

Green Sheet & Cabrillo Times
Court order puts hold
Bridges 11-16-72 p1
on Little John Bridge

Construction of a new Little John bridge on Old San Jose Road which was scheduled to get underway this week by Granite Construction Co., has been blocked, at least temporarily, by court action.

A group of homeowners in the area Tuesday were granted a temporary restraining order against the county by Superior Court Judge Nick Drobac and the county was ordered to appear at a hearing Nov. 21 to show cause why a preliminary injunction against the construction should not be issued.

The homeowners contend the \$240,000 project should not be allowed to proceed because the county has failed to comply with the State Environmental Quality Act, since there have been no environmental impact statements filed on the project.

The complaint states the plaintiffs are seeking "to protect not only their direct economic interests but also are seeking to protect and enhance the natural environment and to secure and preserve the scenic and

ecological qualities of the region for present and future generations."

Construction of the bridge was delayed four years ago when funds earmarked for it went into the initial cost of building the Mt. Hermon Road bypass in San Lorenzo Valley.

County Supervisor Dan Forbus, who agreed to that switch of funds at the time, when Mt. Hermon Road had been closed for weeks by a massive earth slide, shook his head Tuesday when he heard of the court action.

"Four years ago people in my district were very disappointed to learn construction of the bridge was to be delayed," he said.

In addition to the bridge the project also included straightening out some "dangerous" curves in the road near the bridge, "but this really involved really very little area," Forbus said.

The new rights-of-way for the road change were recently acquired by the county through eminent domain proceedings.