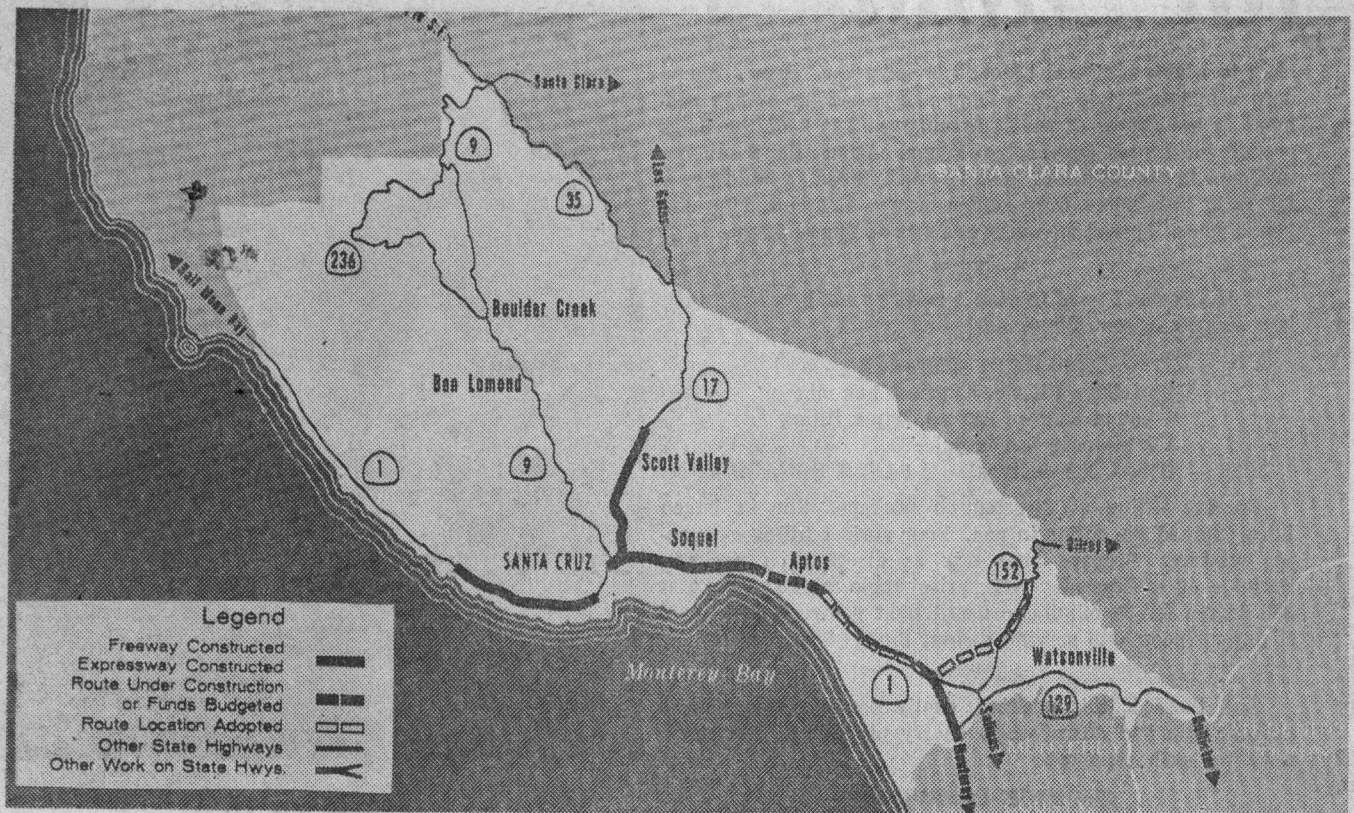


A Report On County Highways



Soquel Drive's next major extension will be advertised for bids in July, the state division of highways has announced as part of its quarterly report on Santa Cruz County highways.

The extension will be a four-lane highway from Chanticleer Avenue to 41st Avenue and will cost \$286,000. Most of this will be paid by federal and state funds, with the county paying a small amount for actual construction and providing right-of-way. A new bridge across Rodeo Gulch is part of the project.

Construction will begin this summer on the first part of the extension, from Paul Sweet freeway overcrossing to Chanticleer, also a four-lane section.

Once both sections are completed, only a stretch in the Soquel area will remain to make Soquel Drive a four-lane highway from Paul Sweet Road to Aptos.

County plans for Soquel already have won the backing of Soquel Merchants, Inc., and an Aptos bypass is being planned.

Other state projects in the planning, construction, or completion stage include:

SANTA CRUZ—At the request of the city, more studies are being made on a freeway along the Chestnut Street area between Mission and Bay Streets.

The freeway would connect Highway 1 west of the city to the Highway 1—Highway 17 interchange.

The beach loop route 100 is also a part of the state's study. It is designed to carry traffic around the downtown business district to the beach areas.

Results will be given to the city this summer.

WATSONVILLE BYPASS — Some \$25,000 has been bu-

etted for tree planting and landscaping along the new bypass route. Resurfacing of the old route through Watsonville is planned before turning it over to the city.

ROB ROY — An interchange and frontage roads at Rob Roy junction are proposed for the state's 1968-69 budget. It is tentatively set for bid early next year.

HIGHWAY 1—Design studies continued on converting the stretch from Rob Roy to the Watsonville bypass to a full

four-lane freeway. The county has asked for interchanges at Larkin Valley Road and Mar Monte Avenue.

HIGHWAY 17—Programs to improve Highway 17 before construction of a full freeway some years in the future continue. Left-turn and entry lanes at Upper Glenwood Road near the summit were completed last month at a cost of \$53,800.

Turn lanes for Glenwood Cutoff have been designed and \$60,000 budgeted. Bids will be opened May 22.

Some 19 truck turnouts between Scotts Valley and Bear Creek Road are proposed for the next budget year.

Shoulder widening, guard rails, and other projects for the highway are in the design process.

HIGHWAY 9—Granite Construction recently completed a \$114,500 widening and resurfacing of Highway 9. A project to resurface 7.7 miles of Big Basin Highway above Boulder Creek will be advertised in the spring.