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## Finding aid to the Small Wilderness Area Preservation records BANC MSS 81/38

c

Lori Dedeyan

The Bancroft Library



2017

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**Language of Material:** English

**Contributing Institution:** The Bancroft Library

**Title:** Small Wilderness Area Preservation records

**Creator:** Small Wilderness Area Preservation

**Source:** Polk, Emily

**Identifier/Call Number:** BANC MSS 81/38 c

**Physical Description:** 8 Linear Feet(5 cartons, 2 document boxes, 3 card file boxes)

**Date (inclusive):** 1963-1980

**Abstract:** This collection contains the organizational records of Small Wilderness Area Preservation, a conservation organization founded by Los Osos resident Emily Polk for the purpose of buying up small parcels of land for preservation as nature parks and reserves. It includes correspondence, financial records and tax documents, incorporation documents, meeting minutes and membership rosters, newsletters and publicity materials, press and clippings, and program files. The program files include correspondence, proposals, permits, and other working documents related to the various projects undertaken by S.W.A.P. for purchasing and setting aside parkland in California.

**Language of Material:** Collection materials are in English.

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**Access**

Collection is open for research.

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**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Small Wilderness Area Preservation records, BANC MSS 81/38 c, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

**Alternate Forms Available**

There are no alternate forms for this collection.

**Related Materials**

The Bancroft Library holds several collections related to the conservation and environmental movements in California and the United States. These include the records of Sierra Club, its chapters and members, the Trustees for Conservation, and environmentalists such as David Ross Brower, Thomas J. Graff, and the correspondence of Ansel Adams. The Bancroft also holds the records of the Friends of the River Foundation, Friends of the Earth, and the Save the Redwoods League.

**Acquisition Information**

Gift of Emily Polk on September 9-12, 1980.

**Accruals**

No additions are expected.

**Arrangement**

Arranged to the folder level.

**Processing Information**

Processed by Lori Dedeyan in 2017, with the generous support of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

**Biographical / Historical**

Small Wilderness Area Preservation (SWAP) was a conservation organization founded in 1971 by Emily Polk, a resident of Los Osos, CA, to purchase and set aside small parcels of land as parks, reserves, and open spaces. SWAP was incorporated

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in 1971 and solicited tax- deductible contributions from individuals in order to purchase land that would be “either saved from being destroyed, or returned from misuse to a natural wild state.” (1) It worked with and was supported by the Nature Conservancy and the Sierra Club, to which it deeded parcels. It approached landowners in order to persuade them to sell or donate their properties, which it could then lease, sell, or grant to landholding agencies or other foundations or corporations.

Its original advisory board included leaders of other conservation organizations, such as Ansel Adams, Edgar Wayburn (both of the Sierra Club and Trustees for Conservation), and Margaret Owings. The state advisory board oversaw county committees across nearly a dozen California counties in which the organization had projects. SWAP worked with individuals, planning and development agencies, realtors, and local and state governments. One of its early successes was the establishment of the Los Osos Oaks State Natural Reserve in 1972.

1. “The Small Wilderness Area Preserves Program.” Program document, 1970.

### **Scope and Contents**

This collection contains the organizational records of Small Wilderness Area Preservation, a conservation organization founded by Los Osos resident Emily Polk for the purpose of buying up small parcels of land for preservation as nature parks and reserves. It includes correspondence, financial records and tax documents, incorporation documents, meeting minutes and membership rosters, newsletters and publicity materials, press and clippings, and program files. The program files include correspondence, proposals, permits, and other working documents related to the various projects undertaken by S.W.A.P. for purchasing and setting aside parkland in California.

The collection is arranged into four series:

Series 1 (Correspondence) contains professional and personal correspondence.

Series 2 (Administrative materials) includes financial records, bylaws, board meeting minutes, contributor and membership lists, and other documents.

Series 3 (Program files) contains correspondence, proposals, publicity, financial, and other working documents related to the various acquisition projects undertaken by S.W.A.P.

