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of the Laguna habitat would thus greatly enhance the future effectiveness of any federally sponsored Russian River fishery restoration program.

As an important wintering and nesting area for migratory waterfowl, the Laguna can also play an important role as a key waterfowl habitat along the federally managed Pacific Flyway. Not only will wetlands be protected, but under a resource management plan the acreage of wetlands will be substantially increased.

Finally, the Laguna is the type location for the California fresh water shrimp, a federally designated endangered species. The long-term survival of this species may rely, to a considerable extent, on the preservation and restoration of its habitat in the Laguna de Santa Rosa.

The role of the Laguna as a flood water storage basin should be pointed out. At elevation of 76 feet, the 7,000 acre basin will store 80,000 acre feet of water, thus substantially reducing the flood crest at downstream communities such as Guerneville and Monte Rio.

The value of the Laguna as a unique outdoor school room and laboratory for the study of plant and animal ecology should not be overlooked. Students from Sonoma State University have carried out several environmental studies in the Laguna which is a complex system of wetland and upland habitats, including: open water, emergent marsh, riparian forest, vernal pools, oak savanna, oak woodland and grassland. The great diversity of habitat types is unique, as California fresh water marshes go. Previous studies indicate the presence of 286 species of plants, 230 species of birds, 25 species of mammals, 19 fish species, seven amphibians and nine species of reptiles. Several species of endangered or threatened plants and animals are included in this listing.

In the way of cultural resources, for thousands of years the Pomo Indians made their home in and around the Laguna. A total of 76 archeological sites have been identified below the 90 foot contour level. Many of these have not been studies thoroughly. With further exploration archaeologists expect to find many more sites. Archaeologists consider the Laguna to be an exceptional and unique date base for the study of historic Coastal California.

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wastewater into a drinking water, EVEN AT 5%! There are concerns about unknown effects of additives (ie. alum and chlorine); concerns about virus and parasite removal as well as inorganics. concerns that there are no discharge standards addressing cumulative and total nutrient and toxic loadings into the river. There are no epidemiological studies planned to determine possible impacts on health.

In short, this legislation to preserve the Laguna is a vague attempt to give federal blessing to a plan without discussing the drawbacks of the plan. Concerns of how wastewater wetlands will impact the lower Russian River both in terms of discharging greater amounts into our drinking water supply and decrease of Laguna flood capacity has not been addressed.

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issue and the issue of wastewater discharges into public drinking water supplies. Those Laguna supporters who want to return the Laguna to where it was at the turn of the century, neglect to mention that, instead of re-channelizing the dechannelized creeks, they would support massive wastewater marshes in place of the natural flooding from the Russian River.

We can't go back to where we were, except in a very artificial way. It is that unspoken ***artificial*** plan to "restore" the Laguna as well as the legislative process that cuts off all dialogue which we object to. Congressman Bosco promised our committee an opportunity to give testimony on this proposal and then he set up a Washington D.C. hearing in order to "speed up the process" (Quote from his aide in the Sebastopol Times). Further he announced the meeting date just two weeks before and sent no notice to the concerned parties (We found out via the newspapers.).

Here is the plan as seen from our perspective. Santa Rosa's long range wastewater plan is in jeopardy; ocean outfall is highly unlikely because of unified opposition. The Bay plan appears still very unwanted by Santa Rosa City officials. We have the Board of Public Utilities openly saying they will put millions of dollars into studying a project that is **unlikely** to succeed (the Estero Plan) because **they have to prove to the North Coast Water Quality Control Board that their only option is river discharge.** This latter is much preferred by several board members as being the cheapest option.

At the very time that these very crucial issues are being decided, along comes Mr. Bosco with a VERY sexy idea. Offer the environmentalists a sacred cow (wetlands) and you have them willing to accept potentially hazardous impacts of putting wastewater in a drinking water supply. Coincidentally, the entire designated refuge is almost exactly contiguous with Santa Rosa's current wastewater treatment and disposal area. It is also apparent that Mr. Bosco's first priority is not the environment since he has recently proposed the transporting of rare and endangered plant species in the Laguna so that new housing development can take place.

Of course, it could hardly be a coincidence that the Phase 2 Draft Report on the Development of a Reclamation Alternative calls for development of 300 acres of wastewater marshes in the flood plain alone. This is far greater than any wastewater marshes developed so far. The Arcata marsh is about 150 acres and discharges into a bay. One of the developers of that marsh, Frank Klopp, advised Dave Richardson of CH2MHill against planning a marsh that discharges into a drinking water supply. There are many thus far unidentified problems with doing this. Further, the report talks about river discharges of up to 15% if other plans cannot be implemented.

While it is true that Santa Rosa has made vast strides in wastewater treatment and disposal since the big spill of 1985, there are many unknown concerns about putting

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