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# County in Laguna fight

Sonoma County is joining the federal government and the City of Sebastopol in the crusade to preserve the Laguna de Santa Rosa.

Supervisors Tuesday unanimously adopted a study of the endangered waterway and asked the Sonoma County Fish and Wildlife Advisory Board to come up with a plan to protect and enhance the 14-mile waterway between Cotati and the Russian River.

The plan will include policies about land use, public education, flood control, restoration and acquisition of land along the lagoon, said west county supervisor Ernie Carpenter, who led efforts for county involvement in the laguna crusade.

"It's a unique area that deserves much greater protection than we've given it... It's crossroads time and I'm glad the energy is being focussed in that direction," said Carpenter.

Sebastopol Mayor Anne Magnie said the board's action "says unequivocally there's a broad-based constituency of all levels of government that recognize the value of the laguna as a national resource."

Preservation efforts began two years ago with the Sebastopol City Council's appointment of the Laguna de Santa Rosa Advisory Committee that issued a report about the ecological value of the lagoon. It's

## Sebastopol set on laguna park

SEBASTOPOL — Mayor Anne Magnie says the city council is determined to have a special park along the Laguna de Santa Rosa.

Magnie said Wednesday that the council directed its staff this week to decline any offers to purchase city land along the laguna. Officials have been approached by potential buyers of the 70 acres Sebastopol owns along the waterway.

Magnie said "there's almost a guarantee" the city will develop some type of laguna park. The city's general plan has long called for such a park and a citizen's committee recommended its development last year in a report on preserving the laguna. Based on the council members' public comments, Magnie said, she expected the council to adopt that park rec-

ommendation Wednesday night during a special meeting to once more review the report.

Council members this week indicated they want to meet soon to discuss the details of how to develop a park. Magnie said some officials suggested it should include both recreation areas and undeveloped lands as does the Ragle Ranch Regional Park on the west end of town.

The city may cooperate with Sonoma County officials, who have state bond money available to acquire land along the laguna. Sebastopol already has set aside \$20,000 worth of state bond money to help purchase a forested area southeast of Highway 12 — a project in cooperation with the Sonoma County Land Trust and the state Department of Fish & Game.

considered the second largest freshwater marsh in Northern California and is home for hundreds of species of birds, fish, mammals and plants.

Congressman Doug Bosco earlier this year appointed a task force to help draft legislation that would

create a national wildlife refuge along the lagoon that for decades was popularly known for only its wintertime flooding and function as the winter disposal site for treated effluent from the Laguna Wastewater Treatment Plant on Llano Road.