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553
Assembly
California Legislature

NOREEN EVANS
ASSEMBLY MEMBER, SEVENTH DISTRICT

November 15, 2005

Board of Directors
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

In Re: Proposed 303(d) De-listing of the Laguna de Santa Rosa

Dear Members of the Board:

I urge your rejection of a September 2005 proposal to de-list the Laguna de Santa Rosa as a nitrogen and phosphorous impaired waterway under Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act.

The Laguna is a defining feature of Sonoma County. It features prominently in flood control, wildlife habitat, environmental education, and public recreational activity. The biggest challenge facing the Laguna is its need to be restored and managed. This precise goal has rallied my community to raise public awareness about Laguna ecology and to craft a plan for Laguna revival. Over the last year, the State of California and local governments have devoted nearly \$2 million to support this plan. The effectiveness of this effort, and this use of public funds, rests on maintaining the Laguna's 303(d) listing simply because many of the Laguna's environmental problems are closely tied to nutrient impairment.

The Total Maximum Daily Load is the appropriate, standardized regulatory framework for determining what nutrient levels should be in the Laguna. Without nutrient control, the Laguna will continue struggling with its current challenges, at great taxpayer expense and risk to public health. Elevated nutrient levels will trigger the growth of Ludwigia, an invasive plant that has accelerated sedimentation and decreased flood control capacity in the Laguna. Excess Ludwigia growth and elevated nutrient concentrations will strongly inhibit our ability to control mosquito vectors of West Nile Virus.

Conventional wisdom and common sense suggest that the board must uphold the Laguna's current classification under the Clean Water Act. Anything else would set a bad precedent for the restoration and management of other impaired waterways across our state. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (916) 319-2007. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours very truly,

Noreen Evans

NOREEN EVANS,
Assemblymember, 7th District

NE:am

cc: Members of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

CT 4205 assigned and emailed apt

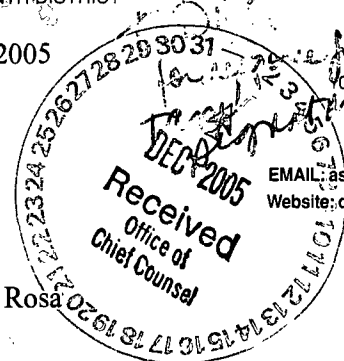
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Website: democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a07



Craig:
Please make sure that Selica has a copy of these to give to the Board.
Thanks - Steve

