

✓ Don Richard Nichols

88-86

August 11, 1988 ✓

M E M O

Advance Information for
August 30th Meeting

TO : Honorable Mayor & City Council
FROM : Melvin K. Davis, City Manager
SUBJECT : Potential Lands for a Laguna Linear Park

The following is as per request from the City Council. The memo lists City-owned lands that might be incorporated into a Laguna Linear Park.

Before the "park" exists, you will note that a number of major policy issues need to be made by the City Council.

Also to be addressed by the City Council, will be the public liability you take on for such a park; what safety measures you might want to make, and what will be the annual maintenance cost to the City.

Parcel A: Present Laguna Youth Park, encompassing 2 ball diamonds, Sebastopol Community Center, Playground, & parking lot. Presumably, the youth park could be the most readily incorporated into a Laguna Linear Park.
8 acres

Parcel B: Former Sewage Storage Ponds, (former chlorinator building & 3 former treated sewage storage ponds are still on the site). (1 pond is to be restored, as per prior agreement with State Fish & Game Department). 2 other larger ponds are still earmarked for emergency storage of waste, either domestic or industrial, in case of failure of the 2 Morris Street pump stations. City Council would need to be willing to forego this insurance/safety of emergency storage ponds. (Public Works Superintendent certainly would not want to give up that safety margin). If City Council decides otherwise, Council would need to consult some experts on how the 2 ponds might be "restored" as part of the Laguna.
6 acres

Parcel C: To West of Parcel B. Has had extensive fill where 2 or more sewage storage ponds existed, 1950-1975. Now partly used for storage of major equipment & pipe storage. Several persons have asked to buy or lease this, for industry.
6 acres

Parcel D: To South of Laguna Youth Park. Still marsh. There's an offer from Sebastopol Ready Mix to buy it from the City. City Council needs to decide.
1 acre

Doubtful if U.S. Corps of Engineers would allow more fill onto it.

Parcel E:
3 acres

Presently site of Morris Street (sewage) lift station; & Industrial Waste (apple waste) lift station; and underground interceptor & lines leading East from site. Site to rear of lift station could be used for access, incorporated into a Linear Park, so long as City has ability to maintain/repair the underground lines. A plan is needed as to how to use/incorporate/restore parcel as part of any Laguna Linear Park.

Parcel F:
5+ acres

Fronts along Laguna itself. Ownership shared/split between City of Sebastopol & Sonoma County Water Agency. The Agency has some past responsibility to maintain the Laguna water to assure passage of water. A plan is needed as to how to use/incorporate/restore parcel as part of a Laguna Linear Park. Agreement needs to be made between Water Agency & City as to who has responsibility for "what".

Parcel G:
58 acres

Presently used (since 1973) for irrigation of apple waste from Barlow Co., as part of City's Industrial Waste Facility. Facility was created under an Assessment District in 1972 & 5 cannery owners paid for the facility including the 58 acres. City is not free to discontinue apple waste use.

However, perhaps some frontage portion along East side of Laguna, where apple spraying does not occur, could be incorporated into a Linear Park. Would require fencing, as cows (Dei Dairy) now uses the field for fodder. A plan is needed as to how to use/incorporate/restore frontage as part of any Laguna Linear Park. A longer range plan might also be prepared as how to change/modify industrial waste facility/spray operation to better meld in with a Linear Park.

Potential Other Additions (If & When City Acquires following properties):

Parcel H:
1-2 acres

"Campground" area, Village Park. (outside City limits). Needs a plan.

Parcel I:
25 acres

"Railroad Forest"
(owned by Southern Pacific Transportation Co.) Needs a plan. "H" & "I" might be incorporated into Linear Park. They also might dovetail with former Southern Pacific rail bed as riding/hiking trail access, as well as a Northerly extension of a riding/hiking trail. Again, need a plan.

