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Descriptive Summary
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Biography
The California State Parks Commission was established in 1927. It was a body of five persons appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Governor. The Commissioners were laymen who were paid their expenses while on duty. They oversaw the Division of Beaches and Parks, appointed the Chief of the Division, approved budgets and policies, and reviewed land acquisitions and park improvements.

Early in its existence the Commission established a set of criteria for the creation of state parks which include the following principles: areas selected for parklands should be of statewide and not local significance; they should possess features of special significance that make their preservation and public recreational use a matter of statewide concern; they should be equitably distributed so as to assure proper balance in their use by all citizens of the state.

Gov. Earl Warren appointed Robert Burns, President of the College of the Pacific, to the California State Parks Commission in 1951. Burns served through 1958. He represented central California at a time crucial to the preservation of the southern...
grove of the Calaveras Big Trees. Other parks created during his tenure include the Hearst/San Simeon State Historical Monument and the Jack London Home State Historical Monument. In 1958 Burns participated in the Commission's major reorganization of the Division of Beaches and Parks.

Scope and Content
The Robert Burns State Parks Commission Papers consists of: correspondence and memos from the Director of the Division of Beaches & Parks, the public and various legislators; the agendas and minutes of Park Commission meetings (1953-1958); reports or proposals regarding various lands being considered for state park status or for expansion; summaries and texts of enabling legislation creating the diverse parks (1953-58); and a miscellany of related printed materials, maps, and photographs.

BOX ONE: ORGANIZATION & PROCEDURES; FINANCIAL RECORDS; MAPS, CLIPPINGS & MISCELLANY
1. 1---Organization & Procedures
   - Resolution pertaining to fee schedule, 1954
   - Memo from Deputy Dir. to Dir. summarizing proposed changes in Public Resources Code, 8-56
   - "Prospectus for achieving a California Plan...for the development...of land and water areas and facilities...for outdoor recreation...," 1956
   - Senate Resolution no. 28, 4-57
   - Memo from Assoc. Admin. Analyst et al. to Dep. Dir. on ramifications of Senate Resolution no. 28, 1957
   - Study directed by Senate Resolution no. 28 to revise structure of Div. of Beaches & Parks, 1958

1. 2---Financial records
   - "Summary of capital outlay for construction...," 1945-57
   - "Program projections, estimated State Beach fund...," 1956-61
   - Do., Amended version
   - "Current concession agreement," 1957
   - Do., 1958
   - "Report on land acquisition appropriations," 9-30-57
   - Do., 12-31-57
   - "Project status report," 12-1-57
   - "Traveling expenses," 1958

1. 3---Resolutions from misc. public bodies pertaining to:
   - Anderson Reservoir, 1958
   - Angel Island, 1953
   - Cahuenga Battlefield, 1956
   - Chiles Canyon, 1957
   - Coloma, 1955
   - Garin Ranch, 1957
   - Hayward Area park, 1957
   - Hearst Castle, 1953
   - Lake Natoma, 1957 [2]
   - Nimbus Reservoir, 1957
   - Oxnard Beach harbor, 1953
   - Redding river frontages, 1957
   - Russian River, 1957
   - San Clemente beach, n.d.
   - San Mateo beach acquisition, 1953
   - Santa Monica/Del Mar Club concession, 1957
   - Ventura Co./Parcel 69, n.d.

