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Bosco names new lagoon committee

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Congressman Doug Bosco recently 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 freshwater marsh in northern California. Over 235 species of birds, 200 types of plant life and 20 varieties of fish thrive in its wetlands.

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

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

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Sonoma County Water Agency members.

Marco Waaland, an ecologist with Golden Bear Biostudies, an environmental firm, was also named.