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JANUARY 6, 1993

TO: Board of Supervisors  
From - Western Sonoma County Rural Alliance  
Subject - Coordinated Resource Management and Planning  
Program (C.R.M.P.)

The solution to natural resource management problems requires the cooperation of land-owners, government agencies, and interested groups and individuals.

Subject program addresses the dilemma of managing areas with multiple use ownership, conflicting ~~management~~ management objectives and requirements, conflicting land use demands, and off-site impacts.

A case in point is the Laguna de Santa Rosa. Over the past 17 years five separate studies have been carried out on the Laguna, with the objective of protecting and enhancing the resources of this unique area.

It is significant that most of these studies touched on the problems created by the multiplicity of public agencies and private groups working at cross purposes with each other. The 1988 study by the City of Sebastopol indicated that 40 separate agencies and private groups have a responsibility for, or an interest in Laguna management.

Most of these studies set forth well thought-out recommendations for protection and enhancement of Laguna resources. At this point, January, 1993, few of these recommendations <sup>have been</sup> implemented, partly due to the situation pointed above.

Another major factor in lack of progress in these critical areas is the severe budgetary restraints imposed on government at almost every level.

The situation in The Laguna is cited as an example of similar situations prevailing County-wide, and indeed statewide, California.

Recognizing this wide-spread problem, several Counties have adopted an approach entitled "Coordinated Resource Management and Planning" or C.R.M.P. for short. This approach addresses the dilemma of managing areas with multiple use ownership, conflicting management objectives and requirements, conflicting land use demands, and off-site impacts.

Using the best efforts of local people, private land owners, interested federal, state and local agencies and other specialists CRMP integrates and coordinates resource uses to accomplish specific goals.

The process is designed to achieve compatibility between the land and resource uses, including energy, minerals, crops, livestock, soil, water, fish & wildlife, forests and recreation. All resources are effectively managed for short term and long term use.

A key element of CRMP is the initiation and control of activity by local groups. Boundaries of CRMP areas are suggested by resource problems, community interests, and recognizable geographic considerations. Size and attainable on-the-ground accomplishments are important factors.

The CRMP approach is practical and workable. Its purpose is to solve problems and achieve objectives. The plan is reviewed and evaluated at regular intervals and if conditions have changed to warrant it the plan will be modified.

Land owners benefit from CRMP in several ways. Implementing one plan rather than several. They experience improved ~~improved~~ working relationships with agencies, while having the opportunity for individual input into the plan. Land-owners continue to manage their own lands. Local leadership and the cooperation of a wide spectrum of public and private interests working together result in improved resource planning and management.

Benefits accrue over a wide spectrum of Natural Resources (3)

aspects:

Fish Habitat Improvement

Wildlife Habitat Improvement

Forage increase for domestic livestock

Drainage out-flow reduction

Fire hazard reduction

Ag. Crop Improvement

Watershed enhancement

Range Improvement

Timber stand improvement

Improved recreation opportunities

Increased understanding, communication

and involvement in the community

At this writing, there are seven State of California Land-use Agencies involved in the CRMP programs, as well as six Federal agencies, and the California Ag. Extension Division.

The Western Sonoma County Rural Alliance strongly urges ~~the Board of Supervisors~~ Sonoma County, through the Board of Supervisors, to adopt the CRMP system in handling future land-use issues.

Very Truly yours

Robert W. Sharp  
Chairman