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EMPIRE NEWS

Wetlands

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world." Sitting there, a visitor is serenaded by the throaty conversation of frogs, the slap of wings on water as ducks take flight, the furtive rustling of some small mammal hidden in the weeds.

The storage ponds, which Cordell said will undergo restoration work this summer, provide refuge for a variety of birds that paddle on the surface or tiptoe through the shallows.

"Some day, the laguna will be a green island in the middle of the valley stretching from Cotati to Forestville," said Cordell. "That's the vision."