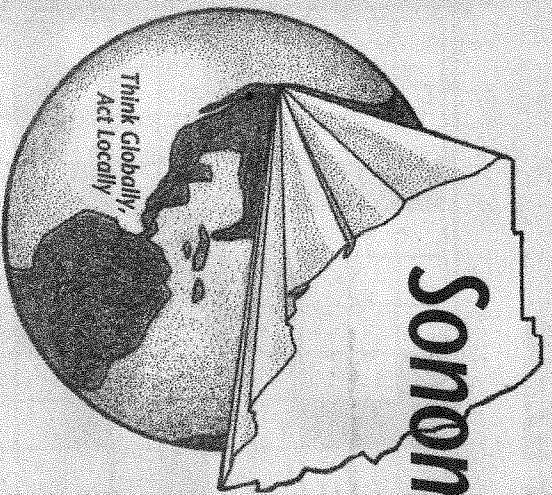


Think Globally,
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Sonoma County

E.I.R.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORTER

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Upland Portion of
the Laguna's Ecosystem



Left to right: Richard Nichols, director of Coast Walk and on the Laguna Foundation Board; Jude Kreissman, Home School Coordinator; Sheila Signer, adjacent property owner; Jill Work, 7th grader, member of the Laguna Replanting Project; Larry Pinolo, Pomona-Miwok Park Ranger for Point Reyes National Seashore. The people pictured above represent the diversity of citizens trying to save the Palm Terrace Site from development.

Requiem For The Land Can Palm Terrace Be Saved?

by Jude Kreissman

It's a summer night in the early 1980's. I am at a hearing for the proposed Laguna Plan at the Sebastopol Community Center, attending one of the first of countless meetings I would go to after moving to the beautiful, sleepy little town of Sebastopol.

Newly arrived from Mendocino County with family and pets, and completely smitten with Sonoma County's golden hills, apple orchards and green riverways, I have decided to take a stand. This, I know, is home; for better or for worse I will get involved. Rows of chairs are filled with people, a tense and attentive Council facing them. Speaker after speaker stands to testify and talk about the Laguna, its animals, plants, endangered species and importance as a flood plain. People talk about "fill": the pad of earth required to lay foundations before building can take place. "No net fill" becomes a battle cry heard again and again as it becomes clearer that fill, which causes flooding, water pollution, destruction of habitat, and countless woes for those living downstream, must not be allowed.

The Laguna is recalled by some old timers as a place of pristine beauty. Old photographs show women in white, in proper hats and parasols, lazily canoeing down a beautiful waterway, swimmers and fisherfolk nearby. Since then, and until the awareness of the Laguna caught on, the Laguna was used as a dump site, with apple waste and cement refuse poisoning the water and wrecking portions of the embankment. Regarded by some as "junkland", some people thought it would be a good place to build things.

But places like the Laguna were beginning to be looked at differently. Lands once known as "swamp," with all the problematic images the word evokes, were becoming known by the nobler, more ecologically urgent term "wetland." The new word, "wetland" gave a name to the growing body of information and the environmental movement that grew as a result

Harvest From Hell

by Gabriel Hooper & Justin Jin

Have you ever seen old photographs of the Russian River area during the era when Guerneville was known as Shumptown? Today many parts of the Russian River area are covered with second growth forests. There even remain within these forests some old-growth trees that were missed by the old-time loggers on the first timber harvest go-round. Looking around our beautiful river valley and the surrounding hills, it's hard to imagine those days when logging along the river and its tributaries was a major economic force in this county.

Well, something is happening here in Sonoma County. For now it is invisible to most of us. But it is there, and it is growing. It is the next generation of timber harvests as a force in our local economy. Some of the timber harvests are happening on land owned by large timber companies like Louisiana Pacific. Many are occurring on smaller parcels owned by private landowners who often times are directly solicited to log their trees by timber interests from outside of Sonoma County.

The Sonoma County E.I.R. plans on having a series of articles focusing on timber issues in Sonoma County today. The following is the first article in the series on this new era of logging. This month's issue deals with an on-going timber harvest plan (THP) northeast of Healdsburg on Black Mountain and Mt. Jackson.

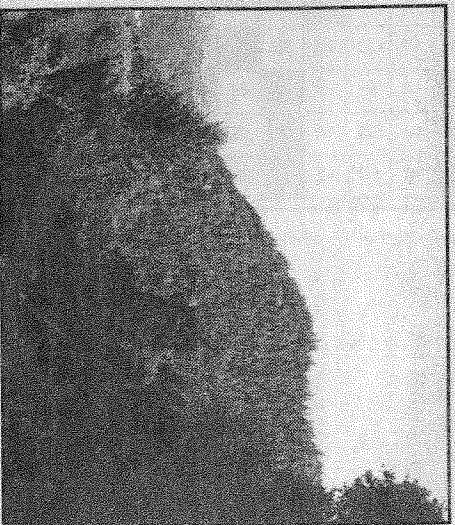
compliance with the approved plans and fail to effectively enforce their own rules and regulations and existing state environmental laws.

For almost twenty years my family has owned property on Mt. Jackson. To reach our mountain home we drive a four mile gravel road that traverses large parcels owned by at least four other families. This road is the sole access to our homes and is driven daily by us to go to and from work and school.

Three years ago we learned that a timber harvest was being proposed by one of the neighbors whose land we drive through. We were very concerned about the impact this logging operation would have on the community road. We wanted assurances from the timberland owner and the California Department of Forestry that at the completion of the logging operation our road would be returned to a pre-harvest condition and would not subsequently be damaged by harvest-caused erosion and debris problems.

The THP proposed a 244 acre area including a 23 acre shelterwood harvest, a type of clearcut, on the Sweetwater Springs Road side (the Porter Creek watershed) of Denner Ridge on Mt. Jackson. Additionally, the timberland owner proposed to log along Glider Creek, the stream alongside

See Timber, page 7



View from Black Mountain Ridge,
N.E. of Forestville

Timber Harvest Plan 1-92-314 SON is a perfect example of how the California Department of Forestry (CDF), the California Department of Fish and Game (DF&G), and the Water Quality Control Board (WQCB) fail to ensure that timber harvest plans provide even minimally adequate resource and habitat protection. The pattern of these agencies is to fast track environmentally weak THPs. Then they fail to assure that the resulting logging operations are in

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