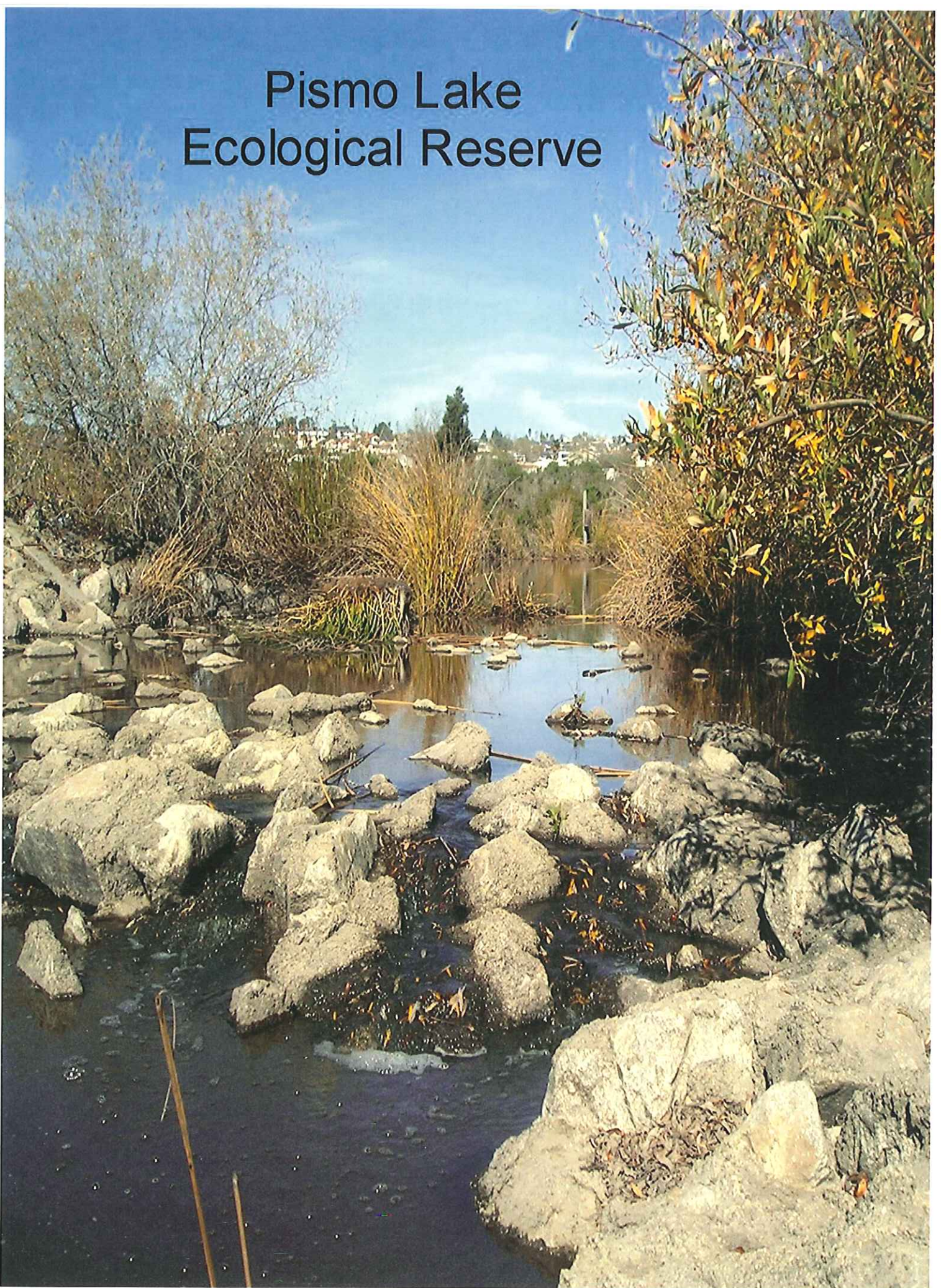


Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve



Part 2

1. In the 1980s development in the Oak Park area caused massive amounts of soil and debris to clog streams impacting Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve which was reduced from a healthy 30 acre lake down to a 2 1/2 dying marsh in less than a decade.

2. In 1986 a developer was sued by CA Department Fish and Game and the money was combined with the funds secured by Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (RCD) to dredge out Pismo Lake. Four islands were built from the 78,000 cubic yards of silt.

3. Starting in 2000 Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve was again threatened with destruction from the highly erosive soils. Large hillside development grading, during the rainy season, continued to be a serious problem within the Meadow Creek Watershed.



**DEDICATED TO CLARK MOORE
AN OUTSTANDING CONSERVATIONIST**

**Clark Moore, District Conservationist, preserved the Soil Conservation Service
History of the Civilian Conservation Corps Work in San Luis Obispo County**

**Clark Moore had seven years of experience as a technician with the
Soil Conservation Service, and five years experience with the Army
Corps of Engineers in World War II in the Pacific Campaign and
the Korean War before moving to San Luis Obispo County.**

**He lectured at Cal Poly and took students on tours of the area that
was reconstructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps.**

**Clark Moore has been a Consultant for the Coastal San Luis
Resource Conservation for many years.**

History of Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve Watershed

Part 1

1. 1935-USDA Soil Conservation Service determined the growing of sugar peas in highly erosive soils on hillsides in the Arroyo Grande area was a disaster equivalent to the "Dust Bowl" but in a much smaller area. The Civilian Conservation Corps and the WPA workers were used to control the hillside erosion by building structures, terraces, planting crops and trees.

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Part 3

4. 2002 "Strip mining" and stock piling a mountain of earth during the rainy season endangered Pismo Ecological Reserve. It took trucks working night and day for 2 weeks to remove the highly erosive soil.

5. 2002 Erosion Control contract between the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (RCD) and the City of Arroyo Grande. It defines the procedures for the provisions of erosion and sedimentation control expertise by the RCD to the city.

6. 2003 a task force was formed for the protection of the Pismo lake Ecological Reserve and other bodies of water because of the continual problems of development and grading in the Meadow Creek Watershed. Arroyo Grande, Pismo Beach, Grover City and San Luis Obispo County joined Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District in developing a plan.

7. 2007 California State Parks Department took over the protection of Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve.

8. 2008 CSLRCD and CA State Parks Department are meeting on Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve's future planning.

Forward

In 1978 as a member of the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (CSLRCD) I had the privilege of being involved in the "Rebirth of Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve". As a director I have documented and photographed many serious erosion problems over the years that potentially could destroy Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve. This is the third revision of the Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve Story and there is repetition because some sections were printed in the earlier versions.

Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve covers 69 acres and is nested between Grover Beach and Pismo Beach. It was a healthy wetland when the Wildlife Conservation Board purchased it in 1976. In less than a decade the reserve turned into a dying marsh densely overgrown with tules and cattails. The loss of wetlands is a natural process, but the loss of this marsh was artificial due to development along Meadow Creek that drains 3,800-acre watershed through Arroyo grande and Pismo Beach where the headwaters are located.

Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve Restoration Project plan was developed through the Santa Maria field office of the Soil Conservation Service and the California Department of Fish and Game. The project was designed to recreate the historical natural environment and to provide habitat for the wide range of waterfowl, fish and other wildlife native to the area.

The Soil Conservation Service share of the funding was provided through the Central Coast Resource Conservation and Development Area Council. Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District took over the administration of the \$1000,000 restoration program.

"Ironically, the initial restoration process was enhanced by efforts concluded earlier to meet the legal requirements of the state's lawsuit against the creator of the original problem" stated Bruce Elliot, Biologist for the California Department of Fish and Game.



After fourteen months and dozens of meetings the permits, easements, and authorizations were finally secured and the reconstruction began on the ground in the summer of 1986.

Clark L. Moore
Ella Honeycutt
DG Porter



Pismo Lake 1905
Photo by Virgil Hodges # 10 E 45
Courtesy of Bennett Loomis
Archives

The Picture Of Pismo Lake Was Taken in 1905

Pismo Lake the “shinning jewel” on the Central Coast of San Luis Obispo County remains a pristine body of water in 2008 because of the vigilance of citizens.

Searching for the history of Pismo Lake, I have been told about the field of artichokes that were grown where the CA State Park is located today-not far from Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve.

Mr Ormonde remembers a period of years when the wet condition of the land made it impossible to farm. Later when development occurred in the general area the wetlands were destroyed.



Area Where the CCC Worked in the 1930s

Note:

