

SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL

EXECUTIVE PROFILE | Frank Dudek

Frank Dudek is founder and president of the eponymously named Encinitas-based environmental and engineering services company: **Dudek**. The firm assists public and private clients to plan, design, permit, construct, operate and manage California's public infrastructure and natural resources from its eight offices. The firm's construction subsidiary, **Habitat Restoration Sciences**, is one of California's leading contractors specializing in native habitat restoration. Frank Dudek was inducted into Oregon State University's Engineering Hall of Fame in 2009.

BUSINESS PHILOSOPHY

Essential business philosophy: Work should be fun, interesting and profitable.

Best way to keep a competitive edge: Hire good people.

Guiding principles: Provide good service and help our clients succeed.

Yardsticks of success: Having happy clients and a happy staff.

Goals yet to be achieved: Saturate Northern California.

JUDGMENT CALLS

Best business decision: Buying out my original partner in the business.

Worst business decision: Venturing into new business areas with the wrong people.

Toughest business decision: Dismantling those business areas and taking our lumps for the actions.

Biggest missed opportunity: None comes to mind.

Mentor: My fellow business managers several of whom are still working with us.

GREEN ECONOMY SPECIAL EDITION

Words that describe you: A "Westernized Midwesterner."

TRUE CONFESSIONS

What you like best about your job: The people I work with.

What you like least about your job: Having to let people I like go occasionally.

Pet peeves: Indecisiveness.

Most important lesson learned: A company has a unique culture, not everyone will fit into that culture.

Person most interested in meeting: Clients I haven't met yet.

Three greatest passions: Family, business, friends.

PREDILECTIONS

Favorite quote: There are many great quotes but for today: "The times they are a changing" — **Bob Dylan**.

Most influential book: "How to Win Friends and Influence People" by **Dale Carnegie**.

Favorite status symbol: Wearing board shorts instead of a **Speedo** during swim workouts.

— Steve Adamek



RESUME

Name: Frank Dudek.

Company: Dudek.

Title: President.

Revenue — 2010: \$37.3 million.

No. of employees: 257.

Year founded: 1980.

Education: B.S. Civil Engineering, University of Nebraska; M.S. Civil Engineering, Oregon State University.

Birthplace: Schuyler, Nebraska.

Age: 60.

Current residence: Solana Beach.

Family: Wife, **Penelope**; Kids:

Elizabeth, John and Ann.