

Supervisors authorize Smith Grade bypass

SANTA CRUZ — Construction of a temporary bypass around the Smith Grade Road slipout in Bonny Doon has been authorized by county supervisors.

Work on the bypass around the slipout near Empire Grade Road will begin the end of June, and take a week or so to complete. The county Public Works Department is working now on getting an agreement with the owner of the site where the bypass will be built.

Supervisors authorized the project in a unanimous vote Tuesday. It's estimated to cost no more than \$8,000, including \$4,000 in materi-

als. The eventual repair of Smith Grade Road will cost approximately \$300,000.

Residents of the mountain areas have been forced to drive an extra 20 miles round-trip into Santa Cruz since the slipout occurred this winter.

Besides creating a potentially dangerous situation in case of an emergency — and just plain inconvenience — the longer route also is costing the 60 families along the road approximately \$7,500 monthly in extra gas and car maintenance costs.

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In a letter to fellow supervisors recommending the bypass, Supervisor Gary Patton said while it's only a temporary solution, "it would be of major assistance to Smith Grade residents until the necessary road project can be completed."

The bypass will be provided by upgrading the old Smith Grade right of way adjacent to the slipout.

County road crews working elsewhere in Patton's third (Santa Cruz) supervisorial district will be moved to Smith Grade to complete the job.