

# Man Has Ravaged Lagoons

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The coastal lagoons that make Live Oak a uniquely beautiful spot of wildlife ponds right beside sandy ocean beaches have been so altered by man that only one of the waterways is in a relatively natural state.

Corcoran Lagoon, featuring a protrusion of radio transmission towers, is the lucky lagoon still close to what nature meant it to be — a mixture of salt and fresh waters.

Schwan Lake and Bonita Lagoon appear ideal spots with shady trees and lazy waterfowl floating contently upon their surfaces. These two lagoons, once a natural salt/fresh water mix, have been so touched by human hand that today they are almost entirely fresh water.

Moran Lake, on the edge of Pleasure Point, has suffered an unhappier fate. It has become a stagnant pond of nearly all salt water that is polluted from pavement run-off and what appears to be human or animal waste.

Schwan Lake (left), although filled with wildlife and adding a unique beauty to Live Oak, is one of the coastal lagoons that have been so altered by man that they no longer exist in their natural states. Moran Lake (right) has become a stagnant pond of nearly all salt water. (Photos by The Sentinel's Pete Amos).

Only a few domestic mallard ducks, fed by generous neighbors, float on Moran's surface. The lagoon is devoid of the proliferation of wildlife that rest at Corcoran, Schwan and Bonita.

Woods Lagoon may sound like an unfamiliar locale because the fifth coastal waterway in Live Oak was lost long ago to what is now the Small Crafts Harbor. A wildlife lagoon that was promised in its

Observations on the Live Oak waterways were made by Steven Singer, county watershed analyst, in a visit to the four remaining coastal lagoons and in a report on Moran Lake prepared by himself and Robert Aston, water quality chemist.

Of all the lagoons, Moran is the one Singer is most concerned about because its lands are county-owned and the county watershed manager's office was directed by the supervisors

place has yet to appear.

When the upper addition to the harbor was planned in the early 1970s, the port district agreed to develop a replacement lagoon. After several delays, only recently have plans been tentatively formulated to develop into a coastal lagoon an area upstream from the harbor in Arana Gulch, Bob Mapes of the State Department of Fish and Game said.

to report on the condition of the polluted waterway.

The county is planning to put in a park at Moran Lake, and as Singer surveyed the dead-looking site, he states, "If they leave it like it is, it's leaving an eyesore in the neighborhood. I wouldn't want to come to a Moran Lake Park if this is what it looks like."

Moran's problems are caused by rapid urbanization, stagna-  
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