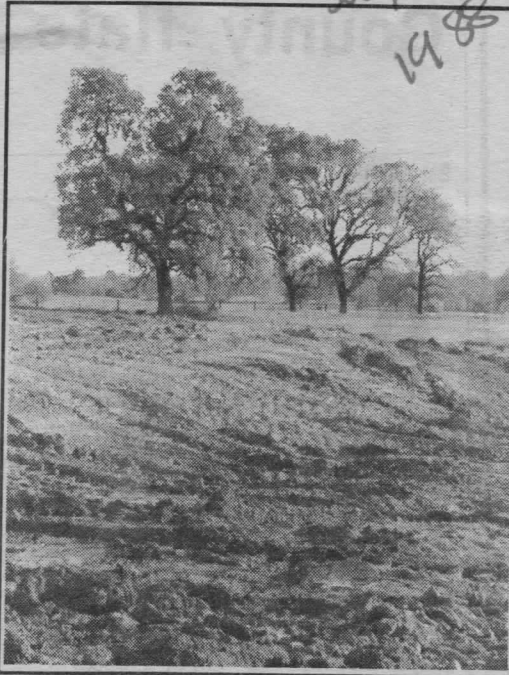


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Laguna advocates seek county protection

July 19 88



LAGUNA LANDFILL—A proposed general plan amendment would protect Laguna Wetlands illegally graded and filled.

Photo by Tom Roth

A committee of Laguna preservationists has requested that county officials consider including several protection measures for the Laguna de Santa Rosa in the county's major planning document.

Marco Waaland, a professional planning consultant who sits on an unofficial committee that includes representatives from the county's Fish and Game Commission and members of Sebastopol's now defunct Laguna Committee, suggested Friday that a Laguna protection amendment be added to the county's revised General Plan.

"There is a momentum out there" to protect and enhance the Laguna, said Waaland. He said his proposal was received with interest by Supervisor Ernie Carpenter and Planning Director Ken Milam—something that wouldn't have happened six months ago.

In brief, the amendment would:

- Require that applicants seeking to fill any part of the Laguna wetlands be required to file for a permit with the Army Corps of Engineers.
- Prohibit sprinkler irrigation of wastewater effluent that would endanger the health and reproduction of oaks, native bunchgrass or rare or endangered species in the Laguna.
- Require that the county develop a comprehensive Laguna management plan to ensure wetlands restoration, establishment of endangered preserves, and replanting of oaks. Management of the program would be funded by public agencies with public and private concerns paying for mitigations.

Supervisor Carpenter said that he favored a General Plan amendment as one way of protecting the Laguna, although he believed that Waaland's proposal needed to be studied and refined before he could offer an endorsement.

New amendments to the General Plan will be considered by the supervisors in September, said Carpenter.

—TOM ROTH