



Dan Coyro/Sentinel

The project to raise Bargetto Bridge in Soquel Village, to allow debris to flow through during heavy storms, is nearly complete.

^{Bridges} Traffic-clogging bridge project in Soquel Village ¹¹⁸⁰² nears completion

By **RAMONA TURNER**
SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

Travel through Soquel Village will be a bit easier as a facelift of Bargetto Bridge wraps up.

Touch-ups on the \$3.5 million project should be complete by the end of this month, said John Presleigh, assistant county public works director.

Work began during the summer of 2001 to raise the bridge 3 feet as part of a flood control project. Presleigh said the project is more than 90 percent finished.

Work on the more than 50-year-old bridge is finished, asphalt paving is done and the

stream bypass has been removed. All that's left to complete are the bridge approaches for westbound traffic. That should be done in a couple weeks.

Final striping will take place after the bridge approaches are finished. After some minor cleanup and erosion control, the project will be complete, said Don Hill, county construction manager.

While the new bridge won't guarantee against flooding that businesses and other property in the village have seen in previous heavy storms, it is expected to allow more trees and other debris to flow under the bridge during winter storms.

The construction required narrowing

Soquel Drive to one lane in each direction, so its completion is good news for businesses, which have been seeing fewer customers because of clogged roads and hidden driveways.

"I appreciate the effort people made to get here during the construction," said Tom Frankl of Play It Again Sports.

While his recycled sporting good business did not see a big drop in business during the construction, "some days were worse than others," Frankl said. "It wasn't business as usual."

Contact Ramona Turner at
rturner@santa-cruz.com.

Work on the more than 50-year-old bridge is finished, asphalt paving is done and the stream bypass has been removed. All that's left to complete are the bridge approaches for westbound traffic. That should be done in a couple weeks.