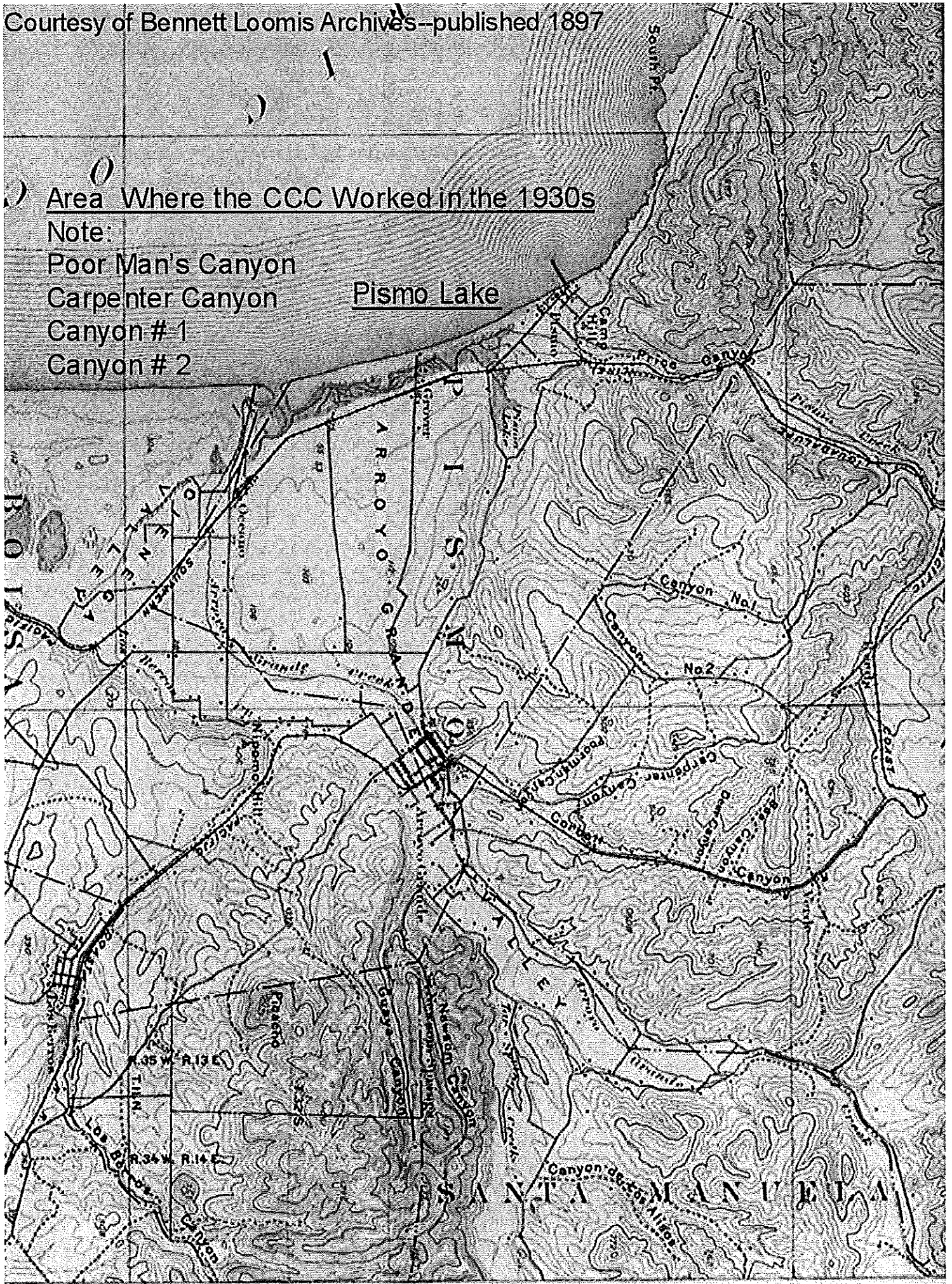
Poor Man's Canyon

Carpenter Canyon

Canyon # 1

Canyon # 2

Pismo Lake



CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS 1935



**THE CCC WORKED TO STABILIZE THE HILLS
BY BUILDING TERRACES, STRUCTURES AND
PLANTING TREES NEAR ARROYO GRANDE, CA.**



FIG. 332.—Continuance of improper land use takes its toll. This abandoned field and farm house are all that remain of a once productive farm near Arroyo Grande, California. (Photograph by Soil Conservation Service.)

Oak Park area soils judged most erosive in the world

By Ella Honeycutt

History of Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve Watershed

Part 1

1. 1934-USDA Soil Conservation Service determined the growing of sugar peas in highly erosive soils on hillsides in the Arroyo Grande area of the Central Coast of California was a disaster equivalent to the "Dust Bowl" but in a small confined area. The Civilian Conservation Corps and the WPA workers were used to control the hillside erosion by building structures, terraces, planting crops and trees.

Coastal San Luis resource Conservation District\
by Ella Honeycutt,

In 1939 Hugh Hammond Bennett on page 856 in his book wrote "Soil Conservation" about farming on the Central Coast of California—from Napa, Sonoma, Ignacio, San Ramon, Santa Clara, Pajaro, Salinas, Santa Maria and Lompoc Valleys. The principal soils are those of the Yolo, Botella, Rincon, Los Osos, Cayucos and Los Osos are only moderately susceptible to erosion.

Soil Conservation Service District Conservationist Clark Moore stated that the Arnold Series Soil is the most erosive in the world—Hugh Hammond Bennett on these two pages listed Arnold Series Soils near Arroyo Grande and the severe erosion in a 20 year period.

856

SOIL CONSERVATION

Under the stimulus of important local markets, most of the valley lands and many of the steeper slopes have been brought under cultivation. Owing to the limited precipitation in localities of arable land, irrigation is generally necessary for all but winter-grown crops. Where water is available, a wide variety of deciduous fruits, nuts, and field crops is produced. Lands without water for irrigation are usually dry-farmed to small grains or utilized for grazing, principally for beef cattle. Fairly extensive areas are also used for grapes and deciduous fruits under dry-farming conditions. In the southern part of this central sector, favored by nearly frostfree winters, garden peas are a common winter-grown crop, whereas dried beans are an important summer crop.

Of the more than 9,000,000 acres in this central subarea of the Coast Ranges and Lowlands country, some 5,500,000 acres (58 per cent) are in farms. Of this, nearly 1,700,000 acres (18 per cent of the total) are classed as cropland. The 25,000 farms average 220 acres in size, including about 70 acres of cropland. This is the third most important of the major problem areas of the Pacific Southwest. Total value of all farm land and buildings exceeds \$400,000,000; the average farm valuation is nearly \$16,500, or about \$75 an acre.

Most of the land is privately owned, public land being largely restricted to the relatively small acreages in national forest and in state and national parks. Specialty farms predominate, although considerable diversification and even extensive operations are prevalent in some sections. Napa, Sonoma, and other northern valleys include important vineyards, orchards, and poultry farms; Ignacio and San Ramon Valleys specialize in walnuts and vegetables; Livermore Valley produces principally grain hay and livestock; Santa Clara Valley, prunes and apricots; Pajaro Valley, apples and vegetables; lower Salinas Valley, lettuce, other truck crops, and sugar beets; and central and upper Salinas Valley, livestock, hay, pink beans, and almonds. Santa Maria and Lompoc Valleys are largely devoted to the production of truck crops, sugar beets, dried beans, and flower and vegetable seed. Most of the seed used for planting mustard as a cover crop in California orchards are grown in Lompoc Valley, in rotation with small grain.

The principal soils are those of the Yolo, Botella, Rincon, Los Osos, Cayucos, and Arnold groups. Because of their good water-holding capacity, the Cayucos and Los Osos are only moderately susceptible to erosion. In spite of this, however, considerable damage by erosion has resulted from overgrazing and improper farming practices. In marked contrast, the soils of the less extensive Arnold series are highly susceptible to erosion. Some spectacular examples of sheet and gully washing are found on this shallow, sandy soil (Fig. 332). Most of the severe erosion of the Arroyo Grande vicinity has occurred during the past 10 to 20 years, or

PACIFI

since the beginning of late winter peas.

Most range land is over resultant erosion. Many fields during the rainy season, and rainfall without damage to grazing management to adjustment to carrying capacity permits, development of wa



FIG. 332.—Continuance of impr farm house are all that remain of a (Photograph by Soil Conservation Ser

upland areas are devoted to achieve maximum returns on land-use programs for crop production for the range. The natural for nantly of annual plants. This more carefully planned grazing cover. In order to relieve the not available in satisfactory supply of forage must be produced those parts of the cultivated crops to the production of fecce

The erosion problem cannot land alone. Adjoining cultivated as cover crops, strip cropping mechanical structures in order of land used for various crops.



Gully Caused By Uncontrolled Run-off

LOCATION

NUMBER 7-2664

State California
 County _____
 Distance and Direction from nearest town _____

Photographer W. B. Radford
 Date 11/8/35 Time _____
 Weather _____
 Camera _____

Location by Permanent Landmark _____

Film _____ Exposure _____
 Stop _____ Meter Reading _____
 Land Owner or Operator _____

Photographer's Position _____

Name _____
 Address _____

Cooperative Contract _____

SUBJECT AND HISTORY

Gully at left shows what has happened in past due to uncontrolled run-off. Gradoni terracing seen at right. There will be 12,426 linear feet of terracing in all covering 8 acres. 28 terraces. Hole for tree may be seen in first basin of second row. Job started October 29, 1935

SOUTH COUNTY SOILS- MOST EROSION IN THE WORLD

Dust Bowl and the Central Coast

The devastation caused by erosion, floods and the dust storms of the 1930's, led to the passage of the federal Soil Conservation Act of 1935. The Federal legislation enabled states to act locally, and to provide conservation assistance and introduce new farming methods to ranchers, farmers and other landowners. The history books teach about the Dust Bowl in the Midwest but few people today realize the extent of erosion damage to the hillside farmland on the central coast of California.



A Panoramic View of the erosion scared hills in AG Project near Arroyo Grande, Ca. in 1935.

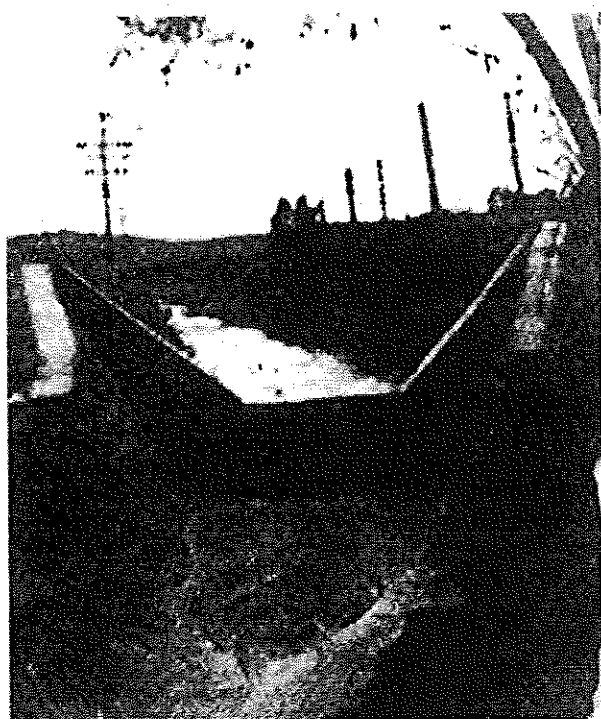
The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the WPA were very active in Arroyo Grande in 1935 at the bottom of the Depression. A Soil Survey Report prepared by the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS) describes the conditions of the eroded land in the Carpenter Canyon-Poorman Canyon area. The CCC was brought into the area to stabilize the hills, which had lost their fertile soil due to erosion and poor farming practices. The CCC camp was located where the Arroyo Grande Women's Club is today.

"WPA depression-era workmen had camps in Corbett and Carpenter Canyon. Hundreds of men worked in the hills in the 1930's, near Noyes Road and east of Printz Road, building drainage ditches and terraces to control runoff- water from the hills when it rained. They planted trees for reforestation and grasses for pasture improvement once the land was stabilized," wrote John Dunlap in the Los Angeles Times.

LOCATION

The Arroyo Grande sub-project, as it was described in the SCS Survey Report, was located in the west central portion of San Luis Obispo County about midway between Santa Maria and San Luis Obispo.

LOCATION



A check dam built in 1935 by the CCC. Part of the dam is visible today. Photo by SCS

The Arroyo Grande sub-project, as it was described in the SCS Survey Report, was located in the west central portion of San Luis Obispo County about midway between Santa Maria and San Luis Obispo. "It occupies an area roughly square in shape, at the southern tip of which lies the town of Arroyo Grande. Bounded on the north by the divide between canyon number 1 and Pismo Creek from the Coast Highway inland. The line gradually swings south, taking in the headwaters of canyon number 1 and canyon number 2, and near Arroyo Grande, through which passes the Coast Highway (U.S. 101) which closes the western boundary," the SCS Survey reports.

