

Bridge will come tumbling down; but city pledges to reconstruct it

SANTA CRUZ — The deteriorated DeLaveaga covered bridge will be dismantled and its salvageable parts stored for possible reconstruction.

City council members were unanimous in supporting the dismantling after being told the bridge may not survive another winter's season of storms.

However, the Historic Preservation Commission expressed concern that if the bridge is dismantled, it may never be reconstructed.

Former Mayor Charlotte Melville spoke for the commission, saying, "We've been told we'll get a replica, but there are

other choices."

She said there is new methods of strengthening wood through wood-splicing. That might be the best course to try to help the bridge through another season and then look at full restoration, she said.

Parks Director Jim Lang reported, "During the January, 1982 flood, one of the four support posts was dislodged resulting in serious structural damage to the bridge.

"The city received \$1,200 of federal funds to replace the support post, however, during the replacement work, the contractor (said) major portions of the

bridge had significantly deteriorated and that it would be impossible to guarantee the structural integrity of the bridge, especially in light of pending winter storms."

Lang said whatever could be saved, including the joints, would be stored until there's money to restore the bridge.

Councilwoman Mardi Wormhoudt said the bridge is not in its original position along Glen Canyon Road and that the historic commission could help by trying to locate its historic setting.

Council approved using \$4,000 from the Harvey West Park fund to do the dismantling.