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Wetland

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open space. He said Wilson's administration has a policy that allows no "net loss" of wetlands to development, and he called the Santa Rosa project a good example of wetland restoration.

He said the state also wants to encourage water reclamation projects to ease the drought.

Wheeler also visited the Santa Rosa Creek restoration project, and watched students release steelhead fry into the stream.

He was joined by Assemblywoman Bev Hansen, R-Santa Rosa, who obtained \$100,000 in state funds for the creek project two years ago. The first phase of the project is a creekside trail between Brush Creek and Farmers Lane in eastern Santa Rosa.

Students from Doyle Park Elementary School and Community School released tiny steelhead into the stream near the mouth of Brush

ALAN GRETH/PRESS DEMOCRAT

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Creek. Creek boosters want to restore 13 miles of Santa Rosa Creek, with streamside trails for biking, hiking and jogging.

Wheeler said money for future work on the Santa Rosa project could come from Wilson's proposed "Riparian Habitat Conservancy," part of a \$628 million bond package the governor wants to place on the statewide ballot in June 1992.

"Future livability in this state depends on making decisions now."

RESOURCES SECRETARY DOUGLAS WHEELER

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State resources secretary Douglas Wheeler, center, tours Kelley Farm, a man-made wetlands area near Sebastopol that uses Santa Rosa's treated wastewater.

Wetland projects earn thumbs up

State resources chief praises effort by SR

By STEVE HART
Staff Writer

California's new resources chief toured two Santa Rosa wetland projects Thursday and said they fit in with Gov. Pete Wilson's \$628 million plan to protect the state's natural areas.

Resources Secretary Douglas Wheeler said natural streams and wetlands are disappearing quickly because of California population growth.

"Future livability in this state depends on making decisions now," said Wheeler, a former Sierra Club official. Wheeler toured Kelly Farm, a man-made wetland near Sebastopol that uses highly treated wastewater from Santa Rosa's nearby treatment plant.

The 10 acres of ponds and marshes developed in 1988 are a haven for birds and wetland plants, according to naturalists. Santa Rosa is looking at the project as a model for its future wastewater treatment system.

Wheeler said Santa Rosa's plan, which provides more highly treated wastewater for farm irrigation, will benefit the environment in two ways, conserving water and agricultural

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