

Federal grant to cover Felton bridge repairs

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Caltrans receives
\$248,000 to fix roof

By KIMBERLY WHITE

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FELTON — A four-month project to replace the entire roof of Felton's historic covered bridge will begin in the spring, thanks to a grant from the Federal Highway Administration.

On Friday, Caltrans learned it received an approximately \$248,000 grant from the Federal Highway Administration's National Historic Covered Bridge

Preservation program, according to county parks planner Bob Olson. He expressed surprise at the announcement, saying that the county only submitted the grant application at the end of June.

In May, Big Creek Lumber co-founder Lud McCrary donated about 100 redwood shakes he made by hand to help repair a section of roof damaged by a fallen tree during March's heavy storms. Those shakes will be used in addition to hundreds of others, which must be made by hand to preserve the historic structure's character, Olson explained.

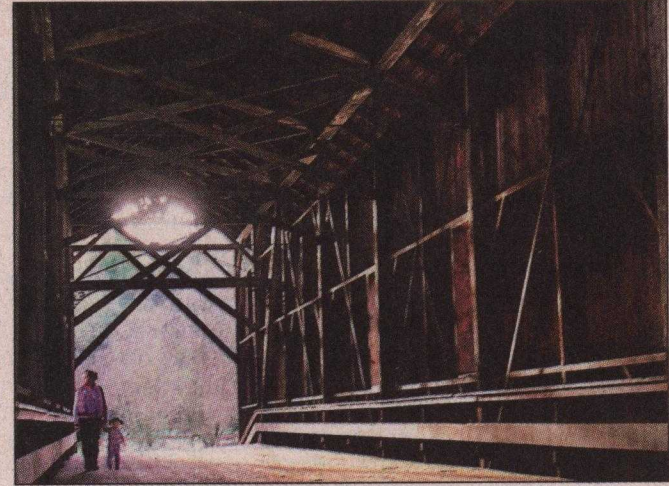
The grant period runs from

March to July, but some of that time will be spent bidding out the project to a professional roof installer, with installation taking place during the summer.

"Now we just have to devise a plan on how to get all this work done," he said, referring to finding a contractor to craft the shakes.

The bridge was built in 1892 and served as the main entry to Felton for 45 years. At 34 feet tall, it's believed to be the tallest covered bridge of its kind in the country, and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.

SEE BRIDGE ON B3



Justina Nichols and her daughter Dahlia walk through the Felton Covered Bridge en route to the nearby playground. Caltrans has received a \$248,000 federal grant to pay for repairs to the bridge's roof.

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SENTINEL FILE

BRIDGE

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The bridge was damaged during heavy winter storms in the early 1980s, and received a historic preservation award after it was reconstructed, according to the county's grant application.

In a news release issued Friday to announce the award, Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Palo Alto, wrote that the restoration project "will put people to work and restore a national historic landmark" and vowed to work with the community through the end of the project.

The grant was championed by several other elected representatives, including Assemblyman Bill Monning, D-Carmel, state Sen. Joe Simi-tian, D-Palo Alto, and Supervisor Mark Stone, according to a news release from Monning's office.