

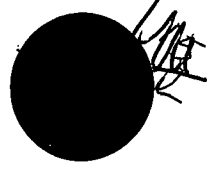
Craig J. Wilson, Chief
Water Quality Assessment Unit
Division of Water Quality
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

November 13, 2005

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Dear Sir,

I am writing to add my voice to those who are imploring you not to de-list the Laguna de Santa Rosa as a stream containing too much of phosphorus and nitrogen-related compounds. It seems incredible to me that it would even be considered when we are dealing with infestations of plant life thriving in the eutrophic conditions. The Laguna is in great need of just the opposite stance. It needs stricter regulation of the dumping of wastewater and livestock effluent into the waterway.

On July 18th of this year a friend & I took our kayaks to the Occidental Rd. bridge and paddled north from there perhaps short of a mile. At that point we entered waters that were increasingly odorous. We were opposite a farm to the west....and the smell was decidedly fecal. There were sludge-clumps floating and the water had become blacker. We continued for several hundred yards hoping it was just localized...but eventually gave up and turned back as we felt physically ill. It was just exactly as if we had paddled in a huge septic tank This area of course is one of those most overgrown with *Ludwigia hexapetala*.

A few years ago I was paddling South of that bridge and came upon a bloated dead cow in the water near the western bank where the dairy land is. Clearly the bank had given way under it. Cows are often right at the verge of the stream. On another occasion I came upon a goat carcass in the water by the Todd Rd. Bridge.

I am not a scientist, but I do spend quite a bit of time kayaking and hiking along the Laguna. After observing first-hand the degradation of the stream from dumping and abuse over these years, I can't believe that a State Agency would consider de-listing the stream for Nitrogen & Phosphorous. I realize I'm just citing 'anecdotes', but aren't they vivid enough to give anyone pause about delisting the stream? Dairies are turning loose effluent, legally or otherwise in great quantities...and with no rules to keep the cows back a reasonable distance from the banks, the stream is further compromised. I urge you to turn this directive around and head the opposite way.

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Thank You,

Eric Johnson
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