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Little John Bridge Gets OK

Bridges

It was getting to the point where you might wonder if anyone ever was going to cross a new Little John Bridge.

But after years of budget hearing neglect, and then six months in court, county supervisors Tuesday approved a change order that will allow construction of the bridge, which will span Soquel Creek on Olive Springs Road, just off Old San Jose Road.

Even at that, the board was asked by Henry Faitz to continue the subject for two weeks to look more closely into a statement made during the court hearing by an engineer who said the present bridge could be improved.

However, the board listened to advice of Public Works Director Don Porath and approved an \$18,896 change order for the bridge. That will

bring the total project cost to \$261,500 for the low bidder on the original October contract, Granite Construction Co.

Porath and Engineer John Fantham warned that starting all over again in bidding, etc., might cost \$60,000 additional. The public works director said also that the Little John crossing is generally regarded by engineers to be in the "top 10 in the state to be replaced."

In other business:

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Granite Construction Co. was awarded also a \$54,486 contract to improve Soquel Drive between Seventh Avenue and Capitola Road. That is 14 per cent under the engineer's estimate.

AIRPORT — A \$25,000 contribution to Watsonville Airport for two, six-space hangars was granted.

CHRISTEN BROS. — Soquel-Live Oak Supervisor Dan Forbus received an indication from the board that it does not plan to hold a night meeting to hear a request from Christen Bros. to rezone property from a chicken ranch to a 75 - unit Golden Years Manor senior citizen development in Soquel. The hearing was set July 10 at 1:30 p.m.

APPOINTED — Mrs. Christine B. Hooper was nominated for appointment to the Area 7 Mental Retardation Board.

BROOKDALE LODGE — Planning Director Walter Monasch informed the board that his department is carrying through with action to revoke a use permit for Brookdale Lodge, which allegedly violated that permit recently. He estimated the subject will be in front of the planning commission July 5 and to the board by Aug. 14.

LEGISLATION — Jim Evans, assistant county administrative officer, gave the board an update on legislative matters in Sacramento. Supervisors reluctantly approved a resolution for AB 832 which will allow three positions in Municipal Court, but not be supported by the state.

Supervisors opposed sections of SB 594 which calls for a second six - month delay in requiring open space and conservation elements in general plans, and that zoning conform to a general plan. The board did go along with a section allowing only three changes a year in General Plans

Evans noted also that SB 299, which would amend SB 90 tax reform and allow special districts an option of using either the 1971 - 72 or 1972 - 73 tax rate, instead of only the latter, is out of committee.