

GREEN SHEET

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Salamander pond job is \$96,000 project

Construction is underway in Rio del Mar to enlarge one of the two breeding ponds for the rare Santa Cruz long-toed salamander.

Granite Construction Co. of Watsonville has a \$96,500 contract from the State Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the state Department of Fish and Game to construct a new dam and dike for the pond and then relocate the freeway boundary fence closer to the roadway.

Caltrans spokesman Bob Halligan said the work should be completed by Oct. 1.

When the work is completed, control of the breeding pond will be turned over to the Fish and Game department, Halligan said.

Granite is also re-surfacing the freeway between Rio del Mar and Santa Cruz in two phases.

Earl Guinn, maintenance superintendent for Caltrans in Santa Cruz County, said work on the northbound lanes will be completed by the end of August with the southbound lanes paved during the first part of September.