

OH 2514

“An oral history with Linda Moon”

Narrator: Moon, Linda (b. not recorded)

Interviewer: James Aldridge

Date: October 12, 1996

Location: Narrator’s home in Huntington Beach, California

Language: English

Project: Bolsa Chica

Format(s): Cassette; digitized (00:53:14)

Transcript: Edited (26 pp.)

Other: *Saving the Bolsa Chica Wetlands* by Jim Aldridge

Abstract: An original member of the League of Women Voters study group that investigated the development/preservation of the Bolsa Chica wetlands gives a history of the origins in 1975 and growth over twenty years of the Amigos de Bolsa Chica. Founders of the Friends of Upper Newport Bay, Frank and Fran Robinson, advised the group to hold a particular focus (the wetlands) and seek wide varied support from groups such as local Audubon, Sierra Club, and surfers; retain legal consultant versed in tideland laws; and anticipate a long “adventure” before success. The Amigos learned to interact with multiple agency levels like the Coastal Commission, the city council and county officials. After a brief hiatus to secure her law degree, narrator returned to fight manipulation by the developer, Koll Real Estate Group, and sought to maintain the independence and integrity of the Amigos. Narrator comments that litigation as a solution may have taken place too soon and that the political process should be used more exhaustively in the future.

Subject headings: Environment and development issues, Environmental protection, Wetlands

OH 2515

“An oral history with Robert Fisher”

Narrator: Fisher, Robert (b. not recorded)
Interviewer: James Aldridge
Date: February 13, 1992
Location: Narrator's office in Santa Ana, California
Language: English
Project: Bolsa Chica

Format(s): Cassette; digitized (01:02:32)
Transcript: Verbatim (25 pp.)
Other: *Saving the Bolsa Chica Wetlands* by Jim Aldridge

Abstract: The Director of Harbors, Beaches, and Parks with the Orange County Environmental Management Agency describes the struggle to determine how much of the Bolsa Chica wetland area that had been set aside in the county's master plan for a regional park would be preserved and restored as wildlife habitat and how best to balance the property rights and public use with the wildlife values. Discusses the conflict resolution efforts in creating the use plan and the mistake made by Signal Landmark Company when they tried to push for exclusive use of their own plan over suggestions of other agencies like the county's planning commission, its board of supervisors, and the California Coastal Commission. Explains the county's role in working for a balance of open space, recreational use and housing concerns in creating development/use plans such as the one needed for the Bolsa Chica area.
Subject headings: Environment and development issues, Environmental protection, Parks, Wildlife

OH 2516.1

“An oral history with Peter Green”

Narrator: Green, Peter (b. not recorded)
Interviewer: James Aldridge
Date: February 6, 1992
Location: Narrator’s office in Civic Center, Santa Ana, California
Language: English
Project: Bolsa Chica

Format(s): Cassettes; digital (01:04:36)
Transcript: Verbatim (32 pp.)
Other: *Saving the Bolsa Chica Wetlands* by Jim Aldridge

Abstract: A college professor trained in zoology and ecology and aware of the heavy pressure put on California coastal resources by the millions of residents in the Los Angeles Basin shares accounts of his involvement with the local city council, the volunteer organization Amigos de Bolsa Chica, and the state’s coastal commission as they related to preservation of the Bolsa Chica wetlands. Narrator lists his achievements as president of the Amigos including establishing a physical office that could serve as the center for the group, lobbying in Sacramento, creating contacts with federal and local agencies, and building general community support both for the project and for local politicians who would work to safeguard the wetlands. Sees the Amigos de Bolsa Chica as a cohesive group of thoughtful volunteers that commits to a long-term battle, attempts to educate the public, maintains a broad bank of members, and works within the political process before using resources on costly litigation.

Subject headings: Environment and development issues, Environmental protection, Wetlands, Volunteers

OH 2516.2

“An oral history with Peter Green”

Narrator: Green, Peter (b. not recorded)
Interviewer: James Aldridge
Date: March 4, 1993
Location: Interviewer’s home in Huntington Beach, California
Language: English
Project: Bolsa Chica

Format(s): Cassette, digitized (00:21:19)
Transcript: Verbatim (11 pp.)
Other: *Saving the Bolsa Chica Wetlands* by Jim Aldridge

Abstract: An update of the narrator’s activities since the first interview session that included receiving the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Award in 1992 and working on the water allocation committee appointed by Governor Pete Wilson. Repeats comments on the need for political action in lieu of costly litigation, notes changes in the philosophy of the Huntington Beach City Council over the years, and the value of negotiation instead of polarization between environmentalists and developers.

