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TO: Chairman, Sebastopol Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Chairman, Laguna Foundation
SUBJECT: Some aspects of the Laguna Linear Park

The original concept for the Laguna Park, as set forth by the Citizens' Committee Report of 1988, was for a Wildlife Park, with only minimal development for organized sports. Passive recreation was to have been stressed, as opposed to team sports. The four studies that have been carried out on the Laguna over the past twelve years all bear out this general theme.

The current park plan draft has been well done by capable consultants, any drastic changes are likely to be detrimental, both to the plan and the Laguna. Any further construction of ball fields should be done in less environmentally sensitive areas, for example, Ragle Park.

The issue becomes one of deciding whether Sebastopol should be obliged to provide playing fields for 2,000 Little Leaguers, 60% of whom come from communities outside of Sebastopol, and this without any County funds to supplement.

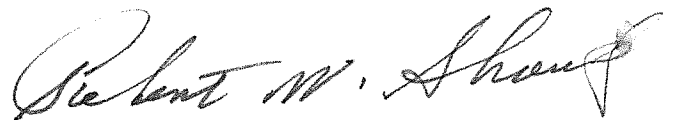
There may be some long range solutions to this problem worth considering. Perhaps a second Little League organization is needed for the Western portion of the County, to serve the communities of Guerneville, Forestville, Monte Rio, Occidental, Freestone, Bodega, Bodega Bay and Valley Ford.

Another approach might be to establish a City-County fund for the acquisition of a suitable tract to accommodate all the athletic facilities that may be needed to accommodate the growing population needs over the rest of this decade, and located in a non-sensitive environmental area.

It would be well for all concerned individuals to keep in mind that there is only one Laguna and it has been abused by Western Man for almost 200 years, and is barely surviving. As the second largest fresh water marsh in Norther California, it deserves the highest order of preservation and restoration.

In closing, I would like to stress that the Laguna Foundation strongly endorses the Laguna Park Plan as it is now written.

Respectfully yours,



Robert W. Sharp, Chairman
May 15, 1992