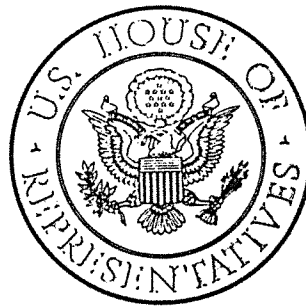


88-79
Congressman
**Doug
Bosco**
1st District, California



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NEWS RELEASE

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BOSCO NAMES LAGUNA TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP

WASHINGTON -- Congressman Doug Bosco (D-Occidental) today announced formation of a technical advisory group to assist in drafting legislation designating portions of Laguna de Santa Rosa a National Wildlife Refuge.

"It's time we gather the technical information and expertise we need if we are going to reach our goal of restoring the fish and wildlife habitat of the Laguna and protect this fertile area," Bosco said.

The Laguna, which extends 14 miles north of Rohnert Park to the Russian River, is the second largest fresh water marsh in Northern California. Over 235 species of birds, 200 types of plant life and 20 varieties of fish thrive in its wetlands. The natural beauty and serenity of this 162,000 acre watershed is unparalleled. Yet significant issues regarding refuge boundaries, competing jurisdictions, management requirements and status of fishery and wildlife populations remain.

One area Bosco will ask the group to explore is the effect of Santa Rosa wastewater on the Laguna. Some experts contend highly treated effluent can be beneficial when the natural water source has been altered.

"By bringing together the technical experts," said Bosco, "we can hopefully achieve legislation that will protect the future of the Laguna and earn Congressional support."

Named to chair the group is Robert Sharp, Sonoma County Fish and Game Advisory Committee with representatives of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, U. S. Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and Sonoma County Water Agency as members. Marco Waaland, an ecologist with Golden Bear Biostudies, an environmental consulting firm, was also named.

The group will meet with Congressman Bosco in the District August 1. Once a specific legislative proposal is drafted public hearings will be set with all interested parties encouraged to participate.

Bosco is a member of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, Fisheries and Wildlife Subcommittee that will be assigned this wildlife refuge proposal.

Bob Sharp - Chair # # Carl Jackson - County Wildlife Agency
Kevin Foerster - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Serv. Tom Williams - Sonoma Land Trust
Dwain Campbell - Soil Cons. Service
Luis Rivera - North Coast Water Dist. Bd.
Bill Cox } Cal. Fish & Game
Tom Swanson }
Alan Buckman }
Marco Waaland - Consultant