

Since 1889

RY 4 THROUGH FEBRUARY 10, 1988

City says Laguna is worth saving

by Mike Jasper

*Look at Mr. Businessman,
Uh-oh,*

He got some wild, wild, life...

*— David Byrne from "Wildlife"
by the Talking Heads.*

Everybody talks about lagunas, but nobody ever does anything about them.

Not so. The city of Sebastopol took the lead in preserving the flora and fauna of the Laguna de Santa Rosa when it appointed a citizens' advisory committee of sixteen people to do a study on the laguna and offer recommendations to city council.

"They worked for over a year for nary a cent from the city," councilwoman Anne Magnie said.

The sixteen people who received commendation certificates from the city council for their efforts were Harold Appleton, Steve French,

environmental impact reports or the County General Plan, for example — this is written in straightforward prose, understandable to the layman, and at times, poetic:

"Our Laguna de Santa Rosa is technically just that — a laguna: neither river, nor pools, nor flood plain nor marsh nor venal pool..."

Two main charges were given the committee by the city. First, to see what actions Sebastopol could take to protect and preserve lands bordering the laguna directly within the city's sphere of influence, and to promote discussion and cooperation from local, state and federal agencies with assistance from other non-profit or private interest groups.

In other words, the committee found out what needed to be done to preserve the laguna and ways to enlist those who could help.

"Nothing will happen if government doesn't get involved," said committee member Richard Nichols.