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Huge open space deal announced for Laguna

by Frank Robertson
Sonoma West Staff Writer

SEBASTOPOL — Nearly 1,400 acres of the Laguna de Santa Rosa would be preserved as public open space under a tentative deal announced this week between the city of Santa Rosa and Sonoma County.

"It's exciting," said 5th District Supervisor Mike Reilly. "I think this is going to give us tremendous momentum in terms of preservation in the Laguna." The transaction calls for almost the entire city of Santa Rosa wastewater irrigation property in the Laguna to be handed over to the County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District for public trails and a permanent conservation easement, said Reilly.

The area totals approximately 1,400 acres of Laguna property. The transfer is part of a mitigation measure that will allow the city of Santa Rosa to proceed with construction of its wastewater pipeline to the Geysers Geothermal fields.

The unexpected deal was hammered out after city and county officials discovered that county approval was needed for the easements required to run the wastewater pipeline across an Audubon Society Sanctuary on the McCorrd Ranch, said Reilly.

"It's been a pretty closely-held negotiation between the county and the city," said Reilly. "We got a request from the city of Santa Rosa a few

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LAGUNA'S APPEAL — Approximately 1,400 acres of undeveloped Laguna de Santa Rosa fields used for wastewater irrigation would be preserved as open space and public trails under a deal announced this week between Sonoma County and the city of Santa Rosa.
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