

Enhancing and Caring for the Laguna

A plan for restoring and managing the Laguna de Santa Rosa watershed



The Laguna de Santa Rosa, a fresh-water wetland in Sonoma County, California, hosts a diverse collection of rare and beautiful plants and animals.

Enhancing and Caring for the Laguna is a comprehensive vision for restoring and managing the Laguna watershed's biology and hydrology, created as a collaborative effort of the Laguna's many stakeholders.

A two volume report, the plan reveals the Laguna watershed's interconnected ecologies and sets specific recommendations for improvement of water quality, wildlife habitat, biodiversity and public recreation.

Enhancing and Caring for the Laguna presents an exciting and ambitious vision for the integration of the Laguna's many human uses while safeguarding and improving its unique and diverse natural systems.



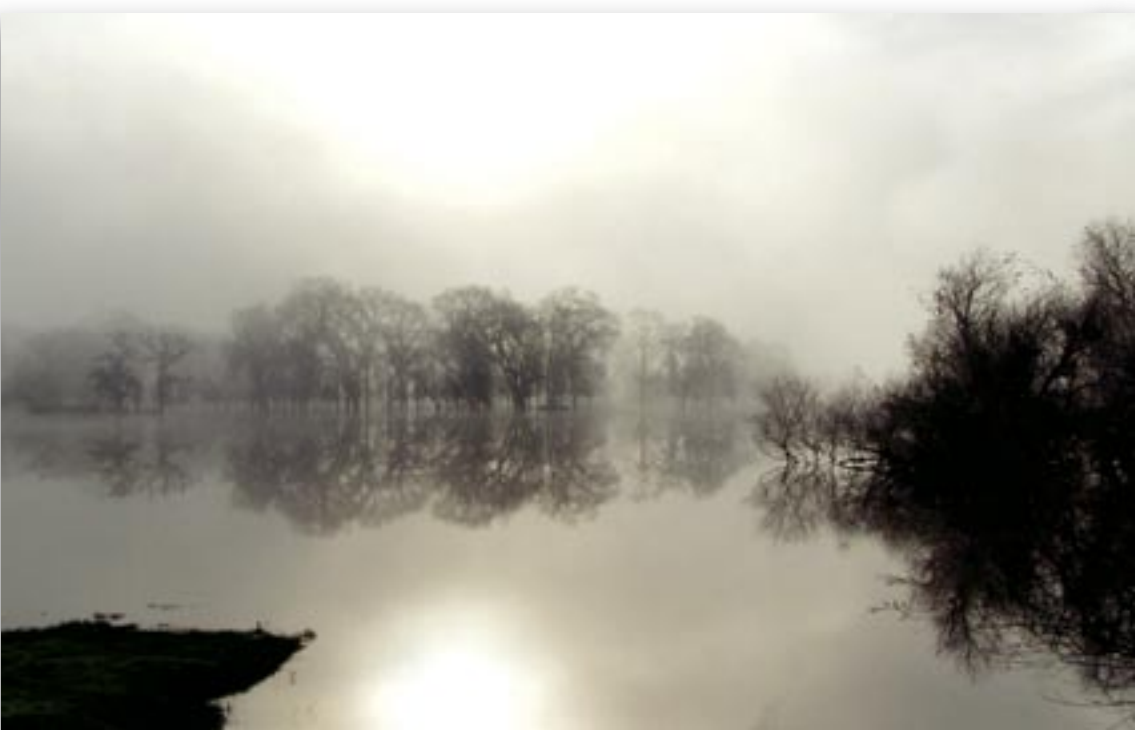
VOLUME I: Restoring and Managing the Laguna de Santa Rosa

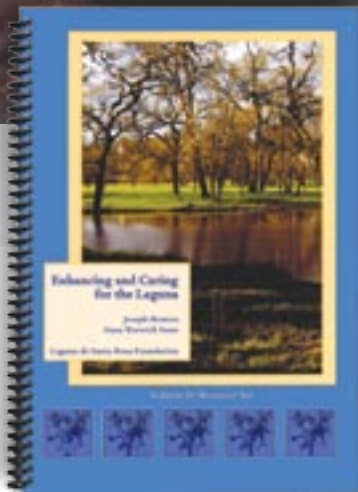
Eleven chapters explain the process through which the plan was developed, review the proposals which were discussed, and detail the recommendations developed for restoration and management of the Laguna de Santa Rosa watershed.

