

BRIDGES

# Arched, 4-lane bridge will span Soquel Creek

## Work on Porter Street Bridge to start next fall

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SOQUEL — The new Porter Street Bridge, one of the main entries to Soquel Village, will be a pier-less arch over Soquel Creek.

County supervisors Tuesday unanimously approved the design of the new bridge, set for construction next fall. They also agreed to the railing design.

Construction of the four-lane bridge, replacing the existing two-lane structure, will begin in fall, 1992.

County Public Works Director John Fantham said he recommended an arch to give plenty of clearance in case of flood. An arched bridge also is a thinner structure, so it doesn't have to be elevated from the road surface, he added.

Piers tend to catch debris during flooding, so Fantham recommended against them.

The railing was designed by a committee of Soquel citizens and county officials. Soquel architect Teall Messer served on the committee.

Messer, who has lived in Soquel 13 years, said the design "hopefully will give you a

feeling that you are entering into the village of Soquel."

The railing will consist of 5 foot high, concrete pylons set 20 feet apart, Messer said. The pylons will be covered in dark blue tile. Lights will be set into the pylons to illuminate the sidewalk and the road.

Messer said the design will allow pedestrians and drivers to see the creek as they pass over the bridge.

Construction of the bridge is part of an overall project with Caltrans to widen the Highway 1 overpasses at Soquel Wharf Road and Porter Street/Bay Avenue, improve the Bay Avenue/Highway 1 interchange, widen Porter Street, and place a traffic signal at the intersection of Porter and Main streets.

The cost to the county will be \$2.2 million. The county has \$1.38 million available from the Live Oak-Soquel Area Redevelopment Agency, federal funds, and other county funds.

Fantham said that the remainder will have to come from future funds from the yet-to-be-approved federal Highway Act.