Series 4 (Publicity material and press) includes mailers and newsletters, promotional material, clippings, and material by other conservation organizations.

### **Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Wilderness areas--California.

Environmental protection--California

Open spaces--California--San Francisco Bay Area

Open spaces--California.

Conservation of natural resources--California.

Parks -- California

Small Wilderness Area Preservation

Polk, Emily

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#### Series 1. **Correspondence 1967-1980**

Carton 1, folders 1-15

##### **Arrangement**

Arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

##### **Scope and Contents**

Includes business correspondence and the personal correspondence of Emily Polk.

Carton 1, Folder 1

carton 1, folder 2

carton 1, folder 3

carton 1, folder 4

carton 1,

Folders 5-6

carton 1, folder 7

carton 1, folder 8

##### **General correspondence 1967-1973**

##### **General correspondence 1974-1976**

##### **General correspondence 1977-1979**

##### **General correspondence undated**

##### **Project proposals to S.W.A.P. 1971-1978**

##### **Inquiries 1971-1978**

##### **California State Parks 1970-1973**

carton 1, folder 9  
carton 1, folder 10  
carton 1, folder 11  
carton 1, folder 12  
carton 1, folder 13  
carton 1, folder 14  
carton 1, folder 15

**Los Angeles Times 1974-1977**  
**National Geographic 1972, 1975**  
**Owings, Margaret 1970-1980**  
**Telegram- Tribune (letters to Editor) 1969**  
**Letters of appreciation to Emily Polk (personal and professional) 1970-1980**  
**Personal correspondence circa 1976-1978**  
**Christmas and New Year's cards circa 1976-1977**

Series 2. **Administrative material 1968-1979**

**Physical Description:** Carton 1, folders 16-36; Box 1, folders 1-2; Boxes 3-5

**Arrangement**

Arranged by type of material, in a roughly chronological order.

**Scope and Contents**

Includes financial reports, invoices, tax forms, and other financial documents; board minutes and lists of trustees and advisers; membership lists; and bylaws, articles of incorporation, and other documents and correspondence relating to incorporation.

carton 1,  
Folders 16-17  
carton 1, folder 18  
carton 1, folder 19  
carton 1, folder 20  
carton 1, folder 21  
carton 1,  
Folders 22-24  
carton 1, folder 25  
carton 1, folder 26  
carton 1, folder 27  
carton 1, folder 28  
carton 1, folder 29  
carton 1, folder 30  
carton 1, folder 31  
carton 1, folder 32  
carton 1, folder 33  
carton 1, folder 34  
carton 1, folder 35  
carton 1, folder 36  
box 1, folder 1  
box 1, folder 2  
Boxes 3-5

**Early documents and draft proposals circa 1970**

**Incorporation, bylaws, trust agreements 1970-1973**

**Amendments to bylaws- board approvals 1979**

**List of advisors circa 1976**

**Board of directors' meeting minutes 1971-1975**

**Finances and tax exempt status 1970-1976**

**Financial support from Sierra Club Foundation 1970-1971**

**Copies of material submitted to IRS 1970-1971**

**Tax returns and financial statements 1971-1974**

**Potential funders 1971-1972**

**Contributions and memorial contributions circa 1973**

**Tax forms 1975-1976**

**Finances and invoices 1973-1976**

**Financial records and invoices 1975-1977**

**Bills and financial records 1977-1979**

**Insurance, liability 1972-1973**

**Labor Commissioner- workmen's compensation issue 1974-1975**

**Emily Polk- invoices and bank statements 1978-1979**

**Potential contributors 1968-1972**

**Court cases and legislative bills 1970-1971**

**Membership records circa 1970-1979**

Series 3. **Program files 1964-1978**

**Physical Description:** Cartons 2-4; Box 1, folder 3

**Arrangement**

Park projects are arranged alphabetically by location or title. County committee materials and other program materials are listed afterwards.

