

The reuse of the historic Grand Avenue Bridge to a wetland viewing overlook is nearing completion!

We are working hard to finish the Grand Avenue Bridge overlook for the scheduled grand opening on January 25th, 2009!

The reuse of the historic bridge was funded by a generous grant from County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price and labor and materials from Southern California Edison. Marathon Construction Company is the project contractor.

The bridge will no longer allow access to the sensitive wetlands being restored on the other side. Work on the retrofit project had to stop during the bird breeding season and resumed in October 2008.



The first step was to remove the last two bridge spans to convert the bridge into an overlook/"pier". This work occurred back in January 2008.



Marathon Construction repaired the damaged and rotting piers at the bridge abutment. This involved removing a portion of the bridge deck and placing a resin sleeve over several of the supporting piers and then putting the bridge back together again.



All useable lumber from the Grand Avenue Bridge is being salvaged and reused for the project. Some of the old timbers will be used on the bridge itself and other pieces will be made into bollards for the project entrance, sign posts, and benches.



When new wood must be used or cut a stain is applied to the cut ends to reduce the contrast between the new lumber and the old lumber. The Del Mar Rotary provided volunteer labor and materials.



Metal screening is being placed in the gaps between the original bridge railings to meet current safety codes. Once the overlook is finished, a parking area and overlook entrance will be created off of San Dieguito Road in front of the overlook. Interpretive signs describing the history of the bridge and project area will also be placed on the bridge and entrance area.

When the project is finished, it will provide a restful viewing area to observe the abundant wetland birds and fish in the newly restored lagoon.