

# ✓ Crosstown bridge reopens

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SANTA CRUZ — The earthquake-damaged Murray Street bridge over the Santa Cruz Small Craft Harbor will reopen today.

The ceremonial ribbon cutting at 1 p.m. by Mardi Wormhoudt will signal welcome relief to Live Oak and Pleasure Point residents who have been forced to take circuitous routes in their daily travels.

It also will signal financial relief for Seabright-area merchants, whose business district had become an island, cut off from customers by both Murray Street and East Cliff Drive bridge closures. The East Cliff bridge, which had been closed for rebuilding prior to the quake, is expected to reopen next

month.

The only bad news is for neighborhood residents who have enjoyed an unusual peace and quiet for the past six months and for bicyclists and walkers who have had the bridge all to themselves.

Actually the bad news for bicyclists and walkers came a day early when, on the last day of the bridge closure, police officers started issuing citations to those who ignored "keep off" signs.

"That's just great cooperation from the city," said one of several callers who complained to The Sentinel.

Deputy Police Chief Mike Dunbaugh said he, too, had received a complaint.

He said there was no order handed down for the officers to begin citing trespassers on the last day.

"It appears that a couple of beat officers decided to take the initiative," he said. Dunbaugh said a sergeant was en route to the bridge to investigate.

Major repairs to damaged pilings and columns were completed on Monday. Concrete testing was completed that day and the test results were favorable, according to city Traffic Engineer Chris Schneider.

Repairs cost about \$400,000, of which the city will receive an as yet unknown percentage from FEMA.

Until the East Cliff Drive Bridge project is complete, traffic still will be detoured via Seabright Avenue and Broadway to Ocean Street.