



Ramsar Designation of the Laguna de Santa Rosa Wetland Complex as a *Wetland of International Significance*

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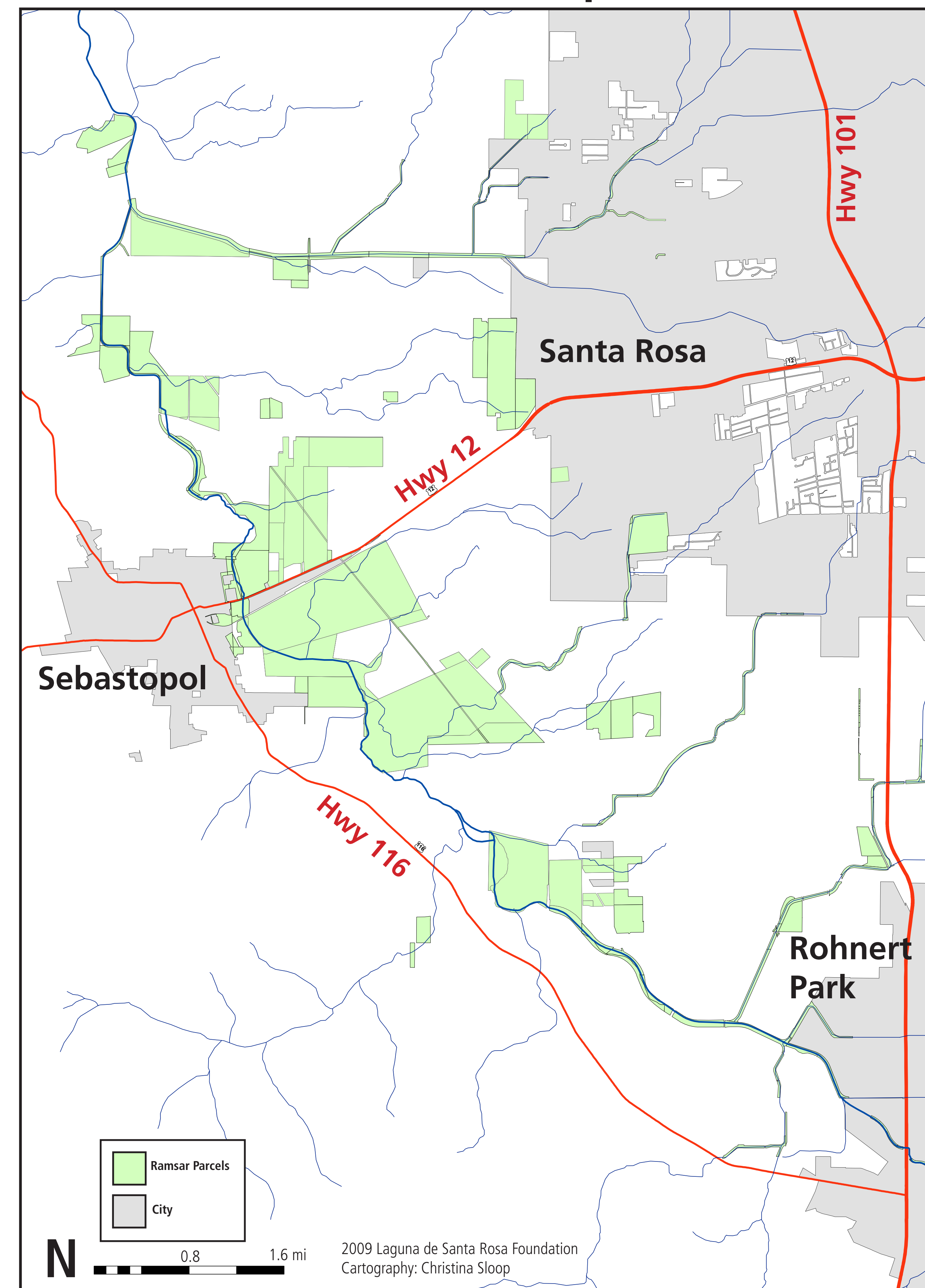
What is Ramsar?

Born out of an international convention in Ramsar, Iran in 1971, the *Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Significance* recognises the importance of wetlands for migratory birds, groundwater recharge, flood abatement, wildlife habitat, food production, recreation, and countless other ecosystem services spanning across national boundaries. Ratified by the United States in 1987 and signed by President Reagan, Ramsar is an international agreement that recognizes the importance of wetland systems and promotes wetland conservation worldwide.

Ramsar protects wetland habitat through non-regulatory means by raising public awareness of the importance of wetlands in our global ecology.

Individuals or collections of land owners petition to list their parcels, and once accepted, benefit from national and global recognition of importance. While Ramsar designation promotes the site by increasing scientific and tourist interest, and inspiring local pride and awareness, no additional burdens are placed on land owners. Ramsar sites may be eligible for additional conservation funding and demonstrate active partnerships of private and public landowners, however landowners are not subject to any additional regulation, oversight, or access to their properties.

Ramsar Parcels in the Laguna de Santa Rosa Wetland Complex



What does this mean locally?

In 2007, the Laguna Foundation began the process of listing the Laguna de Santa Rosa and adjacent Santa Rosa Plain Wetland Complex as a Ramsar site. The designated wetland complex includes the Laguna de Santa Rosa channel and floodplain, permanent marshes, vernal pools and tributary creeks.

