

SONOMA COUNTY



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

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Kenneth L. Milam, AICP
Planning DirectorJames P. Olmsted, Jr.
Assistant Planning DirectorMr. Robert Sharp
12900 Fiori Lane
Sebastopol, CA 95472

September 11, 1987

Dear Mr. Sharp:

I have just finished a phone conversation with Helen Libeu, who suggested that I write to you regarding the County Planning Department's perspective on the Laguna de Santa Rosa. The Draft Open Space Element of the General Plan Update classifies the Laguna as a Natural Riparian Corridor and a Streamside Conservation Area. The Water Agency places a high priority on maintaining the Laguna floodplain from development in order to retain existing floodplain elevations. In an independent analysis conducted by University of California students in cooperation with the Planning Department, the Laguna was categorized as the most threatened and therefore highest priority for preservation/conservation of any unique biotic area in Sonoma County.

Given these pieces of insight, we believe that a Laguna de Santa Rosa management plan should be prepared and implemented. It should be done in a manner which respects private property rights and still better assures appropriate management of the Laguna area.

Sincerely,

*Richard Lehtinen*Richard Lehtinen,
Chief - Current Planning, South

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