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Rethink Laguna planting

Editor: To whom it may concern; I am writing to encourage you to re-think planting practices currently being used along the southeast portion of the Laguna de Santa Rosa on Occidental Road in Sebastopol.

At present, there are what appear to be squash plants in the fields around, under and right up to the trunks of the valley oak trees. The plants and the oak trees — some 100 years old — are being watered through the summer months.

The native oaks, adapted to dry summer months, will die if watered year round. The Santa Rosa Junior College learned this when the oaks on campus began to suffer after years of receiving water intended for gardens and lawn. When the college recognized the harm, watering practices were altered to exclude the mighty oaks.

I urge you to contact the SRJC or the farm advisor to define guidelines for the care of valley oaks. Providing the grand old trees space to live among your crops will show respect for the earth on which your business depends. Show your customers who travel Occidental Road that Balleto's cares.

Thank you for giving this matter your attention. I look forward to positive results.

G. Bishop, Sebastopol