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## EDITORIAL

# Laguna golf is a bad idea that won't go away

**W**hy does it often seem that the worst of ideas take so long to go away?

We refer, of course, to the continued consideration of a golf course on the Laguna de Santa Rosa being proposed by the city of Santa Rosa.

The arrogance and systematic ignorance of the pertinent land use and environmental issues by Santa Rosa officials should come as no great surprise. The decades-long fiasco of that city's wastewater planning efforts, with the ill-advised preference to discharge treated effluent into the Russian River, provides ample evidence of its calloused view of the West County environment.

Added to that is an apparent amnesia by city officials with regard to the issues of community separators, scenic corridors and the city of Santa Rosa's participation in and agreement with the Coordinated Resource Management Plan for the Laguna de Santa Rosa (see Commentary by Helen Shane on this page for more details).

What is even more surprising and troubling than the city of Santa Rosa's arrogance, is the warm response to the Laguna golf course plan by the Sebastopol City Council. A majority of the Council has voiced no objection to this idea, which has been roundly criticized by Laguna advocates the environmental community for its potential environmental and growth-inducing impacts.

With all of the attention that has been given to the Laguna of late, and the city's own efforts to develop a Laguna park aimed at respecting the Laguna's fragile ecosystem, one would hope that city leaders would be more critical in their analysis of the kind of high-intensity usage a golf course represents.

Surely Santa Rosa's city leaders can find a better site for their golf course, and Sebastopol's City Council can do a better job of protecting the city's greatest environmental asset, the Laguna de Santa Rosa.

—B.W.D.