Subject headings: Environment and development issues, Environmental protection, Wetlands, Water

OH 2517

“An oral history with Robert Radovich”

Narrator: Radovich, Robert (b. not recorded)
Interviewer: James Aldridge
Date: March 17, 1993
Location: Interviewer's home in Huntington Beach, California
Language: English
Project: Bolsa Chica

Format(s): Cassettes, digitized (00:53:16)
Transcript: Edited (30 pp.)
Other: *Saving the Bolsa Chica Wetlands* by Jim Aldridge

Abstract: A fifteen-year veteran of the California State Department of Fish and Game project review with a specialty in wetlands explains the criteria used to define a wetland and the variances of these criteria between advisory agencies, specifically the Cowardin Wetland Definition and Classification system used by the Department of Fish and Game and the defining factors used by the Army Corps of Engineers. Speculates on mitigation credits for the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles and the financial benefits to both the Bolsa Chica wetlands and the wetlands adjacent to the Ballona Creek Channel. Considers the option of residential development in and near the wetlands as well as the land trade agreement in the Coastal Act.

Subject headings: Environment and development issues, Environmental protection, Wetlands

OH 2518

“An oral history with Jeff Holm”

Narrator: Holm, Jeff (b. not recorded)
Interviewer: James Aldridge
Date: March 20, 1992
Location: Interviewer's home in Huntington Beach, California
Language: English
Project: Bolsa Chica

Format(s): Cassettes; digitized (01:19:48)
Transcript: Verbatim (45 pp.)
Other: *Saving the Bolsa Chica Wetlands* by Jim Aldridge

Abstract: Employee of Signal Landmark Oil outlines his experience and tenure with the company, how development plans by Shell Oil and Signal Landmark had little local support; state involvement in construction of a hydraulic model of the wetlands; Marian Bergeson's role in modifying Senate Bill 1517; weariness of longtime public and private participants in the struggle. Tells of Paul Cook's role in negotiations with the city council, opposition to and liability issues with the ocean entrance, formation and functioning of the Bolsa Chica Planning Coalition that included the County, the State, the Amigos de Bolsa Chica, the City of Huntington Beach and Signal Landmark. Describes the bitter lawsuit levied by the Amigos against Signal Landmark and its settlement.

Subject headings: Environment and development issues, Environmental protection, Wetlands

OH 2519 Greg Taylor

See note in folder

OH 2520 David Belardes

See note in folder

OH 2521

“An oral history with Ruth Langsford”

Narrator: Langsford, Ruth (b. not recorded)
Interviewer: James Aldridge
Date: March 27, 1992
Location: Narrator's home in Playa del Rey, California
Language: English
Project: Bolsa Chica

Format(s): Cassettes (approx.. 3 hrs.)
Transcript: Verbatim, 87 pp.
Other: *Saving the Bolsa Chica Wetlands* by Jim Aldridge

Abstract: Discussion of the lengthy struggle to restore the Ballona Wetland, the last major wetland in Los Angeles County, is given by a participant in the process. Details the dispute that began with the death of Howard Hughes that was waged by Summa Corporation on behalf of his heirs to develop the land, efforts to claim wetlands as agricultural land, court ordered negotiations, compromises given, and the settlement that involved a land swap. Tells of start of the Ballona Wetlands Committee, the goals it established to restore the environment, and adaptations it made over the time of the dispute; names people who played primary roles in the debate, and key issues it dealt with such as muted or full tidal systems, type of development intended, polluted runoff entering the wetland, freshwater marsh and riparian corridor, port mitigation and funding for wetlands. Acknowledges cooperation of the McGuire-Thomas Partners development firm, inconsistencies within the California Fish and Game department and the Coastal Commission, decrease in federal support for environmental projects, and involvement of the National Audubon Society. Comments on the Campaign to Save California Wetlands, working with volunteers, her personal growth and ability, the role of women in environmental debates, and the influence of politics on the decisions made, the Land Use Plan and private property rights,
Subject headings: Ballona Wetlands, Environment and development issues, Environmental protection, Wetlands

