

# House passes laguna bill now headed for Senate

by Andrew Jowers

The nation's House of Representatives Monday unanimously approved legislation designating the Laguna de Santa Rosa a 9,000-acre national wildlife refuge.

The bill now goes to the Senate, but a vote there is unlikely before Congress adjourns, Rogers, congressional assistant to Rep. Doug Bosco (D-Sebastopol), sponsor of the

bill.

However, Bosco is making "a last-ditch effort" to persuade either of California's two senators, Alan Cranston or Pete Wilson, to move the bill through the Senate this session, said Rogers.

The long-anticipated House vote, delayed as Congress and White House negotiators work out a budget compromise, brings ever closer the culmination of years of local effort to earn federal protection for the

laguna.

"Urban encroachment, questionable land-use practices and conflicting public management practices have all resulted in the loss of significant wetlands habitat," Bosco said in his statement to the House.

"Nothing short of a national commitment to protecting this area will reverse the present course of irreparable long-term damage." The bill includes \$20 million to buy property in the laguna

now owned by Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, farmers and other private citizens.

Even if the Senate does not consider the measure until January after breaking for elections and Christmas, the House's unanimous vote bodes well for the bill's fate in the upper house, said Rogers.

"It will help things next year," he said. One of the largest freshwaters (Please see Laguna page A11)

See T. & N. 10-24-90  
no continuation