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845 Russell Avenue Apt. 7A
Santa Rosa, California 95401
April 1, 1988

To ALL MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS, ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER OF SONOMA COUNTY

re LAGUNA de SANTA ROSA

April 25, Sebastopol City Council will hold a public hearing on the report prepared by its Laguna Advisory Committee (copy in the Center office). The Sebastopol PLanning Commission is now holding work sessions (after its own public hearing) and will submit its recommendations to the Council; its first such session made it obvious that their recommendations will generally endorse 'encouraging' someone, sometime, to plant oak trees, somewhere, etc etc--but nothing to cause any problems or expense to those who wish to develop the Laguna below the 100-year flood line (currently 76 feet). And within an hour of holding its own public hearing--at which the vast majority of speakers supported the report--the Planning Commission ordered the staff to issue a negative declaration for a subdivision in the 'natural' part of the Laguna; three lots would be filled up to 9 feet.

We urge member organizations to alert their memberships, and ask those interested to contact us as soon as possible. A flyer will be available in a few days which can be sent to members. Your board should decide what action to take as soon as possible also.

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This is not just a Sebastopol issue. What the city does will affect what the county does; the Laguna is a nearly unique feature for all the state, and especially Sonoma County; the city could take positions which would help state and federal agencies to take favorable actions. Fortunately, the City Council, being an elected body, may be more responsive to public call for responsible action. And this is an election year. It is especially important the members living within the city limits, and those with business or other connections with council members, do what they can to help.