

# Damaged bridge blown up

Watsonville

11-2-89

EARTHQUAKE '89-

WATSONVILLE — The old Thurwachter Bridge, which has been all but abandoned for the past four years and was severely damaged in the earthquake, was blown up Tuesday afternoon.

The bridge was off Beach Road, linking Santa Cruz and Monterey counties.

Soldiers from Fort Ord carefully laid explosives across the structure Tuesday and set off the blast about 4 p.m., sending shock waves through Watsonville.

The bridge, which is known as Thurwachter on this side of the

river and McGowan on the other side, was closed to vehicular traffic four years ago because of its dilapidated condition.

It had been used primarily as an access across the river for agricultural equipment.

The Monterey County Board of Supervisors decided the structure should come down for fear that heavy winter rains would cause it to collapse and cause flooding.

Monterey County is planning to rebuild the bridge this summer with cooperation from Santa Cruz County.