



Figure 3.8 Photograph of sound walls.

more attractive and appears more natural. A well-planned mixture of plants, staggered islands, and undulating berms is nearly always a site-enhancing feature.

### Site stabilization

There are two distinct types of stabilization on disturbed sites: temporary and permanent. *Temporary stabilization* generally is used on a portion of a site that has been disturbed and is to be left in a disturbed state for some time prior to final grading and stabilization. Examples of such areas are soil stockpiles and temporary access points. The means of temporary stabilization include vegetation, geotextile fabrics, and/or stone. Temporary stabilization methods are generally inexpensive to purchase, install, and remove. The rule of thumb used in most areas is that if an area is to remain in a disturbed condition but with no further activity for more than 20 days, temporary stabilization is called for. The guideline must be tempered by local conditions, time of the year, and other relative information.

*Permanent stabilization* is the finished surface of the developed site. This will include vegetation, paving, geotextiles, and stone, as well as combinations of these. In most cases the permanent stabilization of a site will be accomplished either by vegetation or paving. Vegetation is the least expensive cover material to use in most applications; however, in areas of high traffic (pedes-