



BRIDGES

- A. All bridges planned for construction on private property require a permit from the Building Inspection Division. Bridges on public property require a permit from the County Department of Transportation (707) 463-4363.
- B. Bridges intended either for motorized vehicles, pedestrians or a combination thereof need to be designed by an architect or engineer licensed to practice in the State of California.
- C. It is this department's policy to allow the design professional to set the design parameters of the bridge; however, the California Department of Forestry ((707) 459-7414) must also approve all bridges and they are currently requiring a 40,000 pound minimum weight limit and ten foot minimum roadway width.
- D. Bridge design guidelines can be obtained from Caltrans ((707) 445-6600) or ASHTO (American Society of Highway and Transportation Officials).
- E. Weight limit, speed-limit and "One-Way" signs must be posted for both directions.
- F. Guardrails are needed: ASHTO or Caltrans guardrails are acceptable with or without restraining curbs. A Uniform Building Code guardrail is acceptable with a restraining curb.
- G. Abutments must be designed and should take into account the scouring action of streams or rivers.
- H. The bottom of the structure must be one foot above the 100-year flood level.
- I. The minimum soil bearing pressure without a soils report is 1,000 psf. Soils reports are needed if the foundation bears on gravel or sand or if the bottom of the footing is set back from the descending slope less than the amount specified by Uniform Building Code Chapter 18.
- J. "Railcar" bridges must be accompanied by structural calculations and be certified by the architect or engineer to perform as designed.
- K. Structural welding needs special inspection.
- L. The applicant should also apply for permit to the State Department of Fish and Game ((707) 944-5500) if a watercourse is being traversed.