OH 2522

“An oral history with Lorraine Faber”

Narrator: Faber, Lorraine (b. not recorded)
Interviewer: James Aldridge
Date: November 19, 1991
Location: Narrator’s home in Huntington Beach, California
Language: English
Project: Bolsa Chica

Format(s): Cassette (approx.. 2 hrs.)
Transcript: Verbatim (61 pp.)
Other: *Saving the Bolsa Chica Wetlands* by Jim Aldridge

Abstract: A native of Orange County and past president of the Amigos de Bolsa Chica describes her activities in membership development and increasing public relations for the group, her move from PR to president in 1982 where she feels her main contributions included securing a paid staff person, evaluating finances, and expanding PR from newspapers into radio and television. Comments on the early development proposal of Signal Landmark and how it was affected by the Coastal Act, the legislative process known as reconsideration, hours of preparation needed to compete with paid lobbyists, donors and their sources of funding. Explains how the board members with disparate talents function together, the Coastal Commission hearing process. Compares the PR methods of the Amigos with that of Signal Landmark and how they determined the result of the dispute; mentions her role in alerting public to the use of public funds; talks about the habitat conservation plan, Hand Across the Sands event, and effective reporters for printed media. Describes the start of a docent training program, effects of legal maneuvers and restructuring of Signal Landmark on the marina aspect of the project, and change in relations between the Amigos and Signal. Lists qualities needed in people who start up environmental protection projects and steps to take for success.

Subject headings: Environment and development issues, Environmental protection, Wetlands, Volunteers

OH 2523

“An oral history with Shirley Dettloff”

Narrator: Dettloff, Shirley (b. not recorded)
Interviewer: James Aldridge
Date: November 11, 1991
Location: Narrator's home in Huntington Beach, California
Language: English
Project: Bolsa Chica

Format(s): Cassette (approx.. 90 min.)
Transcript: Verbatim (45 pp.)
Other: *Saving the Bolsa Chica Wetlands* by Jim Aldridge

Abstract: An original founder and past president of the Amigos de Bolsa Chica describes the birth of the organization as an outgrowth of a League of Women Voters' study of local issues, names other early board members and important abilities of each president, and indicates how the group got its name. Feels that many times the political concerns overshadowed the environmental ones and recognizes therefore the importance of local elections. Explains the shift in the relationship between Signal Landmark and the Amigos and their respective champions; compromises that came about through the coalition established between Amigos, developer, and government; the use of Environment Impact Reports/Environmental Impact Statements in determining development and/or wetland preservation; and the importance of the Development Agreement written by the City of Huntington Beach. Discusses the Co-op that developed to fight on housing density, the composition of the five-member coalition that worked for compromise, and her role as president of the Amigos to end the lawsuit with Signal. Mentions her role on the city's planning commission and then lists qualities needed in people who start up environmental protection projects and steps to take for success and qualification for membership.

Subject headings: Environment and development issues, Environmental protection, Wetlands

OH 2524

“An oral history with Victor Leipzig”

Narrator: Leipzig, Victor (b. not recorded)
Interviewer: James Aldridge
Date: November 4, 1991
Location: Narrator’s home in Huntington Beach, California
Language: English
Project: Bolsa Chica

Format(s): Cassette (approx.. 1 hr.)
Transcript: Verbatim (35 pp.)
Other: *Saving the Bolsa Chica Wetlands* by Jim Aldridge

Abstract: East Coast arrival who decided to live in Huntington Beach because he appreciated the Bolsa Chica Wetland Reserve and who soon became tour director for the Amigos de Bolsa Chica recalls as a board member drafting the position paper to oppose the ocean entrance and limited wetland restoration that served as the basis for the Amigos’ response to the county board of supervisors. Discusses other major events in which he was active including defeating S. B. 1517, restarting litigation over the county’s land trade agreement, tripled fundraising to pay court costs, and increased public support. Comments lawsuits should be the last resort for environmental groups because of the emotional and financial costs and suggests other methods to employ first. Points out remaining problems with traffic and residential development, need for improved networking among local environmental groups, and clarifies the relation of the Koll Company to Signal Landmark. Shares his pride in the national reputation that the Amigos de Bolsa Chica enjoys and opines on how this success was achieved through able leadership and dedicated volunteers.