**Scope and Contents**

Includes correspondence, proposals, permits, and other working documents for S.W.A.P. projects.

carton 2, folder 1  
carton 2,  
Folders 2-3  
carton 2, folder 4  
  
carton 2, folder 5

**Alameda, CA- Clinton Avenue property 1976**

**Ballona Lagoon (Venice, CA), Los Angeles Aquarium Park project- proposal drafts and photographs 1974-1976**

**Ballona Lagoon (Venice, CA), Los Angeles Aquarium Park project- correspondence 1974-1976**

**Ballona Lagoon (Venice, CA), Los Angeles Aquarium Park project- development permits, Coastal Conservation Commission hearings 1974-1976**

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carton 2, folder 6	<b>Ballona Lagoon (Venice, CA)- Environmental Impact Report by City of Los Angeles 1974</b>
carton 2, Folders 7-8 carton 4, folder 1	<b>Ballona Lagoon (Venice, CA), Los Angeles Aquarium Park project- notes and supporting material 1974-1976</b> <b>Ballona Lagoon (Venice, CA), Los Angeles Aquarium Park project- permits, proposals, and reports circa 1974-1976</b>
carton 4, folder 2	<b>Ballona Lagoon (Venice, CA), Los Angeles Aquarium Park project- maps and plans circa 1976</b>
carton 4, folder 3	<b>Bear Harbor Ranch (Humboldt)/ Stow Pond (Goleta) 1971-1972</b>
carton 4, folder 4	<b>Conejo Canyons (Thousand Oaks, CA) 1976</b>
carton 2, folder 9	<b>Coyote Hills (Fullerton, CA) 1974</b>
carton 2, folder 10	<b>Dinosaur Caves (Pismo Beach, CA)- correspondence 1972-1974</b>
carton 2, folder 11	<b>Dinosaur Caves (Pismo Beach, CA)- proposal drafts circa 1972-1974</b>
carton 2, folder 12	<b>Dinosaur Caves (Pismo Beach, CA)- financial 1972-1975</b>
carton 2, folder 13	<b>Dinosaur Caves (Pismo Beach, CA)- notes and photographs circa 1972-1974</b>
carton 4, folder 5	<b>Dinosaur Caves (Pismo Beach, CA)- maps and planning commission documents 1967-1974</b>
carton 2, folder 14	<b>Glendale, CA- land use element report 1976</b>
carton 2, folder 15	<b>Hedge Creek Falls (Dunsmuir, CA) 1972-1975</b>
carton 2, folder 16	<b>Hedge Creek Falls (Dunsmuir, CA)- Federal Highway Administration Environmental Statement 1973</b>
carton 2, folder 17	<b>Lombard Street (San Francisco, CA) 1972-1973</b>
carton 2, folder 18	<b>Los Liones Canyon Arboretum project (Pacific Palisades, CA) 1972-1973</b>
carton 2, Folders 19-21	<b>Los Osos Oaks State Reserve 1970-1975</b>
carton 4, folder 6	<b>Los Osos Oaks State Reserve 1970-1973</b>
carton 2, Folders 22-23	<b>Los Morros (San Luis Obispo, CA) 1971-1976</b>
carton 2, folder 24	<b>Morro Bay Estuary (Morro Bay, CA)- plans and property purchase options 1973-1974</b>
carton 2, folder 25	<b>Morro Bay Estuary (Morro Bay, CA)- correspondence with local and federal government 1972-1975</b>
carton 3, folder 1	<b>Morro Bay Estuary (Morro Bay, CA)- correspondence and mailers 1972-1975</b>
carton 4, Folders 7-9	<b>Morro Bay Estuary (Morro Bay, CA)- correspondence and purchase options 1970-1975</b>
carton 4, folder 10	<b>Morro Bay Estuary (Morro Bay, CA)- mailers, plans, and notes 1973-1974</b>
carton 4, folder 11	<b>Morro Coast highway construction issue 1971</b>
carton 3, folder 2	<b>National City (San Diego, CA)- Preliminary General Plan for redevelopment 1974</b>
carton 4, folder 12	<b>National City (San Diego, CA)- Carrie Floyd Memorial Senior Park (by Charles F. Harbison) 1970-1974</b>
carton 4, folder 13	<b>Pirates' Cove (San Luis Obispo, CA) 1972</b>
carton 3, folder 3	<b>Pismo Beach, CA- landfill development project 1973-1974</b>
carton 3, folder 4	<b>Porterville Reserve (Porterville- Tulare, CA)- photographs 1975</b>
carton 4, folder 14	<b>San Luis Obispo county projects- correspondence 1972-1973</b>
carton 3, folder 5	<b>Sentinel Park, Park Circle City (San Luis Obispo, CA) 1971-1975</b>
carton 4, folder 15	<b>Shepherd Canyon (Oakland, CA) 1974-1975</b>
carton 3, folder 6	<b>South Laguna project, CA 1972-1975</b>
carton 3, folder 7	<b>Trinidad, CA- coastal park, Yurok tribal burial site 1975-1976</b>
carton 3, folder 8	<b>Verdugo- San Rafael Wilderness Area, CA- S.W.A.P. proposal 1976</b>
carton 3, folder 9	<b>Verdugo- San Rafael Wilderness Area, CA- correspondence 1976-1977</b>
carton 4, folder 21	<b>Verdugo- San Rafael Wilderness Park- city planning documents 1977-1978</b>
carton 4, folder 22	<b>Verdugo- San Rafael Wilderness Park- correspondence and planning 1976-1978</b>
box 1, folder 3	<b>Verdugo Mountains Scenic Parkway Design Report (prepared for the City of Glendale) undated</b>
carton 4, folder 16	<b>Wilcox Woodlands (Santa Barbara, CA) 1974-1975</b>
carton 3, folder 10	<b>Wilderness Gardens (North San Diego County, CA)- notes circa 1970-1972</b>
carton 3, folder 11	<b>Wilderness Gardens (North San Diego County, CA)- contributions and fundraising 1971-1973</b>

