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Conference on Laguna planned for this fall

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Plans for a State of the Laguna Conference solidified at the latest meeting of the Laguna Scoping Committee.

A subcommittee, headed by Harold Appleton, developed a rough draft of a day-long seminar on the Laguna's past, present and future. The committee hopes to hold the conference this fall, and feature a number of guests speaking on several Laguna topics.

"I don't have a final report, but I can tell you it's expensive so far," Miles Ferris said.

Funding for the project will come from a combination of grants and admission charges. Both \$5 and \$10 admission charges were discussed at the February 27 meeting held in the Sebastopol Library Forum.

The committee expects to lure 400 people to see a program they hope will include columnist Gaye LeBaron and Congressman Doug Bosco as speakers.

Tentatively planned from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., the committee suggested starting with Bosco as a keynote speaker, with an introduction from Sebastopol Mayor Anne Magne.

Bill Cox of the State Fish and Game Department was suggested as a speaker for a natural history overview of the Laguna, and LeBaron as a speaker for the cultural history perspective.

At 9 a.m., the topic would be the Laguna Today, with speakers on agriculture, water quality, planning, hunting and waterfowl.

After a 10 a.m. coffee break, the discussion would continue with speakers on flood control, endangered species, building exchange, reclamation and recreation.

A question and answer period would be followed by lunch. At 1

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Laguna . . .

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p.m., the program would resume under the heading Laguna Tomorrow. A regulatory panel — including members from the Water Quality Control Board, County Health, Department of Fish and Game, Sonoma County Water Agency, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers — would make presentations and field questions about the Laguna.

Member Marco Waaland said this panel would be comprised of officials authorized to answer questions about Laguna policy and management.

"This is the firing line," said Waaland.