Subject headings: Surfrider Foundation, Environment and development issues, Environmental protection, Wetlands

OH 2525 Richard Williamson
2 60-minute cassettes
Nothing at all in folder

OH 2526.1

“An oral history with Herb Chatterton”

Narrator: Chatterton, Herb (b. not recorded)
Interviewer: James Aldridge
Date: January 28, 1993
Location: Interviewer's home in Huntington Beach, California
Language: English
Project: Bolsa Chica

Format(s): Cassette (approx. 60 min.)
Transcript: Verbatim (29 pp.)
Other: *Saving the Bolsa Chica Wetlands* by Jim Aldridge

Abstract: Engineering consultant who was a founding member of the Amigos de Bolsa Chica gives a brief personal background and explains the League of Women Voters' land use planning project that was the impetus for the Amigos. Describes Amigos' early activities: developed tours to inform the public about the wetlands, researched the history of the land ownership to prepare for lawsuits, realized this would be a multi-year project due to rate of oil extraction so established both tax-deductible and not-tax-deductible organizations that operated separately. Discusses early general enthusiasm for development and opposition to environment in Huntington Beach businesses and government and how that changed, the Amigos' lawsuit as a holding action that enabled environmental protection legislation to be put in place that would reduce the need for the lawsuit, and preservation of the natural bluff edge.

Subject headings: Environment and development issues, Environmental protection, Harriett Wieder, Huntington Beach City Council

OH 2526.2

“An oral history with Herb Chatterton”

Narrator: Chatterton, Herb (b. not recorded)
Interviewer: James Aldridge
Date: February 2, 1993
Location: Interviewer's home in Huntington Beach, California
Language: English
Project: Bolsa Chica

Format(s): Cassettes (approx.. 60 min.)
Transcript: Verbatim (36 pp.)
Other: *Saving the Bolsa Chica Wetlands* by Jim Aldridge

Abstract: Narrator continues to recall “bashes” held by the Amigos for various reasons, cross-membership with and financial support from other environmental organizations, and the economic differences between the Amigos and the Foundation as they were “linked in purpose but separate in mechanisms.” Outlines the League of Women Voters study on the economic impacts of the land exchange with the State and the basis of their opposition to it. Explains “sphere of influence” of City of Huntington Beach on the County land of Bolsa Chica; anticipation by the newly formed Amigos that a lawsuit was in their future and research they did to prepare for it as well as the negotiated settlement that was reached. Describes three concurrent tracks of activity: the legal case, the coalition planning process, and the political base development. Comments again on the modifications that took place over time in attitudes toward environmental protection at both county and state level, changes that took place in the leadership of Signal Landmark, and outcome benefits of his role as an individual plaintiff in the legal suit. Credits the success of the Amigos to knowledgeable and dedicated founders who had high goals to which they were ever faithful and were able to maintain public interest through education and fundraising events.

Subject headings: Volunteers, Environment and development issues, Environmental protection, Huntington Beach City Council

OH 2527.1

“An oral history with Harriett Wieder”

Narrator: Wieder, Harriett (b. 1921)
Interviewer: James Aldridge
Date: February 24, 1992
Location: Narrator’s office in Santa Ana, California
Language: English
Project: Bolsa Chica

Format(s): Cassette (Approx. 60 min.)
Transcript: Verbatim (17 pp.)
Other: *Saving the Bolsa Chica Wetlands*, Wieder biography, Bolsa Chica timeline

Abstract: Orange County Supervisor of District 2 describes her introduction to the wetlands controversy as a member of the Huntington Beach City Council and proceeds to describe study sessions and public hearings that took place, her change of heart on the ocean access controversy, evolution of the use plan under the guidance of Peter Denniston and Shirley Dettloff, and the goal of wetland restoration financed through development of some areas. Also shares her efforts to form the Southern California Water Committee to deal with the peripheral canal and her work on behalf of clean air.

