

## Soquel Ave. bridge reopens

The long-awaited re-opening of the four-lane Soquel Avenue Bridge is scheduled to take place Thursday.

The bridge has been down to two lanes since early 1982, before it was damaged by the raging waters of the San Lorenzo River in that January. Since then a conspicuous and sometimes noisy repair has been underway.

"The project took 10 times longer than it should have, but when it's over, it's over," said Larry Erwin, public works

director for the city of Santa Cruz.

The repair, funded by federal disaster funds, was slowed by lengthy state and federal reviews.

"I just want to open it and have people use it and not notice it," Erwin said.

City crews are now completing the last tasks needed to reopen, Erwin said. They are coordinating traffic signals, striping lanes and making sure the approaches are "up to snuff by May 1."