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carton 3, folder 12	<b>Wilderness Gardens (North San Diego County, CA)- county, state, and federal action 1971-1973</b>
carton 3, folder 13	<b>Wilderness Gardens (North San Diego County, CA)- proposals and mailers 1971-1973</b>
carton 3, folder 14	<b>Wilderness Gardens (North San Diego County, CA)- correspondence 1971-1977</b>
carton 4, folder 17	<b>Wilderness Gardens (North San Diego County, CA)- proposals, option agreements, etc. 1971-1972</b>
carton 4, folder 18	<b>Wilderness Gardens (North San Diego County, CA)- mailers and publicity material 1971-1972</b>
carton 4, folder 19	<b>Wilderness Gardens (North San Diego County, CA)- tax forms and other financial documents 1971-1973</b>
carton 4, folder 20	<b>Wilderness Gardens (North San Diego County, CA)- Indian World correspondence and planning 1972</b>
carton 3, folder 15	<b>Citizens' Committees: Humboldt County 1964, 1972-1975</b>
carton 3, folder 16	<b>Citizens' Committees: Los Angeles County 1971-1972</b>
carton 3, folder 17	<b>Citizens' Committees: Marin County 1970-1972</b>
carton 3, folder 18	<b>Citizens' Committees: Monterey County 1971</b>
carton 3, folder 19	<b>Citizens' Committees: Riverside County 1971-1972</b>
carton 3, folder 20	<b>Citizens' Committees: San Diego County 1970-1972</b>
carton 3, folder 21	<b>Citizens' Committees: San Francisco Bay Area 1971-1973</b>
carton 3, folder 22	<b>Citizens' Committees: Santa Barbara County 1970-1974</b>
carton 3, folder 23	<b>Citizens' Committees: Santa Cruz County 1970</b>
carton 3, folder 24	<b>Citizens' Committees: Sonoma County 1970-1972</b>
carton 3, folder 25	<b>California Coastal Commissions 1972-1975</b>
carton 3, folder 26	<b>Open Space in urban areas: legislation, population relocation 1970-1975</b>
carton 3, folder 27	<b>California Office of Transportation Planning and Policy 1973</b>
carton 3, folder 28	<b>California coastline oil pipeline issue 1975</b>
carton 3, folder 29	<b>National Fisheries plan 1974</b>
carton 3, folder 30	<b>National Perspectives Council proposal 1975</b>
carton 3, folder 31	<b>Land and Nature League (proposed international extension of S.W.A.P.)- pamphlets undated</b>
carton 3, folder 32	<b>Society of Women Geographers 1974-1979</b>
carton 3, Folders 33-35	<b>Miscellaneous notes and documents circa 1970-1977</b>

