

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**DATE:** April 2, 2026 **Job No.:** 2300338

**TO:** Jessica Kahn, City of Capitola

**FROM:** Julia Harberson, CSWST2

**RE: STOCKTON AVENUE BRIDGE EXISTING CONDITION – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Stockton Avenue Bridge is an aging structure (approximately 93 years old) that is showing clear signs of deterioration and increasing risk. Recent inspections found significant corrosion in key structural elements, especially in the bridge deck, along with cracking, exposed reinforcement, and ongoing maintenance needs. While the bridge is still safe for use today, its condition will continue to decline over time.

In addition to structural concerns, the bridge is vulnerable to scour (erosion around its foundations) during high flows in Soquel Creek. Analysis indicates the bridge is “scour critical,” meaning its foundations could become unstable under severe storm conditions, especially when debris accumulates.

The bridge also carries multiple utilities (sewer, water, and electrical). While some are in acceptable condition, others show deterioration such as corrosion, cracking, and aging infrastructure, and there are discrepancies between existing utilities and historical records.

**Key Findings:**

- Remaining service life: Estimated at 5–10 years, though uncertain due to hidden deterioration.
- Timing: Replacement planning should begin immediately, as studies and approvals alone may take ~2 years.
- Why not repair: Even major repairs (like full deck replacement) are not cost-effective long-term and would not address underlying issues such as corrosion, debris impacts, and seismic vulnerabilities.
- Risk of delaying replacement: Continued deterioration could lead to severe cracking, unsafe conditions, or even partial closure, with potential for prolonged roadway shutdown if failure occurs.
- Monitoring needs: Increasing deck cracking is the main warning sign; frequent inspections (about every 3 months) are recommended.

**Conclusion:** While short-term maintenance can keep the bridge operational, the combination of advanced age, structural deterioration, hydraulic/scour risks, and seismic deficiencies make full bridge replacement the most practical and cost-effective long-term solution. Planning should begin now to avoid higher risks, costs, and potential service disruptions in the near future.