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# Laguna . . .

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tiary-treated wastewater. The city is under state orders to approve a reclamation plan by March 1, after which there is the lengthy environmental review process.

Santa Rosa and its Board of Public Utilities, which oversees operation of the regional wastewater treatment plant on Llano Rd., have been reviewing 10 reclamation options, all of which combine urban and rural irrigation, effluent discharge into the Russian River and restoration/enhancement of wetlands and the Laguna de Santa Rosa.

This week, Santa Rosa is expected to approve a hybrid west and south county plan, which also provides treated wastewater for irrigating Sebastopol's apple orchards and a maximum discharge rate of five percent into the river, the standard now in effect.

In the reclamation plan, 15 sites, covering about 657 acres of wetlands, were identified for possible restorative projects. Of that acreage total, about 306 acres were determined to be suitable to accept the tertiary-treated wastewater.

Two of the sites identified in the plan are located just outside Sebastopol's eastern city boundary, on either side of state highway 12.

The first site, north of the highway, consists of 76 acres and is owned by Sebastopol. Referred to as the Barlow site (because the Barlow Co. has an agreement with the city to dispose of its liquid apple waste in the fields), the site includes the proposed Laguna Park.

The other site, on the south side of the highway, is the 96-acre Brown Farm.

While Santa Rosa has not prepared a priority list for development of these various wetland sites, biologist Marco Waaland, who worked on the Laguna Park Master Plan, makes a poignant case for blending the Barlow site and the Brown Farm.

"It would be ideal if they could do the Brown Farm first, since there is the Laguna Park Master Plan in place. (Santa Rosa) could design its restoration in a way to be compatible with the goals of the park plan," said Waaland, owner of Golden Bear Biotics.

"And it would be a nice first effort to meet the Subregional Systems' goals and at the same

time meet Sebastopol's goals of restoring the Laguna Park area."

Waaland also suggested that combining the city's two restoration plans could be of excellent promotional value.

"It would be a good example of how we are going to proceed near urban areas. The promotional value would be higher there. With public access, the benefits (of such restoration

The first step is initiation of the Coordinated Resource Management and Planning (CRIMP) process. Organized on the basis of an identifiable geographic area (such as a laguna or watershed), the process brings all agencies, landowners and individuals involved with such a resource together "to work out the same long-range goals, so that everybody is playing by the same rules," said Cordell.

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projects) would be visible for the public to appreciate," said Waaland.

But while the prospect of any projects in the wetlands being visible this year are remote, the Laguna Foundation is working behind the scene to cultivate funding sources and resource management goals, according to Cordell.

Cordell said the process evolves in two stages. The first stage is the formation of a Task Force, charged with the development of resource management goals (by consensus), and the second, is the release of newsletters and surveys to inform those unable to participate in the Task Force but who want a forum for offering their sugges-

tions.

"The purpose of the process is to be as open as possible," said Cordell.

The Laguna Foundation, which has agreed to facilitate the process, will ask both the Subregional System municipalities, and Santa Rosa to join CRIMP and provide funding. Twelve federal and state agencies are already committed to participate in the process.

Cordell said she plans to speak with each of the cities who use the regional treatment plant—Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Rohnert Park, and Cotati—and the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors to explain CRIMP and encourage their direct involvement. She also has spoken to Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey, who represents this district.

Santa Rosa has already written a letter of support, but will not commit any money until the county agrees to participate, at which time it can be decided how to split the funding.

Cordell said that while the Laguna Foundation has volunteered to coordinate the process, it does not intend to control the process.

"It is best that the process be coordinated by a group that doesn't have a stake in it, in the sense of a regulatory or po-

litical interest," said Cordell.

"We simply are facilitators, (Our task will be) to make sure minutes (of the meetings) get out and meetings are scheduled. No one group will control the process."

Cordell wants to have the Task Force's long-term resource management goals for protecting and enhancing the laguna and report finished by the end of this year. The foundation has identified eight resources in the laguna—biotic, agricultural, water, archaeological, open space/scenic, recreational, educational, urban infrastructure, and future—but Cordell said the Task Force is not limited to study just them.

Once the CRIMP plan has been completed, the various participatory agencies would then be eligible for federal grants.

Cordell said she also will assist the city of Sebastopol apply for state and federal grants for the Laguna Park Master Plan, but after the city has adopted its 1993-'94 budget. At that time, she would know how much money, if any, Sebastopol could allocate for the implementing the park plan, which benefitted from a great deal of community input. Currently, the city has not designated any money for the park.