Series 4. **Publicity materials and press 1963-1979**

**Physical Description:** Carton 5; Box 1, folders 4-10; Box 2

**Arrangement**

Arranged by type of material.

**Scope and Contents**

Includes pamphlets, mailers, and press materials; correspondence, financial, and promotional materials for an album of nature songs put out by S.W.A.P. ('Wilderness America'); collected clippings about S.W.A.P. projects; and material by other conservation organizations.

box 1, folder 4	<b>Poems by Marjorie Hawkworth undated</b>
box 1, folder 5	<b>Emily Polk: speeches and other writings 1963-1975</b>
box 1, folder 6	<b>Emily Polk: notes for writings circa 1968-1974</b>
box 1, folder 7	<b>Press material 1971-1977</b>
box 1, folder 8	<b>Mailers, brochures, and publicity 1970-1978</b>
box 1, folder 9	<b>Early mailer design and publicity 1970-1971</b>
box 1, folder 10	<b>S.W.A.P. Newsletters 1970-1979</b>
Box 2, folder 1	<b>Patty Zeitlin- 'Spin, Spider Spin' nature songs for S.W.A.P. 1974</b>
Box 2, folder 2	<b>Patty Zeitlin, 'Spin, Spider Spin'- correspondence and project material 1974</b>
Box 2, folder 3	<b>'Wilderness America' (S.W.A.P. music album)- promotion and publicity 1975-1977</b>
Box 2, Folders 4-7	<b>'Wilderness America' (S.W.A.P. album)- correspondence, financial, promotion 1975-1977</b>
Carton 5, Folder 22	<b>Promotional photograph of S.W.A.P. undated</b>

carton 5, folder 1	<b>Articles and other research material 1968-1974</b>
carton 5, folder 2	<b>Sierra Club bulletins 1968-1969</b>
carton 5, folder 3	<b>San Francisco Bay Area- conservation organizations 1964-1969</b>
carton 5,	<b>Conservation organizations- mailers and newsletters 1968-1978</b>
Folders 4-5	
carton 5, folder 6	<b>Pamphlets- other organizations 1970s</b>
carton 5, folder 7	<b>Clippings: conservation and environmental issues 1967-1972</b>
carton 5, folder 8	<b>Clippings: Dinosaur Caves 1972-1974</b>
carton 5, folder 9	<b>Clippings: directors of S.W.A.P. 1964, 1970-1974</b>
carton 5, folder 10	<b>Clippings: Indian City/ Native American issues 1971-1972</b>
carton 5, folder 11	<b>Clippings: Los Morros 1973</b>
carton 5, folder 12	<b>Clippings: Morro Bay Estuary 1970-1973</b>
carton 5, folder 13	<b>Clippings: open space and nature 1973-1974</b>
carton 5,	<b>Clippings: San Luis Obispo 1972-1975</b>
Folders 14-15	
carton 5, folder 16	<b>Clippings: S.W.A.P. publicity and conservation issues 1971-1975</b>
carton 5, folder 17	<b>Clippings: Wilcox Woodlands 1974-1975</b>
carton 5, folder 18	<b>Clippings: Wilderness Gardens 1971-1973</b>
carton 5,	<b>Clippings: various projects 1969-1979</b>
Folders 19-21	