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MKB

February 12, 1988

Mel Davis, City Manager  
Sebastopol City Hall  
7120 Bodega Ave.  
Sebastopol, CA 95472

Dear Mr. Davis:

We are advised that some persons reading the Laguna Report speculate that the "No Net Fill" recommendations were intended to apply retroactively.

In view of some confusion over this and other aspects of the fill recommendations, a quorum of the former Laguna Committee met on February 10th and discussed this matter at considerable length. Following are some statements by this group that may clarify this matter:

At no time in their deliberations did the Laguna Committee consider making the "fill" recommendations retroactive. We do, however, feel strongly about future filling below the 76' contour.

Sebastopol is downstream from many potential fill sites and can ill-afford higher flood levels on public and private property.

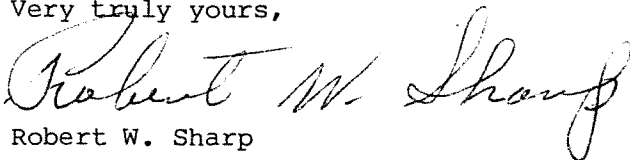
We would expect City government to oppose such fills. By the same token, the City should not sanction further fill which would raise the flood level not only in the City, but in downstream communities as well.

The Laguna Committee made two recommendations: No Net Fill and No Development Below the 76' Contour. This may appear redundant, but both recommendations were made lest there be some confusion over terms used. We would recommend against any development below the 76' level even if it is done without "fill," as it is usually thought of -- the addition of earth.

Some aspects of this "No Net Fill" concept still causes us some concern. We would recommend that this approach be used with caution since adverse environmental impact can occur. This would take the form of disruption or loss of wildlife habitat, silting and turbidity in downstream areas, and creation of unsightly scarring along the upper slopes of the Laguna. The City Engineer comments on this matter in his memo of February 5th to you.

We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this or other issues of concern with City officials prior to the public hearing on March 23rd.

Very truly yours,



Robert W. Sharp

RWS/jd

cc: Bruce Aspinal  
George Young  
Members of former Laguna Committee