Today a few of the drainage ditches and terraces built by the CCC and WPA workers remain in working order and control run off-water from the hills when it rains. The rest have been destroyed when homes were built. Today the hills are covered with homes and new vineyards are being planted in and around the project area.

HISTORY

"The early history of agricultural development in San Luis Obispo County is intricately interwoven with the story of the missions. One of the most influential of which was established in 1772 in the City of San Luis Obispo, some ten miles north of the project area. With the secularization of the missions, the Spanish Crown granted large portions of their lands to various subjects. Agriculture as fostered by the Padres fell into decline, and the raising of cattle, sheep, horses and mules became the dominant industry. Only sufficient wheat, corn, beans, and fruit were grown to supply the needs of the ranchers, according to the report."

"With plenty of water and native pasture available, the raising of great herds of cattle flourished so that, at the time of the entrance of California into the union, the ranges were stocked to capacity. Settlers were moving into the area and they installed fences, which resulted in an overcrowding of the remaining range. "Yet, in spite of this, extensive cattle ranging in all



CAL-3047

WPA Constructing Terraces 1935

<p>LEGEND</p> <p>State <u>California</u></p> <p>County <u>San Luis Obispo</u></p> <p>Distance and Direction from nearest town <u>2 1/2 miles NW of Arroyo Grande.</u></p> <p>Location by Permanent Landmark <u>On top of hill above Poorman Canyon. 300 yds. N of Poorman Canyon Rd.</u></p> <p>Photographer's Position <u>20° N of highest terrace. looking S.</u></p>	<p>LOCATION</p>	<p>NUMBER <u>CAL-3047</u></p> <p>Photographer <u>W. B. Radford</u></p> <p>Date <u>4/2/36</u> Time <u>10:15 a.m.</u></p> <p>Weather <u>clear</u></p> <p>Camera <u>Agfa Aneco 5x7" View 8 1/2" lens</u></p> <p>Film <u>SS Planachrome</u></p> <p>Stop <u>f14</u> Exposure <u>1/25 sec.</u></p> <p>Filter <u>G</u> Meter Reading <u>320</u></p> <p>Land Owner or Operator Name <u>Wilson & Gilarte</u></p> <p>Address <u>Arroyo Grande, California</u></p> <p>Cooperative Contract _____</p>
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SUBJECT AND HISTORY

WPA workers constructing gradoni terraces to prevent the deposition shown on the bottom of the valley area in the distance. Note also the completed work on the Kadlovec and Matajec properties in the left background.

probability would have continued longer in its dominance over large portions of the state had not the severe drought of 1864 seriously crippled the industry," according to the Soil Conservation Service report.

Eventually the farmers were able to restock their herds and then they were faced with a drastic change in the fencing law. In 1870 the law was amended to include the entire state. The law stated that all animals found trespassing on private lands, open or enclosed, might be detained and sold for any damage they might have caused. "The fencing off of range, the drought of 1864 and the expanded fencing law forced the cattlemen into better management of the range. Soon the stock ranch gave place to the stock farm, a move from extensive to intensive management of the oldest industry in California. At the same time on a smaller scale with the rise and decline of the cattle industry was the rise and decline of sheep raising and dairy farming," according to historical records.

"Geologically speaking, this area is young, being contained in the coastal plains that mark the low-lying southern extension of the San Luis Range. This hilly area is an ill-defined lowland of possible marine origin, underlain by less resistant rocks than those in the more elevated rugged Santa Lucia Range to the North and east.

This is definitely indicated by the wide, flat valleys draining the area. These include the watersheds of Canyons number 1 and 2 which on the

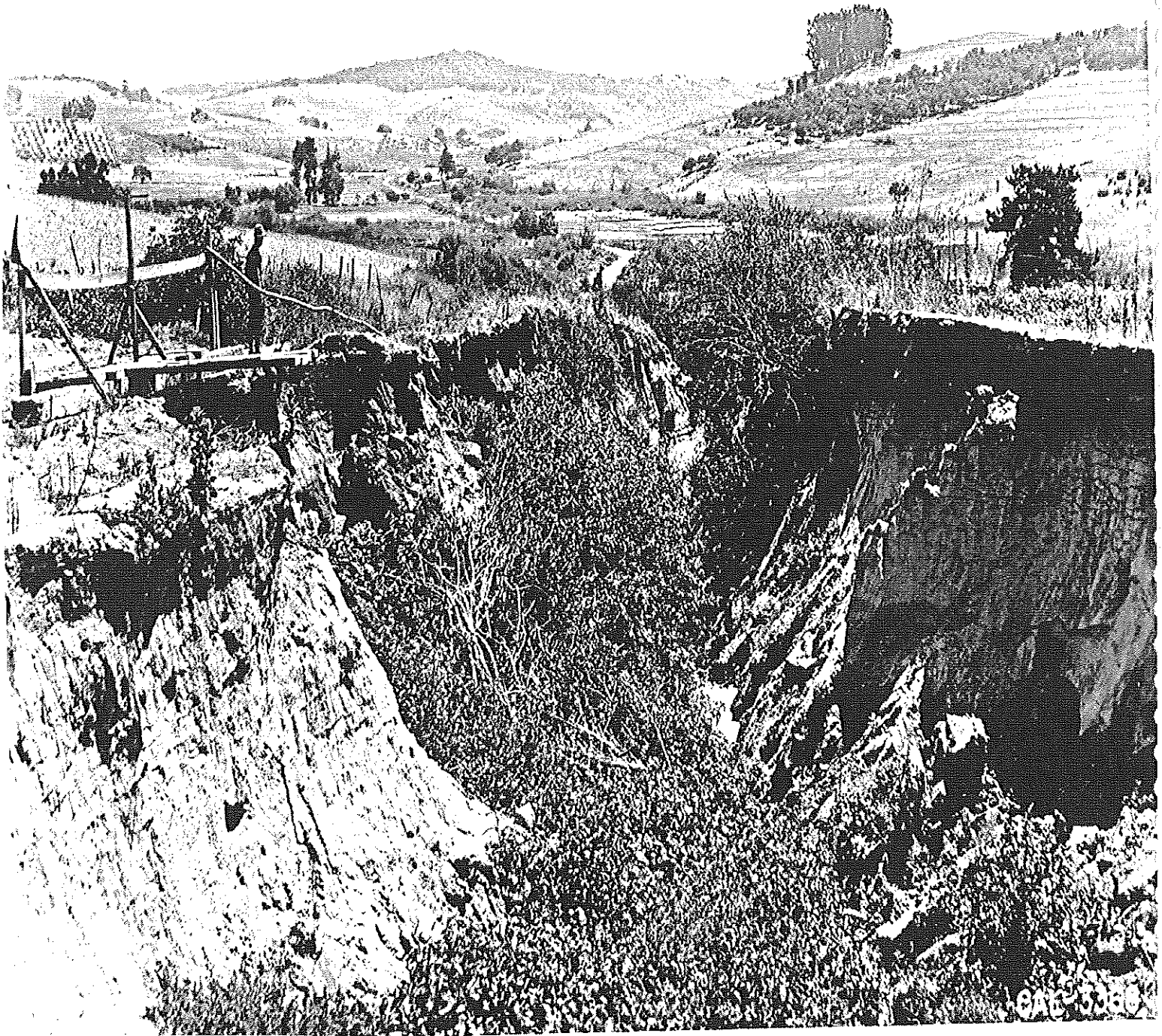


western half of the area join just above the highway and meet the ocean about one half mile west of Pismo Lake. Corbett Canyon drains the eastern portion with its tributary canyons, Carpenter and Poorman, the three joining about one mile northeast

of Arroyo Grande. The combined flow from these three canyons join Arroyo Grande Creek to reach the sea at Oceano.

GROWING SUGAR PEAS

The report states, "Previous to the development of present day (1935) agriculture, the land occupied by the project was part of a large stock ranch



CCC Workers Clearing Channel And Doing Road Work-1936

ECW LEGEND LOCATION

NUMBER Cal-3368

State California
 County San Luis Obispo
 Distance and Direction from nearest town
4 miles North of Arroyo Grande

Photographer W. B. Radford
 Date 8/3/36 Time 1:30 p.m.
 Weather Clear
 Camera 5x7" Ansco View

Location by Permanent Landmark
100 yards South of Wood's house.

8 1/2" lens
 Film SS Panchromatic
 Stop f 20 Exposure 1/26
 Filter none Meter Reading 400

Photographer's Position
On old bridge over gully
Looking S.

Land Owner or Operator
 Name Elberta Oil Company
 Address _____

Cooperative Contract _____

SUBJECT AND HISTORY

CCC workers are clearing this channel preparatory to its being filled in and lined with a concrete ditch. The road grade will be reduced and the road cut down ten feet, this earth being used to fill the channel.

and devoted mainly to cattle grazing. In the immediate project area, the relief and soil were such that extensive wheat raising was not profitable.” “Growing sugar peas on the hills near Arroyo Grande started about 1910,” “according to retired SCS District Conservationist, Clark Moore. During the First World War a boom in agriculture took place on the central coast. High prices caused the available hillside land into use.

“Frosts are rare occasions, even in the valleys. The average date for the earliest and latest frosts are December 16 and February 3, giving an average growing season of about 365 days. The Oak Park section comprising a major portion of the (project) area is reputed to be frost-free,” is written in the report. The mild climate was just right for growing early winter peas for eastern and foreign markets and the high prices reached a peak in 1927–1928. Many small farmers made big profits without a large capital investment.