The successful listing of the Laguna de Santa Rosa Wetland Complex as a Ramsar site will be announced on World Wetlands Day - February 2, 2010.

The Laguna de Santa Rosa Wetland Complex will become the fifth Ramsar site in California and the 25th site in the United States to receive this important recognition. Other local Ramsar sites include the Bolinas Lagoon and Tomales Bay.

With numerous private and public landowners participating in our Ramsar application, 3895 acres of wetland in the Laguna will add to the 400 million acres worldwide designated as Wetlands of International Significance.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Wendy Jones, Mark Green, & Hattie Brown. We recognize Ramsar landowners: Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation, City of Santa Rosa, City of Sebastopol, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, Sonoma County Water Agency, California Department of Fish and Game, Summerfield Waldorf School, Michael and Denise Pellagrini, Jana Niernberger, George Tuttle, John and Teresa Balletto, Paul and Patty Schoch, Daniel Warner and Tedi London, Finis Wilkinson, Donald Hanesworth, & Patricia O'Connell.



photo J. Honton

Laguna Floodplain



photo J. Meisler

Permanent Marsh



photo J. Meisler

Laguna Channel



photo H. Brown

Vernal Pool

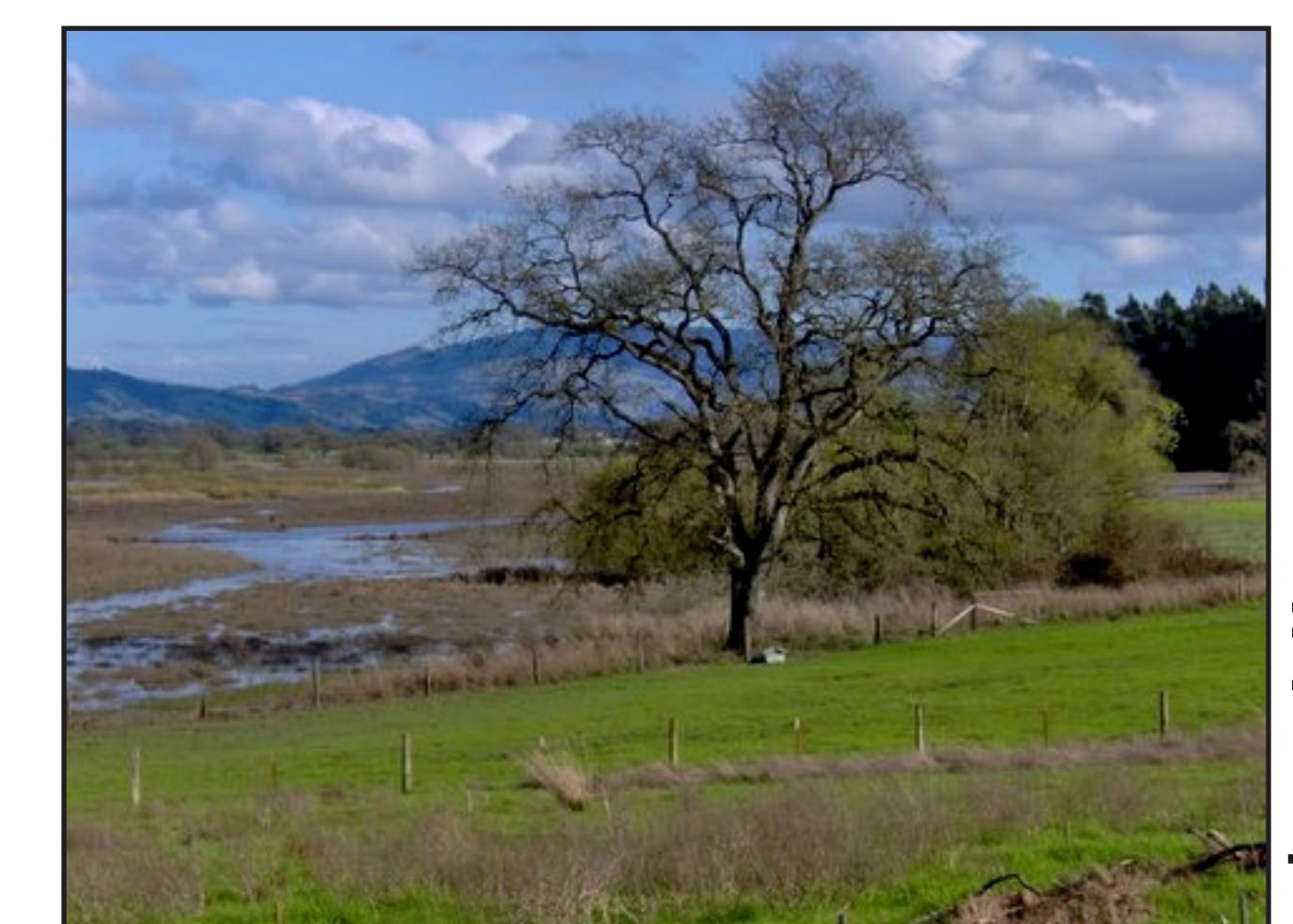


photo J. Honton

Creek Tributary