

ENHANCING AND CARING
FOR THE
LAGUNA DE SANTA ROSA

**ENHANCING AND CARING
FOR THE
LAGUNA DE SANTA ROSA
VOLUME I**

**A plan for restoring and managing the
Laguna de Santa Rosa Watershed,
Sonoma County, California**

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with contributions by
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The Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation
works to preserve, enhance and restore the
Laguna de Santa Rosa, and to inspire greater
public understanding and appreciation of its
magnificent natural areas.
For more information, visit www.lagunafoundation.org.

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Major funding for this publication and the project that created it came from the California State Coastal Conservancy which saw the need for this plan as an important part of its larger goal for preserving, protecting and enhancing California's coast and wetland treasures.



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Additional funding came from the City of Santa Rosa's Department of Utilities whose mission is to provide safe and environmentally friendly water supply, wastewater collection, and recycled water to the community.



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This restoration and management plan is the result of a community effort conducted from 2004–2006. Originally envisioned as a blueprint for the work of preservation, enhancement, and the long term care of the Laguna, it has become that and more. Throughout the process of listening and learning, hoping and dreaming, planning and presenting, we have been blessed with the gifts of many individual contributors.

This plan is another step forward along the path laid before us by our predecessors. For acting with courage during those early years we thank all who came before us.

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Acknowledgement of the many contributors to this project is an undertaking in itself, which we have attempted in our lengthy section on stakeholders. But here we pay tribute to *all* who are involved, at the present and especially in the future: our gratitude goes to you, in advance, for all your contributions, whether large or small, spoken or silent, with hands or with hearts.

There is a place in our hearts, a place so rich and complex that its fullness eludes us. *What is it that inspires us so?*

Is it the ecology? —the oak savannah that supports its own special community of species; the seasonal wetlands and vernal pools with their springtime floral displays; the perennial wetlands with their returning populations of migratory birds; the riparian forests with their impenetrable areas of sanctuary and refuge; the soils that are rich and ready for the plow.

Or is it perhaps the seasonal and diurnal rhythms that hold this place in sway? Is it the predictable progression of coastal fog lifting and opening to the warmth of the afternoon's solar rays? Or is it the gentle seasons providing an extended growing period for both the natural landscape and our cultivated crops? Yes, these too contribute to the fullness of this place.

Maybe, maybe it is not the natural elements by themselves, because after all other places have this same signature. Maybe what makes this place special is our community: our community of farmers and ranchers who cultivate this rich land and fill our dinner tables with its produce, our community of activists who stir our complacency, our community of citizens and leaders who care enough to envision something better, our community of neighbors who greet each other with extended hands and open hearts.

This special place, that we call the *Laguna de Santa Rosa*, is a gift that we have received from those who came before. It is a gift that continues to give—it is rich in history, rich in resources, rich in community. It is this richness that continues to supply us with the bounty of our tables, this richness that infuses our hopes for the future, this richness that we have been given the opportunity to steward.

It is our honor to contribute towards the stewardship of this special place.

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courtesy David Rumsey



ABBREVIATIONS

BMP	Best Management Practice
BPU	Board of Public Utilities
Cal-IPC	California Invasive Plant Council
CBO	Community Based Organization
CDFA	California Dept. of Food and Agriculture
CDFG	California Dept. of Fish and Game
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CTR	California Toxics Rule
CTS	California Tiger Salamander
CWA	Clean Water Act
D-GP2020	Draft Sonoma County General Plan 2020
DEM	Digital Elevation Model
DPR	California Dept. of Pesticide Regulation
DWR	California Dept. of Water Resources
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
ESU	Evolutionary Significant Unit
FWS	Fish and Wildlife Service
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IRWMP	Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan
IRWP	Incremental Recycled Water Plan
LIDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
MSMVCD	Marin-Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District
NAWCA	North American Wetlands Conservation Act
NCRWQCB	North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPDES	National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
NPO	Nonprofit Organization
NRCS	National Resource Conservation District
OAEC	Occidental Arts and Ecology Center

PPIPIH	California Partnership for the Prevention of Invasive Plant Introductions through Horticulture
PRBO	Point Reyes Bird Observatory
PRMD	Permit and Resource Management Department
RCD	Resource Conservation District
RRIS	Russian River Interactive Information System
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SCAPOS	Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District
SCC	State Coastal Conservancy
SCWA	Sonoma County Water Agency
SLT	Sonoma Land Trust
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
STRAW	Students and Teachers Restoring A Watershed
SUSMP	Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UC	University of California
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USDA-ARS	United States Department of Agriculture—Agricultural Research Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
WCB	Wildlife Conservation Board
WIMS	Weed Information Management System
WMA	Weed Management Area
WNV	West Nile virus