This plan is significant for several reasons:

- It captures the established knowledgebase of the Laguna: its natural and biological resources, its impairments, its stakeholders and responsible public agencies, its history and the opportunities it presents today.
- It distills the hopes of the community at large: our values, our collective vision for the future, and our relative prioritization of different kinds of projects.
- It provides guidelines and priorities for restoration: species at risk, habitats which are most affected, and specific opportunities for immediate action.
- It identifies the gaps in our understanding where additional research is needed.

- CHAPTER I
Defining the Need
- CHAPTER II
Working with the Community
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Charting a Course
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Restoring, Managing and Monitoring
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Controlling Invasive Species
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Preserving Biological Diversity
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Sustaining Our Water Resources
- CHAPTER VIII
Mapping Geographic Data
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Characterizing the Watershed
- CHAPTER X
Developing Trails and Recreation
- CHAPTER XI
Exploring the Historical Record





VOLUME II: Resource Set

Six appendices and fifteen fold-out color maps form an essential complement to Volume I. They present much of the important data that was assembled and organized during the course of this work.

Appendices, with tables and resource information, cover:

- Invasive and non-native plants and animals
- Biological Diversity
- Water Resources
- Invasive *Ludwigia* Management Plan
- Regional Geophysical Data
- Historical Excerpts

Maps include:

- Jurisdictional and survey boundaries
- Riparian canopy, vernal pools and stream mileage points
- Early maps of the Laguna, Mexican-era land grants and regional exploration
- Weather and precipitation
- Public access

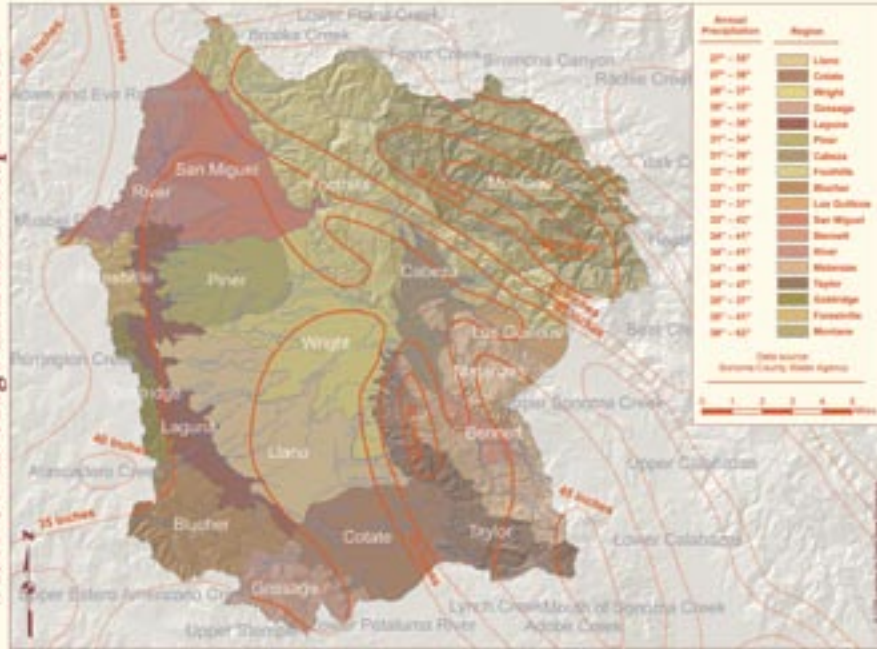
“The wild fowl now came over in heavy flights and settled in our vicinity.... Herons and curlew were plentiful...jack-snipe in great abundance...”

— FRANK MARRYAT, 1850

Plate 14: Regional exploration through 1841



Plate 8: Average Annual Precipitation





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.



Additional funding was provided by the Sonoma County Water Agency, which provides water, flood protection and sanitation services to the 500,000 households of the North Bay.



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.



Additional funding came from the Community Foundation Sonoma County, which matches philanthropic interests with community needs that enrich the community's quality of life.



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 this magnificent natural area. For more information, visit www.lagunafoundation.org



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