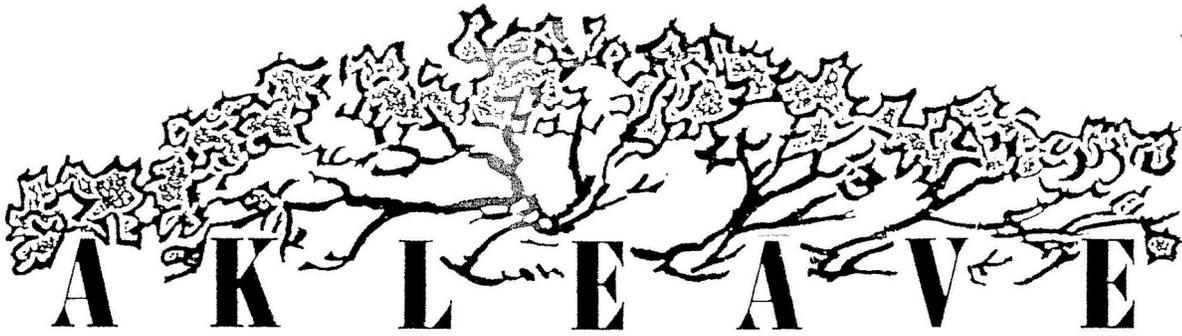


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A Publication of the Los Osos/Morro Bay Chapter of

Box 6442 Los Osos, CA 93412

SMALL WILDERNESS AREA PRESERVATION

Message Telephone: (805) 528-4540

EARTH WEEK SPECIAL EDITION

"A gift of nature is an imperishable gift, never broken, torn, lost, worn; the gift that given once is given forever; that exuberantly gives itself in return not only to the giver or receiver but to all creatures of earth for all time.

Emily Polk, founder, Small Wilderness Area Preservation.

Dig down into your pockets and find an extra dollar or two to give yourself a special "Earth Day Gift" in the form of a donation to S.W.A.P. We're working hard to make the purchase of the additional 39 acres of the Elfin Forest a reality but it takes money to find money and every donation is gratefully appreciated!

SPECIAL EARTH WEEK EVENTS: S.W.A.P. is sponsoring several activities during Earth Week 1990 in hopes that you and your friends will make every day an "Earth Day." Listen each day to special readings of "Earth Words" on KCBX. Check the schedule for times.

MONDAY APRIL 16TH GAIA DAY - CELEBRATE AND APPRECIATE THE WONDER OF ALL THINGS. Take an Elfin Forest Walk with Ralph Gifford. Meet at the corner of Turri Road and South Bay Blvd at 10:00 am for an easy 1 mile hike through this rare miniature oak woodland.

TUESDAY APRIL 17TH AIR DAY - PARK THE CAR. PLANT A TREE. Environmental Fair, Baywood Park Women's Club, 1335 7th. St., Baywood Park 7-9:30 pm. Meet the leaders of several local environmental organizations and learn what's being done to preserve and enhance our little piece of the Earth.

THURSDAY APRIL 19TH. LAND DAY - CHERISH THE LAND. CELEBRATE THE OUTDOORS. Take an Elfin Forest Walk with Ralph Gifford. Meet at the corner of Turri Road and South Bay Blvd at 9:00 am for an easy 1 mile hike through this rare miniature oak woodland.

Bring your neighbors and friends to the Environmental Awareness Displays at SLO's Farmer's Market from 6-9:00 pm.

SUNDAY APRIL 22 EARTH DAY - EVERY DAY IS EARTH DAY. Earth Day Fair and Celebration Camp San Luis, Airstrip behind Cuesta College, Hwy 1, SLO 10-4:30 pm.

OPEN SPACE FUNDING MEASURE ON COUNTY BALLOT IN NOVEMBER?

LOCAL PENNIES COULD ADD UP TO MILLIONS
FOR THE ELFIN FOREST AND OTHER NEEDED PROJECTS.