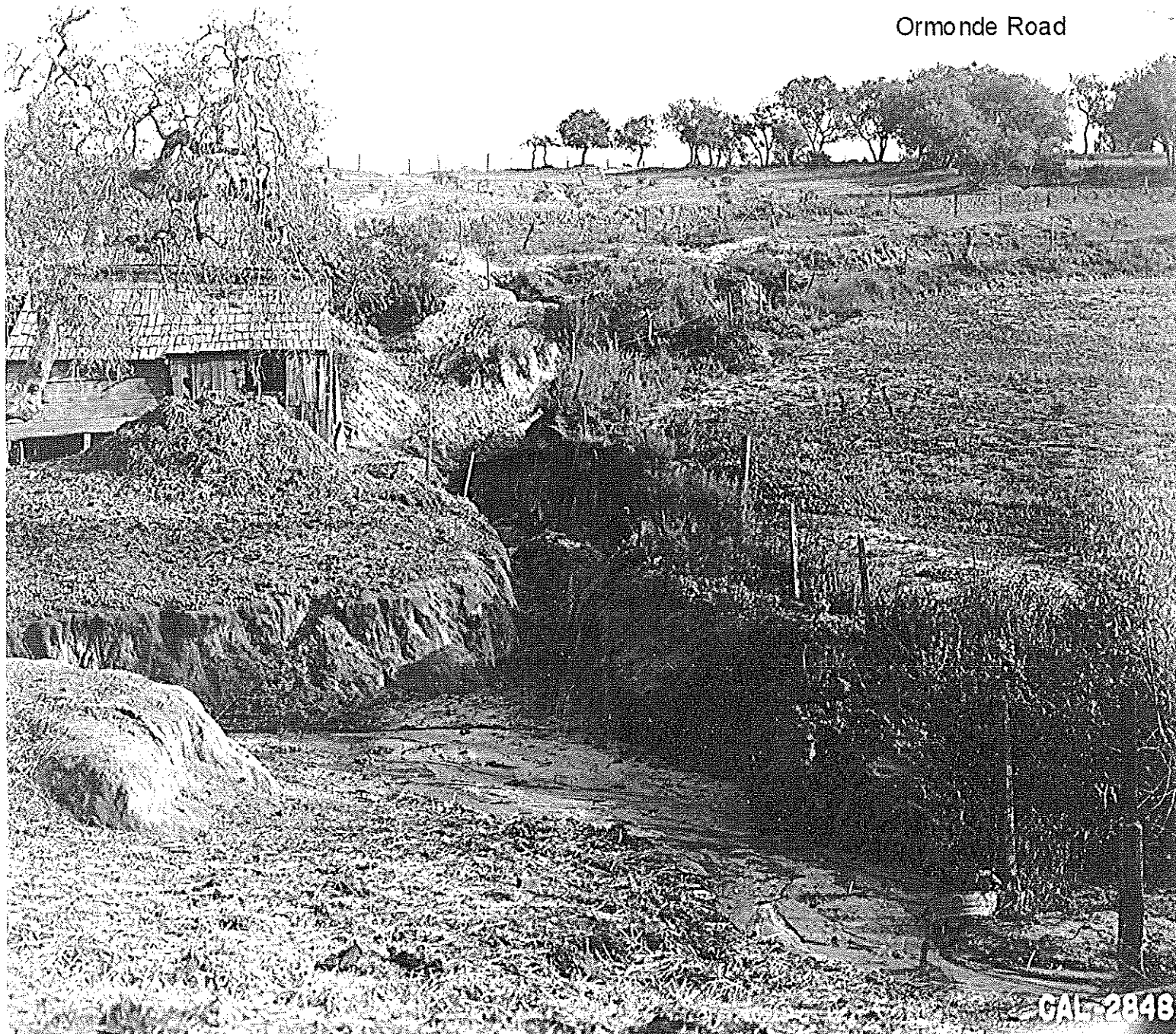
They grew small beans and peas year after year and did not rotate the crops with sugar beets or barley. The decline was very rapid and many fields were left without a cover crop. In 1910 they harvested 500 crates per acre and twenty years later they were lucky to harvest 100 crates per acre, according to Moore.

“This form of agricultural suicide soon led to decreased soil fertility, poor crops and small profits. No thought of erosion control, even indirectly or through cultural practices has been contemplated until recently (1935). The



typography has been altered and landforms severely marked by recent accelerated erosion. The light textured, shallow surface soils underlain by softly consolidated parent materials tend to flow wide drainage ways where the surface runoff was concentrated. This had a profound effect on the watershed relief. All of the main drainage ways shows this characteristic saucer-like shape,” according to the SCS report.

“Erosion is that remarkable destructive and rapidly accelerated removal of the surface soil following the disturbance by man of one or more



Erosion 5 Miles From Arroyo Grande -1935

LOCATION

NUMBER 2848

State California
 County San Luis Obispo
 Distance and Direction from nearest town
Five miles from Arroyo Grande

Photographer A. H. Vallet
 Date December 6, 1935 Time 11:00 A.M.
 Weather Bad
 Camera 5 x 7 Eastman View

Location by Permanent Landmark _____

Film Super - Speed Pam
 Stop 8 Exposure 25
 Filter _____ Meter Reading _____
 Land Owner or Operator
 Name _____
 Address _____

Photographer's Position
Looking East from corral into deep
 cut in mountain side.

Cooperative Contract _____

SUBJECT AND HISTORY

NOTE: This picture was not taken on any Contract or Project, but was made by request of Dr. Weir.

factors involved in the natural equilibrium. Locally the removal of the native winter cover meant an actual physical destruction of the soil itself. A definite reduction in fertility and there is a definite lowering of the producing capacity of the acres, perhaps permanently, " was written in the SCS report.

"There is a natural formation, a normal, rejuvenating and beneficial influence in the life cycle of the soil when the profile is allowed to develop under the natural balance of slope, cover, and precipitation. Types of erosion are intricately interwoven with the stage reached. This is equally true of the shallow light textured primary soils developed on consolidated sandstone as



A 6-inch rainstorm on January 4-5, 1935 caused permanent damage to the Gularte-Wilson Farm.

well as heavier textured, more maturely developed members with cemented or impervious subsoil layers," wrote the author.

According to Clark Moore there was a definite reduction in fertility and a definite lowering of the producing capacity of the acres had taken place and permanent damage had been done. Soil movement, in actual yardage was very heavy in the project area, three and four feet of detritus being deposited during a single storm. Large, deep, gullies developed and their depth was limited on the more steeply sloping soils by the depth to bedrock.

"Due to the light textured soils undercutting and caving of gully banks accelerated the deepening and widening of these channels. It is not uncommon to see these fields first deeply riled or gullies then into rapid widening and then failing the narrow walls between, leaving no trace of the



Winter Peas Being Planted 6 Days Prior to the Storm of November 18, 1934

LOCATION

State California
 County San Luis Obispo
 Distance and Direction from nearest town
2 1/2 miles North of Arroyo Grande

Location by Permanent Landmark
West side of Carpenter Canyon road.

Photographer's Position
Looking south west.

NUMBER 7-1273

Photographer A. Averell
 Date 11/12/34 Time 3:2
 Weather Clear
 Camera _____

Film _____
 Stop _____ Exposure _____
 Filter _____ Meter Reading _____
 Land Owner or Operator
 Name Lane
 Address Arroyo Grande
 Cooperative Contract _____

SUBJECT AND HISTORY

Oliveria, a cooperator on the Arroyo Grande project is seen here planting winter peas on the Lane property on a crop share basis. As can be seen the seed is being drilled in across the slope. This picture was taken 6 days prior to the storm of November 18, 1934, which amounted to 1.5 inches total.

Purpose of photo: Record.

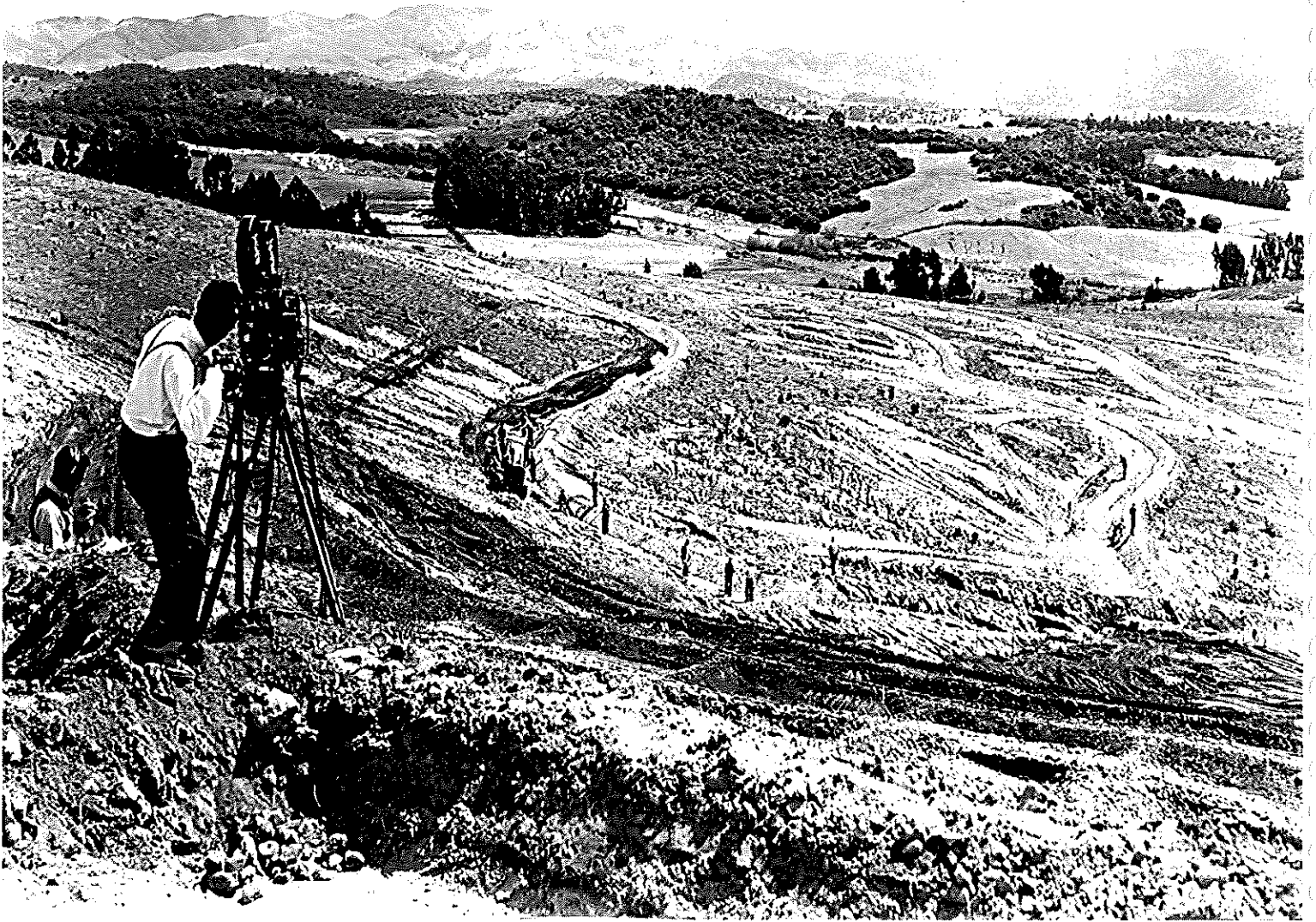
colored material showing through where the parent sandstone is exposed. Profitable agriculture in these fields is at an end for many years. Sheet erosion was dominant and the "progression was geometric," according to the report.

In the winter of 1934-1935 over 22 inches of rain fell which was about 8 inches above normal. Almost 6 inches of rain fell on January 4th and 5th. "From the steeply clean cultivated fields of light textured shallow soils, tons of detritus buried crops, roads, fences and even equipment left out during the night, on the fertile valley lowlands adjacent. In many cases the crops of early winter peas just maturing was a total loss, the yield being insufficient to replace the invested seed," concluded the SCS report.



