 would not have been possible without Torres’ commitment to the job and the National Park Service.”

– NPS –