Imagine a county where each community could tap into a sizeable source of funds to protect significant farmland, scenic landscapes, wildlife habitat, greenbelts, historic sites, and other open space resources. And just think what we could do with a sum of over \$3 million annually -- particularly if this stream of revenue could be used for debt service on a municipal bond issue of up to \$30 million! And just to stretch your imagination still further, what if this funding were available at a cost of only pennies from each retail sales purchase -- thus being financed not just by this county's residents but by visitors as well?

Boulder County, Colorado has used that method to acquire a greenbelt area circling the town of Boulder and to develop a network of open space and creekside areas too. Under the auspices of the SLO County Land Conservancy, a steering committee of local agencies and open space advocates is looking into a similar open space funding measure for SLO County which balances many competing interests.

The Area Council of Governments is considering raising the sales tax by 1/2 cent. That measure would be placed on the November ballot and, if passed, would raise \$9.5 million in the first year, most of which would probably be used for transportation needs. The Steering Committee is asking that 1/3 (slightly over \$3.3 million) of that proposed increase be designated for enhancing open space and parkland resources in the county as mitigation for the "growth-inducing" impacts of the transportation projects. The sales tax would be an equitable sharing of costs since it would tap the dollars spent by tourists as well as residents.

With the \$3+ million available from the first year's revenue, the committee proposes to issue a revenue bond to make up to \$30 million annually for purchase of open space parkland at today's prices. A revenue bond would only require a simple majority voter approval since it would be backed by the sales tax revenue instead of the full faith and credit of the county. The preliminary proposal to utilize the \$30 million in bond monies is as follows:

\$10 million would be devoted to 6-7 regional and community parks proposed in the 1988 County Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

\$10 million would be distributed according to population to the cities and to the county for use in unincorporated areas for local/neighborhood parks or recreational facility needs.

\$10 million would be allocated by the Area Coordinating Council as competitive grants to agencies or non-profit organizations who propose the best open space, farmland, or historic site projects according to a set of criteria established in the bond act. These criteria would require participation by a willing seller and that projects have significant regional benefit. Resources to be protected must have scenic value, wildlife or plant habitat, prime or unique farmland, National

Register historic sites, greenbelt/outdoor passive recreational opportunity, or protect "characteristic landscapes."

Finally, the committee proposes that the funds within the 1/3 of the sales tax dollars but not needed for debt service on the bonds be reserved for operating and maintenance costs for the parks (80%) and open land (20%) acquired with the bond funds. These additional funds would be generated from sales tax increases due to inflation, growth, and higher spending, etc.

What are the chances for this proposal? How will be voters respond in November? We'll find out within the next 4-6 weeks as the Area Coordinating Council surveys registered voters. The committee is convinced voters are ready to pay to maintain the character and enhance the quality of life on the Central Coast and it expects the results of the survey to help convince the Area Council to designate 1/3 of the sales tax funds for acquiring and enhancing open space and parkland. (Be sure to respond to this survey!)

If you are interested and would like to volunteer your help and/or your money to support this effort, call the SLO County Land Conservancy (P. O. Box 12206, SLO 93406) at 544-9096.

Earth Day 1990



Do what you can right where you live.

Purchase an interest in the Elfin Forest at the bargain price of \$2 per square foot. You will receive a certificate of stewardship in recognition of your contribution and have the satisfaction of knowing that your caring is helping to preserve the unique quality of the South Bay for future generations.

Here's my Special Earth Day Contribution for ____ Square Feet at \$2.00 per square foot plus \$0.75 for mailing expenses. Please make out the Certificate of Stewardship to _____

____ I can give my time and energy to this effort

____ Enclosed is my \$10 membership fee

____ Additional donation of ____ to help with operating expenses

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Please make checks payable to S.W.A.P
Return to: Larry Grimes, Treasurer, S.W.A.P.
P. O. Box 6442, Los Osos, 93402

Due to scheduling problems, the Sock Hop For S.W.A.P. has been postponed until the Fall. Watch for the new date as it promises to be a lot of fun for all.



Small Wilderness Area Preservation

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