

INKWELLS BRIDGE

Project description by Dave Hansen of the Marin County Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services

Inkwells Bridge is a 170-foot long structure crossing San Geronimo Creek just upstream from its confluence with Lagunitas Creek in San Geronimo Valley in Central Marin County. The location is one half mile west of the community of Lagunitas. The bridge crosses the creek to the north from the edge of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard at milepost 16.5 across a rocky, pooled area called the Inkwells. The Northern landing for the bridge is the old railroad grade that runs west along the northern banks of the creek.

The bridge itself is a joint project of the Marin Municipal Water District and the Marin County Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services, and will be jointly built, owned and maintained under an MOU between those two entities. The structure entails two suspended 36" diameter steel water pipes laid parallel on beams suspended on two new concrete piers above the creekbed. These pipes will replace a single existing pipeline crossing the creek located immediately adjacent and to the west of the proposed structure. The new pipes, piers and beams will be surmounted by a prefabricated steel trail bridge approximately 9 feet wide which will accommodate public pedestrian, equestrian and bicycle traffic and occasionally small maintenance vehicles. Railings on the bridge will be at least 4 ½ feet high and the decking will consist of pressure treated Douglas fir planking. The landings for the bridge on either side are approximately 15 feet in length supported by concrete footings and head walls. The bridge will be wheelchair accessible. A few small trees and shrubs will be removed to accommodate the bridge. The trees are less than 6" DBH. The landings and bridge will be built to give as little visual impact to the surroundings as possible with the Corten® steel structure a natural earth color and directional and safety signage mounted on rough natural wood poles at the landings on both sides. Any fencing will be of dark coated chain-link and native plant landscaping and rockwork will replace any disturbed areas in the vicinity.

The bridge and landings will be located on property owned by the Marin Municipal Water District, Marin County and on an easement on property owned by a private landowner, Mr. Louis Dhority.