Hugh Bennett organized the USDA soil Conservation Service. On page 857 in his book on Soil Conservation, he wrote, "Continuance of improper land use takes its toll and the abandoned field and farm house are all that remain of a once productive farm near Arroyo Grande, California." He continues, "The erosion problem cannot be wholly solved by protection of range land alone. Cultivated land will require the use of such measures as cover crops, contour furrowing, tree planting and mechanical structures in order to provide defense for the varying types of land use for various crops."

Grapes and sugar peas were planted up and down hills in beginning. In 2000. It appears farmers and Vintners are taking Hugh Bennett's advice and are using the Soils Experts at Cal Poly University.



Paramount News Photographing the SCS Activity In Poorman Canyon-----1936

LOCATION

NUMBER CAL-3048

State California
 County San Luis Obispo
 Distance and Direction from nearest town
2 1/2 miles NW of Arroyo Grande.

Location by Permanent Landmark On top of
hill above Poorman Canyon. 300yds. N
of Poorman Canyon Rd.
 Photographer's Position 20' N of highest
terrace. Looking SE

Photographer W. B. Radford
 Date 4/2/36 Time 10:10 a.m.
 Weather clear
 Camera Agfa Ansco 5x7" View
8 1/2" lens

Film SS Flenachrome
 Stop f29 Exposure 1/5 sec.
 Filter G Meter Reading 400
 Land Owner or Operator ^
 Name Wilson & Gilarte
 Address Arroyo Grande, California

Cooperative Contract _____

SUBJECT AND HISTORY

Paramount News photographing the SCS activity in Poorman Canyon.
 Newly constructed grade ditches may be seen in the background.

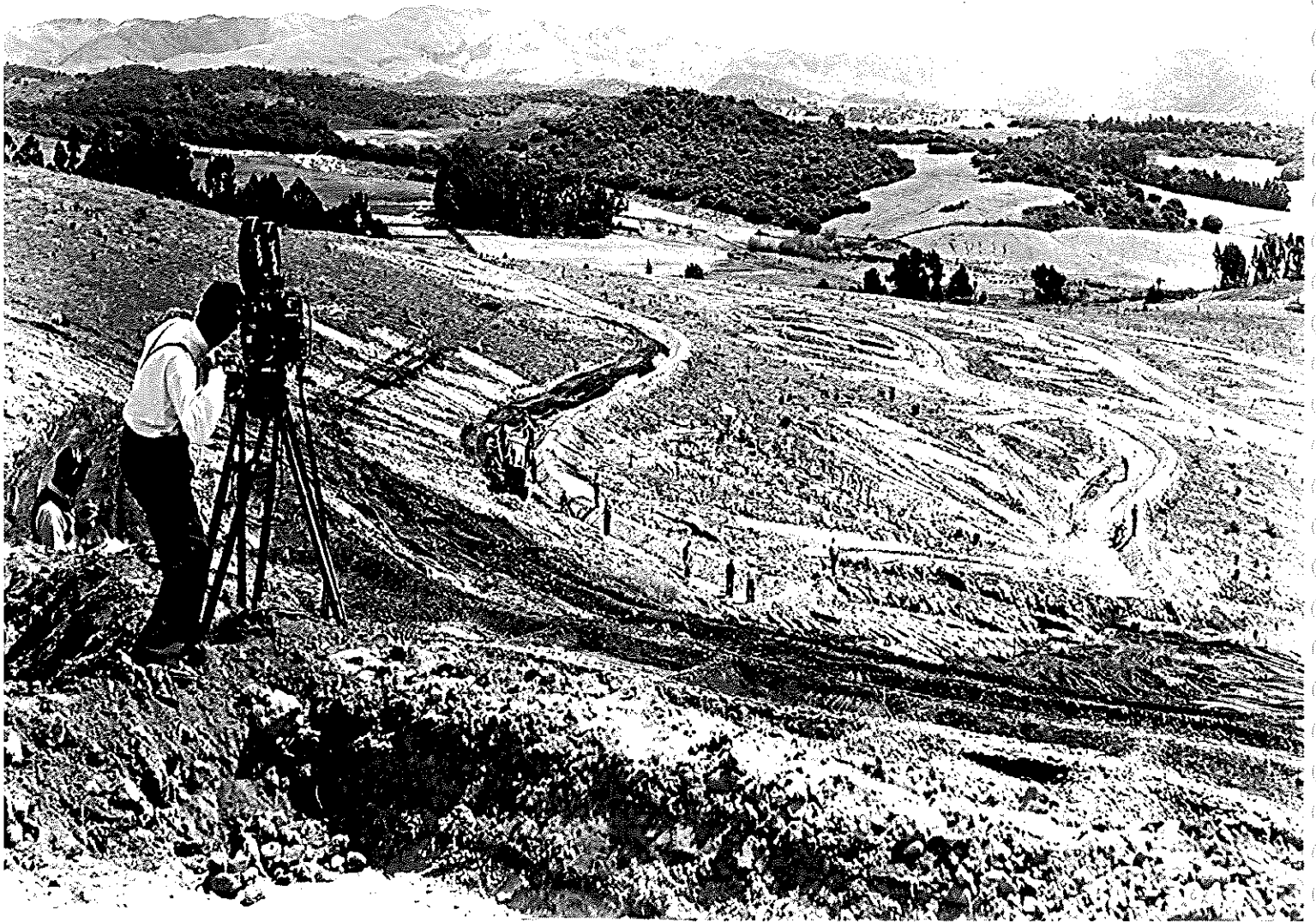
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 Stop f29 Exposure 1/5 sec.
 Filter G Meter Reading 400
 Land Owner or Operator "
 Name Wilson & Gilarte
 Address Arroyo Grande, California

Cooperative Contract _____

SUBJECT AND HISTORY

Paramount News photographing the SCS activity in Poorman Canyon.
 Newly constructed grade ditches may be seen in the background.

CLIMATE AND SEASONAL PRECIPITATION FROM 1924-1935

The climate of the Arroyo Grande area is similar to that of the many coastal valleys occurring in this section of California. The rainy season extends from late October or November to the early part of April. The rains accompany southwest or west winds, and are generally gentle. However, heavy rains during the winter months occur at intervals, and when they continue for several days or fall on saturated ground, are accompanied by peak runoff with resultant erosion on the slope and heavy flood deposition on the flat lands below.

The data given in the following table shows considerable fluctuations from year to year in the time of first rainfall and the distribution of rains during the wet season. In 1929-30, due to late rains, crop plantings were delayed until January as compared to the usual October planting dates. During the month of December 1925 and 1930, no measurable precipitation occurred. In 1934-35, the total rainfall amounted to 22.12 inches, while the previous season receiving only 8.59 inches and most of this amount came during December and February.

Along the coast and for several miles inland, in most places as far as the summit of the bordering crest of the foot hills, a distinguishing feature of the summer climate is the prevalence of summer fogs. They are of frequent occurrences, creeping into the valleys and up the mountain slopes mid-afternoon and remaining throughout the night, being dissipated only for an interval by the heat of the noonday sun. This item has an important bearing on the soil condition and the crop production; in as much as the high humidity favors vegetable growth and materially reduces the loss of soil moisture by evaporation and transpiration from plants. Due to the stabilizing effect thus produced on temperature variations by the proximity of the ocean

Distribution of Seasonal Precipitation Arroyo Grande -1924-35

Seasons	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	Total
1924-25	--	--	--	1.00	.75	1.80	3.03	3.02	2.88	2.54	.76	--	15.18
1925-26	--	--	--	.20	2.52	--	1.35	4.16	.30	2.18	--	--	10.71
1926-27	--	--	--	.65	5.31	1.05	2.04	5.72	1.75	.50	--	--	17.02
1927-28	--	--	--	2.34	1.33	3.89	.33	5.19	3.65	.46	--	--	17.19
1928-29	--	--	--	--	2.83	3.89	2.02	3.14	1.50	.56	--	--	13.94
1929-30	--	--	--	--	--	0.16	4.19	1.66	2.93	.50	.40	.17	10.01
1930-31	--	--	.45	--	1.36	--	4.97	1.34	.29	.46	1.23	--	10.10
1931-32	--	.11	--	.14	2.63	7.80	4.30	3.16	.43	.55	.10	.02	19.24
1932-33	--	.03	.01	.02	.15	1.53	7.71	.30	1.09	.10	.57	1.76	13.27
1933-34	--	--	--	.36	--	3.85	.01	2.92	--	--	--	1.45	8.59
1934-35	--	--	--	2.12	3.25	2.00	5.84	1.07	4.22	3.62	--	--	22.12
AVERAGE	--	.01	.04	.62	1.83	2.36	3.25	2.88	1.68	1.04	.28	.31	14.31

SCS Records furnished through courtesy of Arroyo Grande Herald-Recorder



A Completed Conservation System-Poorman Canyon Area

E.C.W.	LOCATION	NUMBER	Cal-3577
State	California	Photographer	W. B. Radford
County	San Luis Obispo	Date	12/17/36
Distance and Direction from nearest town		Time	11:30 a.m.
	3 1/2 mi. N. of Arroyo Grande	Weather	Clear
Location by Permanent Landmark		Camera	5 1/2 X 7 Ansco View
	S. of junction of Poorman Canyon Rd. and Canyon #2.		8 1/2" lens
Photographer's Position		Filter	SS Plenachrome
	150 yds. N. of Poorman Canyon Rd. on hill, looking SW.	Stop	f 18
Map Index:	P-18	Exposure	1/25 sec.
		Filter	None
		Meter Reading	400
		Land Owner or Operator	
		Name	M. F. N. Ormonde
		Address	Arroyo Grande
		Cooperative Contract	