1. 4---Agua Caliente Springs--application for right of way, 3-58
1. 5---Bancroft Ranch House, San Diego Co.--application for registration as point of interest, 1957
1. 6---Roadside Rests acquisition program, 1957
1. 8---Dewitt Nelson. Address to No. California County Supervisors Assn., 1955
1. 9---Transcript of "People v. Joseph R. Knowland," 1956 [re acquisition of Orange Co. land]
1. 10--El Pueblo de Los Angeles lease agmt. w/ Bank of America, 1958 [for bldgs. in historic area]
1. 11--St. Vincent's College (LA)--History, n.d.
1. 12--J. Delbert Sarber & Elmer C. Aldrich. "Financing the recreational use of impounded water," 1956
1. 13--State Water Rights Board Hearings on Sacto.MUD use of Coloma area, 1957
1. 15--Miscellaneous short papers
1. 16--Clippings pertaining to:
   Byrnes Ferry covered bridge, 1957
   Cahuenga Battlefield, 1956
   Emerald Bay, 1957
   Ferry Park, SF, 1957
   Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey, 1953
   Folsom park, 1957
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   Meadow Valley Project, 1957
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   Park development program, 1955
   "Project X," 1957
   Roadside Rests, 1958
   Squaw Valley Olympics preparations, 1957
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   Anderson Reservoir recreation use, 1957
   Angel Island, 1953
   Anza Desert State Park, 1956
   Aquatic Park, SF property ownership in vicinity, 1955
   Asilomar Beach State Park, 1954
   Asilomar Beach CAA Landing Facility, 1956
   Bidwell Mansion State Hist. Mon. [proposed], 1954
   Castle Crags State Park proposed expansion, 1954
   Coe Memorial Park acquisition map, 1957
   Donner Memorial State Park proposed expansion, 1957
   Franks Tract State Park [proposed], 1955
   Hueneme Beach proposed acquisition, 1956
   Hueneme Beach Project proposed acquisition, 1957
   Imperial Sand Hills project, 1958
   Kern River State Park general development plan, 1957
   Lake Elsinore project, 1957
   Orange Co. master plan of arterial hwys., 1956
   Playa del Rey dvpmt. area, 1953
   Point Dume State Park [proposed], 1955
   Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park acquisition, 1955
   Roadside Rests: proposed dvpmt. schedule, 1954
   Roadside Rests: Mariposa Co., 1957
   Samuel P. Taylor State Park proposed addtn., 1957
   San Clemente Beach State Park, 1956
   Squaw Valley Olympic Winter Games area, 1957
1. 18--Misc. photos
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Playa del Rey dvpmt. [?]

BOX TWO: REPORTS & PROPOSALS
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2. 3--Site of Stone & Kelsey home, Lake Co., 1949
2. 4--Columbia Historic State Park--Master Plan Report, 1950
2. 5--Franks Tract--Report of investigation, 1953
2. 6--Salton Sea State Park--Report of water line easement, 1953
2. 7--Riding & Hiking Trails Project--Status Report, 1955
2. 8--Leo Carrillo Beach Park--Proposed use as crippled children's camp, 1956
2. 9--Del Norte Co. Beach & Shoreline acquisition, 1956
2. 10--Pescadero Beach--Report on use & recommended acquisition, 1956
2. 11--Roadside Rest Program--Statewide dvpmt. schedule, 1956
2. 12--Silver Strand Beach State Park--Report plan on use & recommended acquisition, 1956
2. 13--Airpoint Reservoir, Sta. Clara Co.--Report on state park potentialities, 1957
2. 14--Coe Memorial Park & Anderson Reservoir--Report on state park potentialities, 1957
2. 15--Cuyamaca Rancho grazing concessions--Report, 1957
2. 16--Evergreen Reservoir, Sta. Clara Co.--Report on state park potentialities, 1957
2. 17--Hearst/S. Simeon State Hist. Mon.--Proposed plan of operation, 1957
2. 18--Humboldt Redwoods State Park--Application no. 74 for right of way, 1957
2. 20--MacKerricher Beach State Park--Proposal for acquisition of additional lands, 1957
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2. 22--Manhattan Beach State Park--Proposal for acquisition of additional lands, 1957
2. 23--Montgomery Memorial State Park, S. Diego Co.--Proposal for acquisition of additional lands, 1957
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2. 25--Moonlight Beach State Park, S. Diego Co.--Proposal for acquisition of additional lands, 1957
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2. 29--Placerita Canyon State Park, LA Co.--Proposal for acquisition of additional lands, 1957
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2. 38--Uncle Tom's Cabin to Big Bend, Placer & El Dorado Co.s, Riding & Hiking Trails--Project study, 1957
2. 39--Upper Feather Projects--Report on state park potentialities, 1957
2. 40--San Pablo Reservoir, Contra Costa Co.--Report on potentialities as state park, 1958
BOX THREE: MINUTES & AGENDAS, 1953-58
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3. 2---11/19-20/1953
3. 3---Joint Meeting w/ St. Hwy. Comm., 11/19/1953
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5. 7---Misc. Printed Matter
- “California’s State Park System,” Motorland (Nov/Dec 1957)
- “Project X, The First Phase: Old SF evoked in a state historical monument,” 1957
- “Clarification of relationships between the State Park Commission, The Dept. of Natural Resources & the Div. of Beaches & Parks: Reorganization of the Div. of Beaches and Parks,” 1958
- “North Coast Redwood Master Plan,” 1965