Subject headings: Environment and development issues, Environmental protection, Environment and assessment

OH 2527.2

“An oral history with Harriett Wieder”

Narrator: Wieder, Harriett (b. 1921)
Interviewer: James Aldridge
Date: March 17, 1992
Location: Narrator’s office in Santa Ana, California
Language: English
Project: Bolsa Chica

Format(s): Cassette, (approx. 60 min)
Transcript: Verbatim (19 pp.)
Other: *Saving the Bolsa Chica Wetlands*, Wieder biography, Bolsa Chica timeline

Abstract: Orange County Supervisor of District 2 continues to discuss air quality issues and the marketing of that idea as well as her vice-chairman position on the Commission on Air Quality and the Economy. Also reflects on the role of timing and changed leadership in bringing about the tradeoffs and settlement to have 1200 acres wetlands and 300 developed in the Bolsa Chica; on the whole public policy-making process and the need for conflict resolution with a neutral third party facilitator. Recalls taking a team of perceived adversaries to lobby in Sacramento. Brief discussion of the role of trust in negotiations.

Subject headings: Environment and development issues, Environmental protection, Environment and assessment; Dennis Mangers

OH 2527.3

“An oral history with Harriett Wieder”

Narrator: Wieder, Harriett (b. 1921)

Interviewer: James Aldridge

Date: August 17, 1992

Location: Narrator’s home in Huntington Beach, California

Language: English

Project: Bolsa Chica

Format(s): Cassette (approx. 30 min)

Transcript: Verbatim (7 pp.)

Other: *Saving the Bolsa Chica Wetlands*, Wieder biography, Bolsa Chica timeline

Abstract: This brief session touches on how influence of environmental issues changed, how politicians are not routinely influenced by financial contributions, how the Amigos de Bolsa Chica acted as a responsible organization, and labels as hypocritical efforts to deal with various issues under the guise of environmental concern.

Subject headings: Environment and development issues, Environmental protection, Environment and assessment

OH 2528

“An oral history with Ken and Rhonda Martyn”

Narrator: Martyn, Ken; Martyn, Rhonda (b. not recorded)

Interviewer: James Aldridge

Date: December 2, 1991

Location: Narrators' home in Laguna Beach, California

Language: English

Project: Bolsa Chica

Format(s): Cassettes (approx. 4 hrs.)

Transcript: Verbatim transcript (65 pp.)

Other: *Saving the Bolsa Chica Wetlands* by Jim Aldridge

Abstract: Discussion with the past co-presidents of the Amigos de Bolsa Chica reveals a chronological listing starting with the 1975 establishment and growth of the Amigos and the problems, plans, and political action that they encountered, for example: drafting of a consistent purpose for the organization, opposition to zoning the wetland for agricultural use, success in having state funds listed in budget to purchase the Bolsa Chica and subsequent delays put forth by Signal Landmark, efforts to degrade the wetlands to circumvent the Coastal Act, lost cause of a linear park to encircle the wetlands, partial annexation, early fundraising efforts, and the precedent-setting Seacliff IV development. Continues with the Bolsa Chica Study Group, mud dumping by oil drilling Aminoil, opposition to the unconstitutional land trade, the demurer filed by Signal, intimidation efforts by lawyers for Signal that hurt Martyns' children who served as the organization's lawyers. Explains further about the UCLA geographers' maps that indicated a different amount marsh tideland and measures taken by Signal to contradict them, and the eventual settlement and recovery of fees for this dispute that lasted 1979 to 1989. Recalls fundraising efforts, primarily the 10K race and “Bolsa Chica Bash”, early study by the League of Women voters, Amigos' efforts to educate the public by offering tours of the land and sponsoring a one-day conference in the city, early hearings of the Coastal Commission on the amount of land to include as wetlands, travel to Sacramento to counter Signal lobbyists, and narrators' own participation in political activities and elections. Suggest reasons for the longtime commitment and perseverance of Amigos members and tactics other groups should take as they begin to campaign for the environment, analyze the change of leadership in Signal and level of Harriett Wieder's role in conflict resolution. Conclude with ideas of how things might have been done differently.

Subject headings: Dennis Mangers Environment and development issues, Environmental protection, Environment and assessment