SUBJECT AND HISTORY

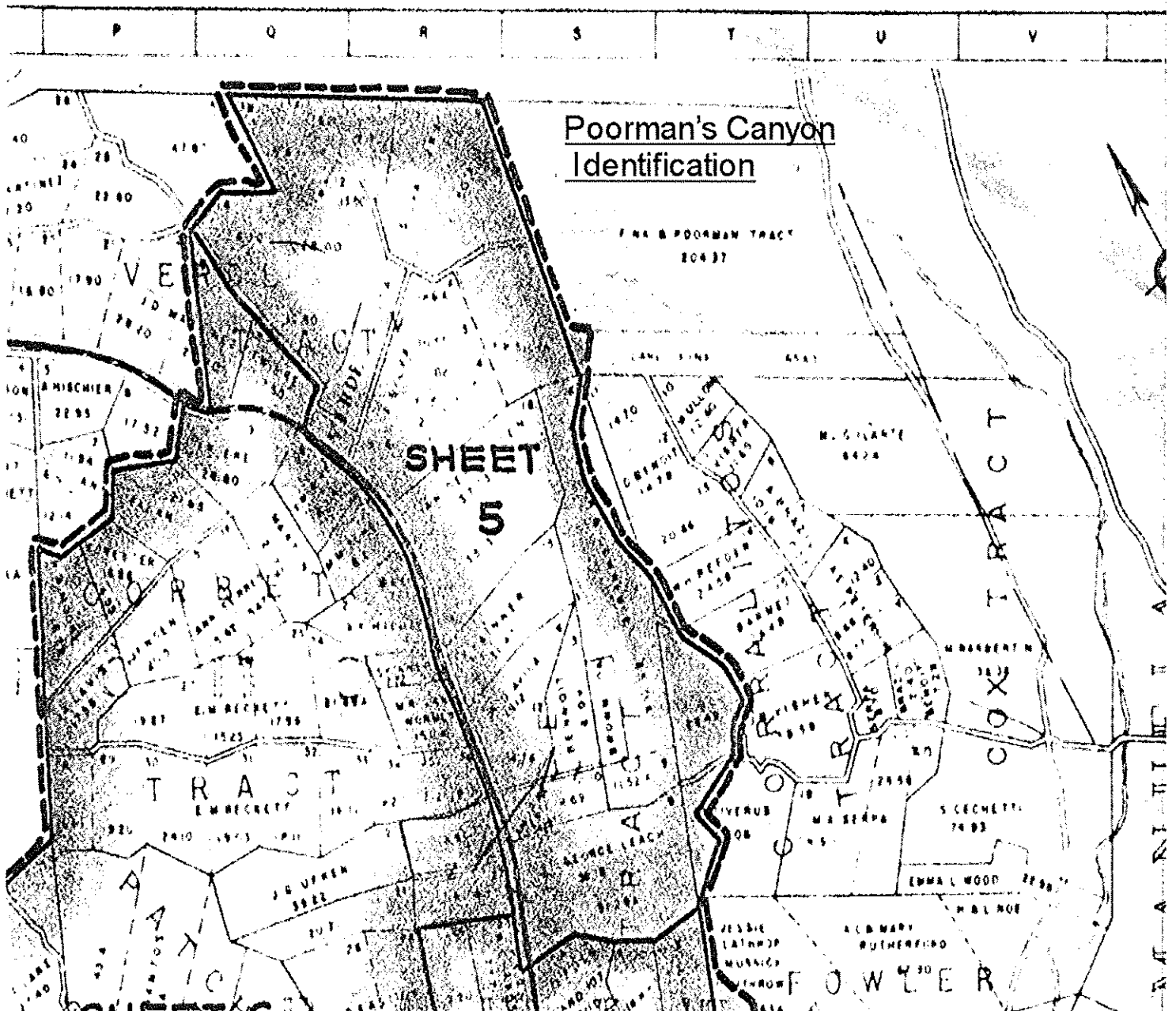
A completed conservation system employing terraces, outlets, and a concrete-lined ditch.

Purpose: Record.

Poorman's Canyon-Map from the 1935 Soil Survey Report 9
Prepared by the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS)

A series of photographs show the extent of damage that was caused by erosion in Poorman's Canyon and the work done by the CCC and WPA workers to reclaim the land. See next four pages.

The numerous Clark Moore photographs were donated to the South County Historical Society in 2007 and the goal is to publish a book on what has happened to the land since 1935. "The Noyes Road Structures" on "Saving Pismo Lake" are photographs taken in 1935, 1978 and 2004.





Before

CAL 3059

CAL

Erosion From Head Of Poorman Canyon

LOCATION

NUMBER CAL-3057

State California
 County San Luis Obispo
 Distance and Direction from nearest town
2 1/2 miles NE of Arroyo Grande.

Photographer W. B. Kadford
 Date 4/2/36 Time 1:30 p
 Weather clear
 Camera Agfa Ansco 5x7" View
8 1/2" lens

Location by Permanent Landmark N of Poorman
Canyon Rd. next to Matajec property.

Film SS Plensachrome
 Stop f22 Exposure 1/5
 Filter G Meter Reading 3.0
 Land Owner or Operator

Photographer's Position on bridge entering
Kadlovac property. Looking NW.

Name Kadlovac
 Address Arroyo Grande, California

Cooperative Contract I-7-SS-75



Retake of Photo Cal 3507

S.C.S. LOCATION

LEGEND

State California

County San Luis Obispo

Distance and Direction from nearest town
Arroyo Grande

Location by Permanent Landmark
North of Poorman Canyon road next to Matajes property.

Photographer's Position
On bridge entering Kadlovec property.

NUMBER Cal-4011

Photographer W. B. Radford

Date 8/16/37 Time 10:30 a.m.

Weather Clear

Camera 5x7" Ansco View

Film SS Fanchromatic

Stop f 15 Exposure 1/5 sec

Filter Meter Reading 320

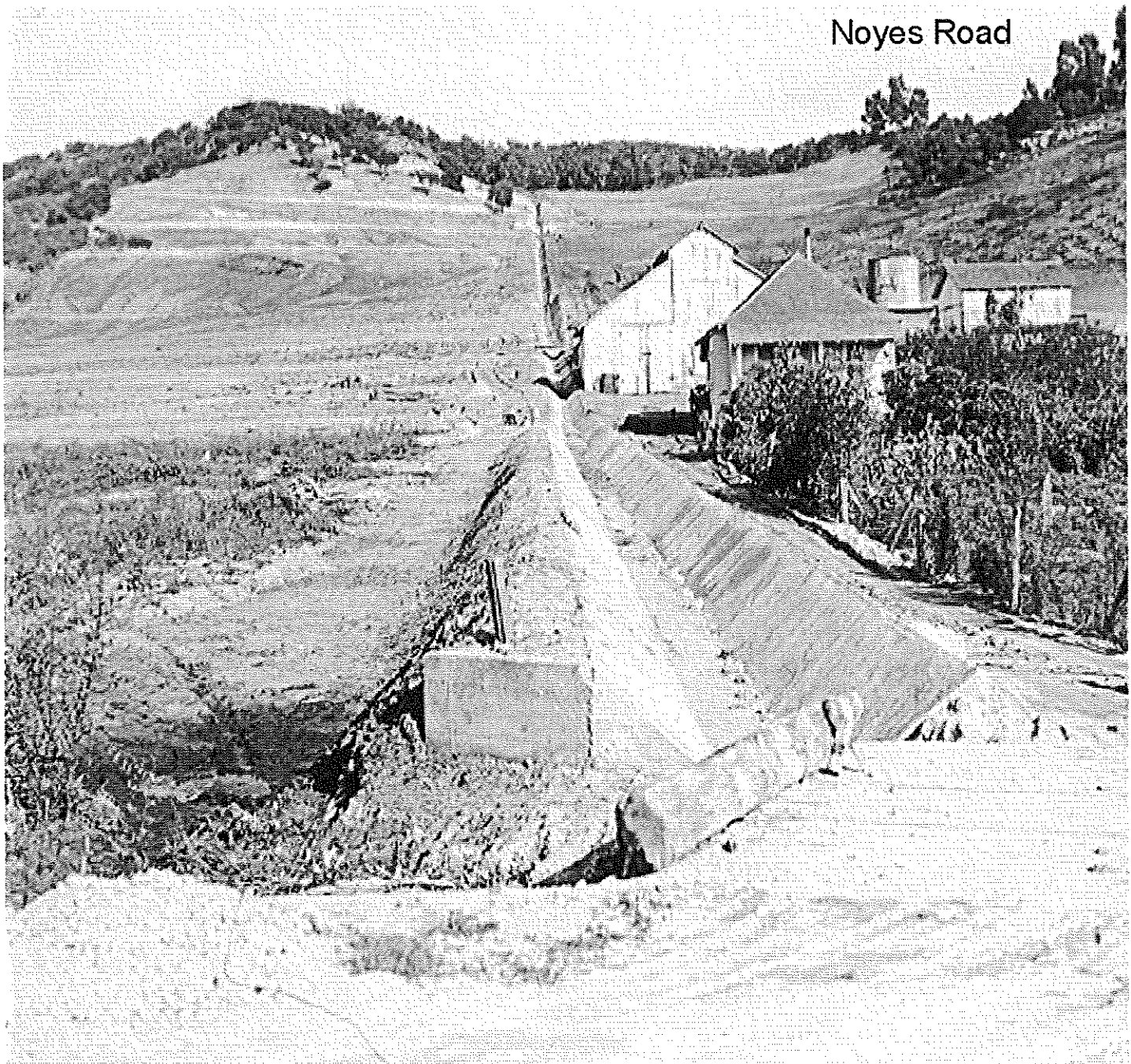
Land Owner or Operator
Name Kadlovec
Address Arroyo Grande

Cooperative Contract

SUBJECT AND HISTORY

A retake of photo number Cal-3057.

The old gully channel has been narrowed down and straightened. Vegetation completely covers the banks which are now held in place by a pipe and wire revetment.



Noyes Road Above Printz Road Near Arroyo Grande

LOCATION

NUMBER 2017

State California
 County San Luis Obispo
 Distance and Direction from nearest town
Three miles from Arroyo Grande

Photographer A. H. Vailat
 Date December 6, 1935 Time 1:45 P.M.
 Weather Had
 Camera 5 x 7 Eastman View

Location by Permanent Landmark
Project # 85 - G.

Film Super - Speed Pan.
 Stop 8 Exposure 25
 Filter Meter Reading
 Land Owner or Operator
 Name Corlaga
 Address Arroyo Grande

Photographer's Position
Taken from junction of main and farm
 road, looking northeast.

Cooperative Contract I-7-85-90

SUBJECT AND HISTORY

Subj: Terraces, Contour Ditches, and Outlet Ditches with main ditch in center.

History: This field was useless a year ago, and is now being cultivated due to the building of above subject.



Aerial View-A Portion of the Arroyo Grande Project 1937

S.C.S. LOCATION

NUMBER Cal-4031

State California
County San Luis Obispo
Distance and Direction from nearest town

Photographer Harry E. Reddick
Date 8/30/37 Time _____
Weather Clear
Camera 9x12cm Reocomar 33

Location by Permanent Landmark _____

Film SS Panchromatic
Stop _____ Exposure _____
Filter _____ Meter Reading _____
Land Owner or Operator
Name _____
Address _____

Photographer's Position _____

Aerial view.

Cooperative Contract _____

SUBJECT AND HISTORY

A portion of the Arroyo Grande project.



Cattoir Property Damaged By Clean Cultivated-Area-See Cal 5377

1940

LOCATION

State California

County San Luis Obispo

Distance and direction from nearest town
1 mi. N. Arroyo Grande

Location by permanent landmark _____

Photographer's position
Facing north

Number Cal-5377

Photographer C. G. Ullman

Date 5/6/40 Time _____

Weather _____

Camera _____

Film _____

Stop _____ Exposure _____

Filter _____ Meter reading _____

LAND OWNER OR OPERATOR

Name George D. Eastick

Address Ventura, California

Cooperative Contract _____

SUBJECT AND HISTORY

Watershed on the Eastick property. Runoff from the clean-cultivated area was responsible for damage which occurred on the Cattoir property.

