

9/30/2002 Pg.1 2002.23.1

San Francisco Chronicle
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AND CALIFORNIA

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Monday,
September 30, 2002

Two views on the vista

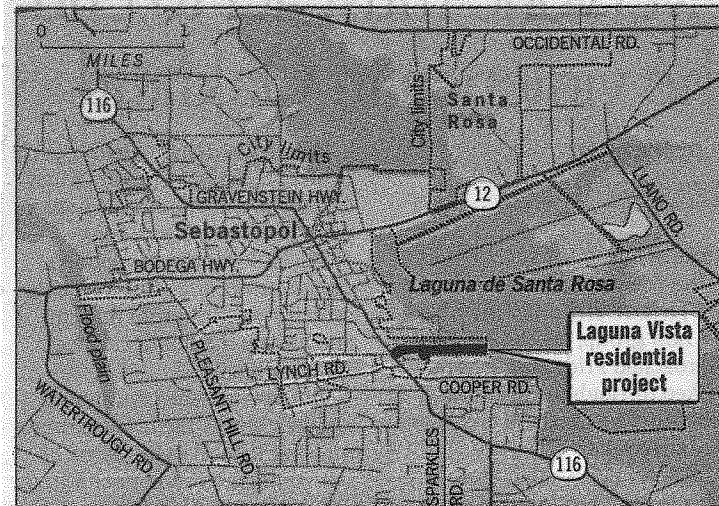
"It's one of those questions we struggle with.

The Green Party is about social justice

as well as environmental issues."

SAM SPOONER, Sebastopol's mayor and a Green Party City Council member

Sebastopol development splits ruling Greens over affordable housing, nature preserve



Sources: ESRI, GDT, FEMA, City of Sebastopol

Chronicle Graphic

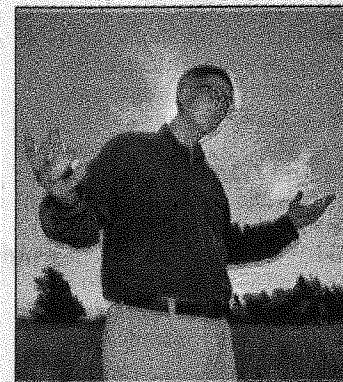
By Glen Martin
CHRONICLE ENVIRONMENT WRITER

To paraphrase Kermit the Frog, it's tough being green — even in Sebastopol, the only town in the United States controlled by a city council with a majority of Green Party members.

These days, the main thing chafing Sebastopol's 364 registered Green Party members — and numerous unaffiliated sympathizers — is a proposed development on the margins of Laguna de Santa Rosa, one of Sonoma County's largest green spaces.

But it's not strictly a case of outraged environmentalists opposing developers hoping to cash in on a lucrative housing market. It's also a matter of Green versus Green.

At stake is the essential community vision for the laguna. Should it be, as many local environmentalists believe, a sacro-



Robert Evans, of the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation, opposes the development.

sanct nature preserve, protected resolutely from even the slightest encroachment?

Or should city Greens demonstrate more flexibility, exchanging a small portion of the laguna's natural splendor for desperately needed affordable hous-

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Photos by ERIC LUSE / The Chronicle

Green Party members are seeing the many shades of green in Sebastopol's Laguna de Santa Rosa.