

Suspension Bridge For De Luz, Plan

San Diego county's first suspension bridge may be swung across Santa Margarita river at De Luz crossing but it will be for pedestrians only and not large enough for cars, E. R. Childs, county road commissioner, revealed today.

De Luz residents have petitioned the board of supervisors for a wet weather crossing, to enable them to reach Fallbrook, their market center, during flood times every winter when they are unable to ford the swollen stream. During periods when the river is flowing normally, cars ford it over a porous rock dam surmounted by a wooden mat. The mat is held in position during floods by chains, and settles back into place when the flood goes down.

Floods may last days or weeks, and during such periods De Luz residents have difficulty handling their mail, getting supplies from market and attending school in Fallbrook.

The supervisors were advised by county counsel that the proposed suspension type of crossing for pedestrians would be safer, from a liability standpoint, than a cable crossing. The bridge would have to be built with safety railings and approaches, however, the board was warned.

Childs said that eventually, when Fallbrook irrigation district builds a dam at a designated site a quarter-mile upstream, the county road will be realigned to cross upon the dam, providing not only a high and dry all-weather crossing, but cutting nearly a mile off the distance.

Cops' Radios Under Vests