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City of Sebastopol

Mayor
Sarah Glade Gurney

City Council
Una Glass, Vice

Mayor
John Eder
Robert Jacob
Patrick Slayter

City Manager/City
Attorney
Larry McLaughlin
City Clerk
Mary Gourley

Agenda Report Reviewed by:
City Manager/City Attorney *[Signature]*

<u>Meeting Date:</u>	Meeting of January 5, 2016
<u>To:</u>	Mayor and City Council
<u>From:</u>	Kenyon Webster, Planning Director
<u>Subject:</u>	Laguna de Santa Rosa Wetlands Preserve Restoration and Management Plan
<u>Recommendation:</u>	Approve Plan
<u>Funding:</u>	Currently Budgeted: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Net General Fund Cost:
	If Cost to Other Fund(s),

Introduction: Pursuant to City Council direction, a draft Laguna de Santa Rosa Preserve Restoration and Management Plan has been prepared in a public process. In addition to several public workshops, the Planning Commission served as a forum for development of the Plan. The Commission recommended approval of the Plan, with consideration of comments made in the public process. Prior to Council review, revisions to the Plan were made as a result of the Commission review and public comment.

This meeting will be the third discussion of the draft Plan by the Council, which also received public comment and conducted discussions of the draft Plan on November 3 and December 15. A revised draft (attached) has been prepared to address several comments in the recent Council review process.

The revised Plan is recommended for approval.

Revisions to draft Plan: Several changes have been made to the draft Plan subsequent to the last Council hearing. These include: addition of a matrix that is intended to provide permitting guidance for different types of activities; identification of kayak put-in improvements on the Laguna bank slope just north of the northerly ball field; addition of provisions calling for investigation of a potential trail connection from the northeast sidewalk of the new Highway 12 bridge to the Meadowlark Field perimeter trail; call for City to work with County Regional Parks for improvement of the Joe Rodota Trail entry area at Petaluma Avenue.

Discussion: Sebastopol should be proud of the Laguna Preserve. Much work has been accomplished over the last two decades to transform what was once a neglected and unappreciated area. Hundreds if not thousands of volunteers, numerous donations, grants from a number of agencies, and the City itself have contributed to its creation. The Preserve is a beautiful area, providing habitat as well as opportunity for low-impact access. With continued careful stewardship the Preserve will only improve with time.

As highlighted in the Plan and in the public process, there are ongoing challenges to maintain the Preserve, as well as opportunities to enhance the Preserve while maintaining its core values. The City has faced similar challenges with many projects that now serve the community.

The Management Plan will serve as a resource and guide to help protect and enhance the Preserve.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Council adopt the Plan.

Attachment: Revised Laguna de Santa Rosa Wetlands Preserve Restoration and Management Plan