“Present-day residents are grateful to the Civilian Conservation Corps youth of two decades ago who swarmed over Poor Man’s Canyon, Sand Creek Canyons 1 and 2, and the WPA camps in Corbett and Carpenter Canyons. The



Strawberries-Fred Perry Farm, Shishido Bros. Operators. High coe crop protected by dikes on Arroyo Grande Creek 6/27/57



Field of barley, oats and vetch cover crop cultivated and plante on contour. Sandy soil next to valuable irrigated land. 5/10/57

erosive material from these canyons clogs Meadow Creek, which drains, into Pismo Lake and Arroyo Grande creek. These hundreds of depression-era workmen terraced hillsides, built drainage outlet channels and planted trees for reforestation and grasses for pasture improvement. The same principles hold true today,” wrote Mr. Dunlap in the July 27, 1957 LA Times. They hold true in 2000.

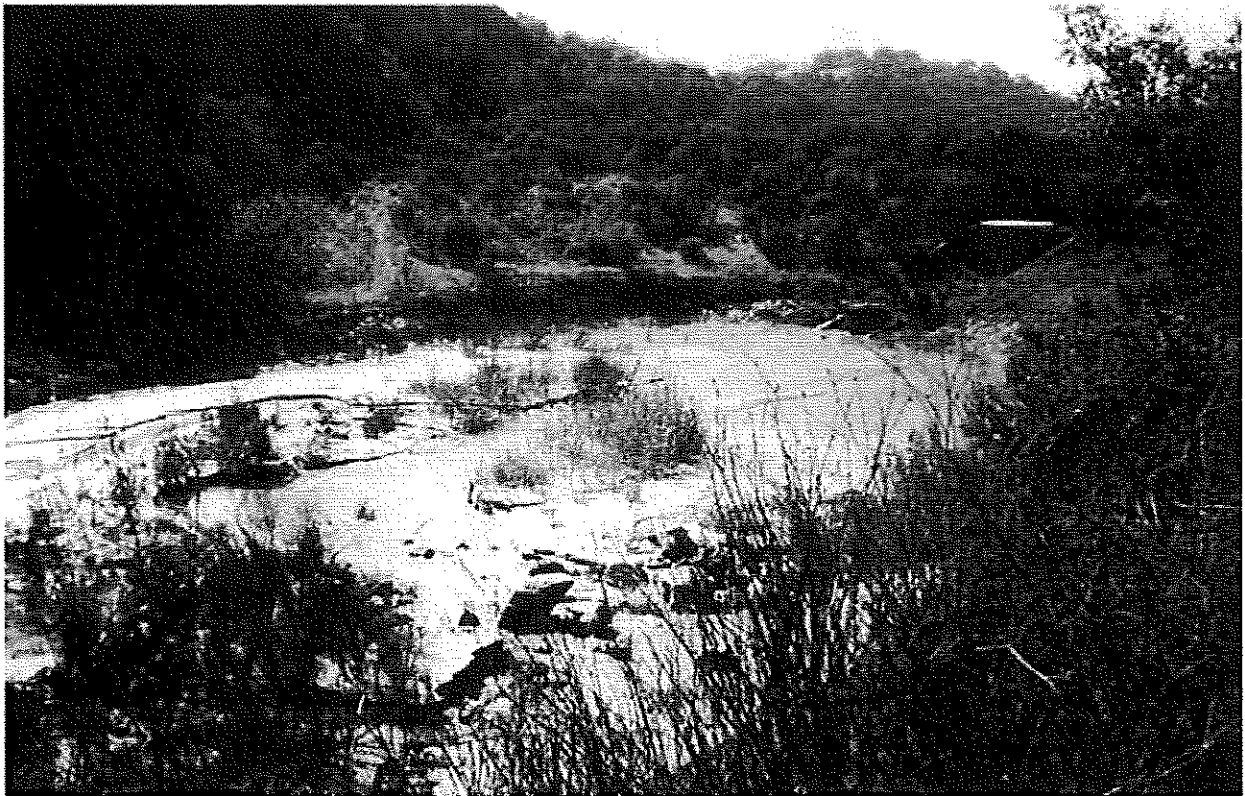
CONSERVATION-1961

The farmers under the guidance of Clark Moore adopted erosion control measures. Hillside oat and vetch cover crops were planted and were not harvested. This practice effectively kept the soil in place and stopped the flooding of the rich vegetable farmland where broccoli, celery, peppers, string beans, cauliflower and romaine lettuce are grown and stopped the erosive soils from washing into Pismo Lake and destroying the wildlife habit.

“Moore helped lay out the contours on 8% slopes of the Pasion and Domingo Ranch in Tar Canyon, so the juicy Shasta and Lassen strawberries not only thrived but prevent soil erosion,” wrote Mr. Dunlap. The rangeland farmers were shown that grazing alternative grassy hillsides would allow the native grasses to grow back and protect the soil from harsh rains. Clark Moore lectured to the local high schools and to the Cal Poly students.



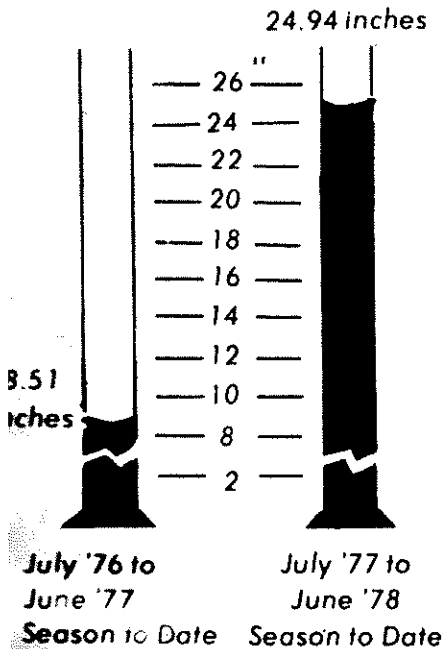
Oak Park Area Erosion 1970s



When it Rains, it Pours

ARROYO GRANDE — Rainfall totals through the end of February indicate this is the third wettest year since records were kept beginning in 1939.

Rain Gauge



It is doubtful, however, that the rain in the last 40 years could compare to the terrible deluges that struck this valley in 1883-84, 1908-09, 1911-12, and 1913-14. Newspaper reports from the era are sketchy, and give no yearly totals, although an occasional mention is made of days when four to six inches of rain fell.

Perhaps the worst storm occurred March 7, 1911, when five inches drenched the valley in one day, killing two persons and washing out nearly every bridge in town.

More recently, monthly and yearly totals made available from the county engineering department show 20.97 inches of rain has been recorded in gauges at the Arroyo Grande Police Department since the season began in July, 1977. Another 3.97 inches has fallen as of March 22, bringing the year's total to 24.94.

With three and a half months left in the season, it would have to rain more than nine inches to catch the

wettest season ever recorded in 1940-41, when 33.50 inches fell with 30.04 inches measured as of March 1.

One recent flood year, 1969, also surpassed this year for precipitation. That year, 26.49 inches was measured, and an additional two inches of rain in April of 1969 brought the season total to 28.87 as of June 30.

While 1973 was another notably wet season, this year passed the rainfall total after last night's shower. As of March 1, 1973, 24.80 inches was recorded, with a season total of 24.84.

The wettest month since rain was measured is probably well remembered by residents who have lived here 10 years, as 10.86 inches fell in January of 1969, causing severe flooding problems. In February of 1962, a very wet month in an otherwise mild winter dropped 10.38 inches in the Five Cities area.

The average rainfall for Arroyo Grande—obtained by adding up the totals for each year's precipitation and dividing by the number of years—is 15.19 inches.

During the last two drought years, just 17 inches rain was measured, while less than seven inches of rain fell in 1976.

With the brilliant sunshine and warm weather of the past few days, it is hard to imagine this year will match the ferocity of past seasons.

Next month usually see the rainy season tapering off although as much as five inches has been recorded during a few stubborn Aprils when winter just didn't want to let go.



Looking East on Nacimiento Street Near Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve

Pismo Lake Watershed








Date: 2/26/2008

Customer(s): COASTAL SAN LUIS RCD

Field Office: TEMPLETON SERVICE CENTER
Agency: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
State and County: CA, SAN LUIS OBISPO



Legend

-  Pismo Lake
-  Pismo Lake Watershed
-  Pismo, City Limits
-  Arroyo Grande, City Limits
-  Grover Beach, City Limits
-  Los Robles Del Mar
-  Parcels in Deep Aquifer



Flood Prevention Eyed in GC

GROVER CITY — Work began Wednesday in the Pismo Lake area near Nacimiento Street to clear debris from the creek channel in an effort to prevent further flooding of homes along the street.

Public works crews in Grover City got started removing rain-swept debris from the narrow channel and beneath bridges after residents of Nacimiento Street and Owens Court complained to the city council Monday night.

Floodwaters last weekend swept through the mobile home park on Nacimiento Street deep enough to float cars.

City Administrator Arnold Dowdy and Director of Public Works Howard Birlew met Wednesday with Department of

Fish and Game representative Jim Lidberg, who assured them an emergency permit would be issued to clear both debris and some trees from the channel. Growth of underbrush and willow trees in the creek channel caused the overflow problems last week.

A permit is required from Fish and Game to clear the area of trees greater than three inches in diameter. An emergency permit should be issued today. Dowdy said Fish and Game representatives had verbally assured him trees could be cleared as long as the "canopy" is retained. Area residents have indicated they would like a buffer zone of trees to remain between their homes and U.S. 101.

At Monday's meeting, the Department of Fish and Game was

accused of dragging its feet in issuing necessary permits to clear the creek area earlier. Dowdy said the department, which owns the Pismo Lake area, has been "very cooperative" in this week's discussions about permits.

Dowdy and Birlew met also with Oak Park Acres developer Reuben Kvidt about drainage problems from the development across the freeway from the mobile home park. Poor drainage from the development has been blamed for tons of silt which have washed down into the creek.

Dowdy said representatives from Arroyo Grande and Grover City would meet in the future with Kvidt to resolve drainage problems from the development into the creek.

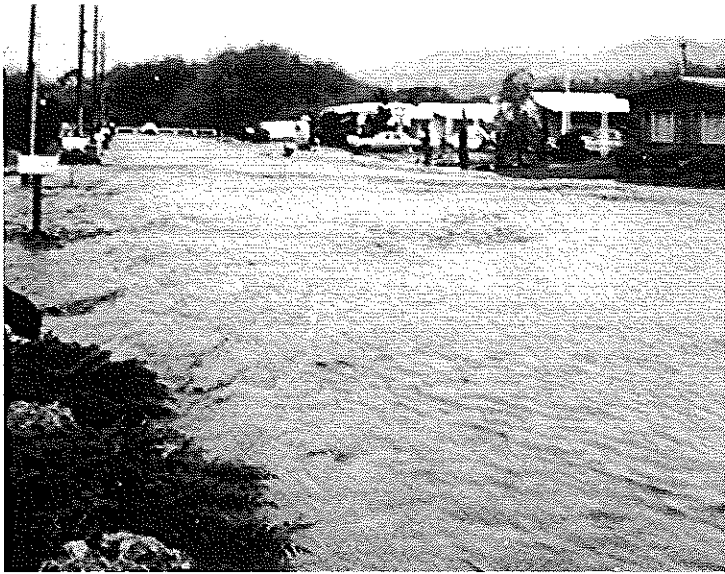


Oak Park Acres
Siltation Barrier
Break Through
Storm
March 4, 1978

This was the siltation barrier installed by Oak Park subdivision.

Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve is being damaged by silt from grading.



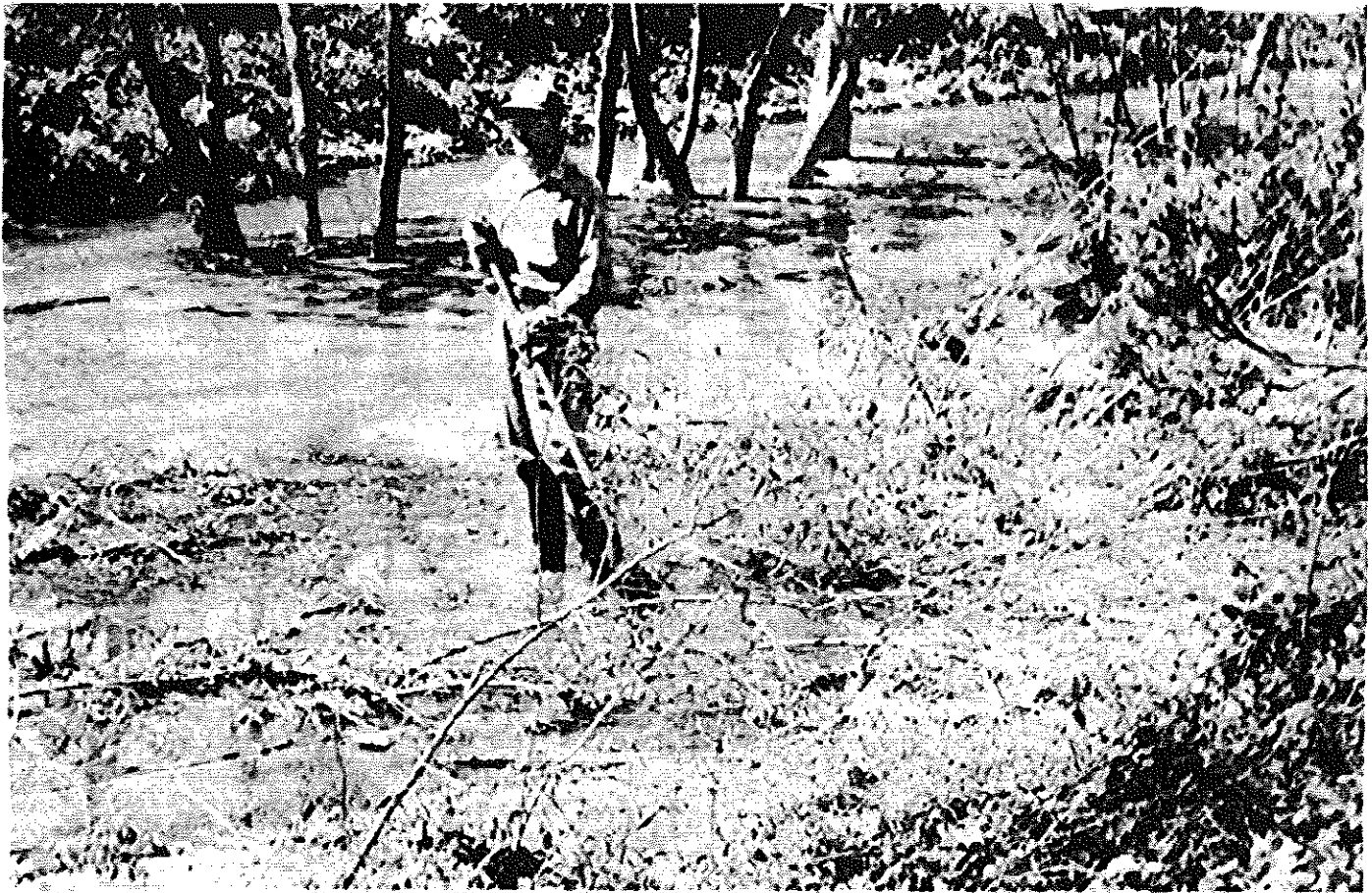


March 17, 1978



12th and Nacimiento Street

More than seven truck loads of debris were hauled from Meadow Creek after the storm and only a small portion of the Creek was cleared.



Grover City residents were wading in to help city work crews clear debris from Meadow Creek and protect their homes from additional flooding. Richard Hentschel of Nacimiento Avenue is shown clearing this portion of the creek that runs along El Camino Road adjacent to his

saplings and willows that were designated for destruction by state Fish and Game officials. More than seven truckloads of debris were hauled from the creek on Tuesday and Wednesday, while only a small portion of the clogged streambed was cleared, city officials said.



Silt got into Pismo Lake from Oak Park Development T P R 3-10-78



Flood Problems-Oak Park Acre developer Ruben Kivdt talked with Grover city officials Arnold Dowdy and Howard Birlew Wednesday about siltation problems in Meadow Creek. Heavy rains last week sent residents of a mobil home park near the creek out to the council meeting with Kidvt and Jim Lidberg about solving problems in the silt-and debris-clogged creek.

On the 1897 map Pismo Lake appears to be much larger than the Lake in the Ecological Reserve. Most of the wetlands you can see in the photograph have been replaced with buildings, trailer storage and camping areas.

Flood waters have covered Highway #1 during heavy rainstorms and have caused damage to the parked trailers and buildings.

Campers were Evacuated-----

Reported the Times Press Recorder. The State Park employees were able to evacuate everyone from the campground, but most of the visitors sustained damage to their campers and trailers.



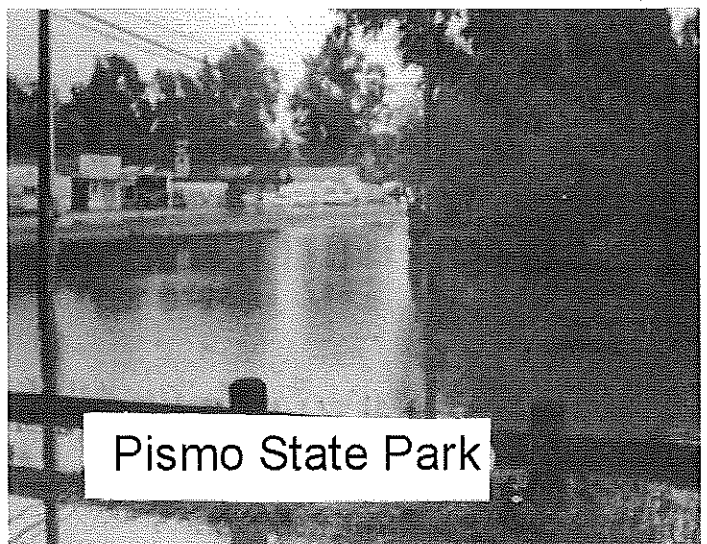
Businesses Damaged

The creek flooded everything from Addie Street to the bend on Highway 1, including the North Beach Campground of Pismo Beach State Park, Pal Joey's Central Coast Campers, homes, fields and other businesses. It is expected to take more than a week to pump out the water and compute the actual damage. Times Press Recorder.



PISMO BEACH PARK — The Pismo Beach City Park which is situated next Pismo Beach was covered with a layer of muddy water during the height of flood on Sunday. Cars parked on Addie street next to the park were partly submerged.

Pismo State Beach-March 4, 1978



OAK PARK SAID RESPONSIBLE

Lake Pollution Claimed—F&G

Nov. 29, 1978

By John A. Read
News Editor

ARROYO GRANDE — The question of whether or not Oak Park Acres Subdivision is polluting a 54-acre ecological preserve recently purchased by the Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game for \$115,000 will be argued tomorrow (Thursday) at a meeting of attorneys for all sides in the dispute.

Fish and Game has filed a formal complaint with the San Luis Obispo County District Attorney's office charging developer Reuben Kvidt and contractor A. J. Diani Construction Co. of Santa Maria with violations of fish and game laws, according to DFG Patrol Lt. DeWayne Johnston.

Johnston said if convicted, the defendants could be fined \$1,000 and six months in jail on each misdemeanor count. Violations of Section 1603, requiring notification to the department for streambed disturbances, and Section 5650f, depositing in streams material harmful to fishlife, are alleged.

Both Kvidt and Arroyo Grande City Engineer Paul Karp say the condominium housing project has gone beyond requirements to prevent erosion of the land area in question, located on the north side of U.S. 101 at Oak Park Road.

The development is at the bottom of a larger area which drains the Noyes Road and Rancho Grande hillsides, Karp said.

"Oak Park Acres is a marsh," he added. "It collects much of the silt from the canyons up above it."

Kvidt agreed. "If we're going to solve the siltation problem in Pismo Creek (site of the ecological preserve), we're going to have to get all the people in that whole area," he said. "Erosion in that whole area is severe."

Johnston claimed siltation is occurring in Meadow Creek and Pismo Lake, at the end of Fourth Street in Grover City, adjacent to the railroad.

Meadow Creek follows the subdivision on the east side of U.S. 101, crosses under the freeway and follows the highway frontage road into Pismo Lake.

Johnston said fish and game personnel noted fresh sand in the area from grading that was allegedly done by Oak Park Acres

their environmental impact report," Johnston said.

Johnston said the meeting of Kvidt's attorney, Chris Helenius; Dep. Dist. Atty. Carl Blaine; a representative of the state attorney general's office; and the attorney for Diani would be meeting to "try and work out some arrangement to correct the problem."

Remedies may be sought by the state for damages, Johnston said. "They say the silt's not coming from their project," he said of the

(Continued on back page)

Doing the Job? The siltation barrier installed by Oak Park Acres subdivision over and above city requirements is not adequate, the CA fish and Game claims. The earth dam incorporating a spillway at left, is designed to keep runoff in check. DFG claims the \$115,000 Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve is being damaged by silt from grading the highly erosive soils.

developer. "I believe we can prove that it is to most people's satisfaction."

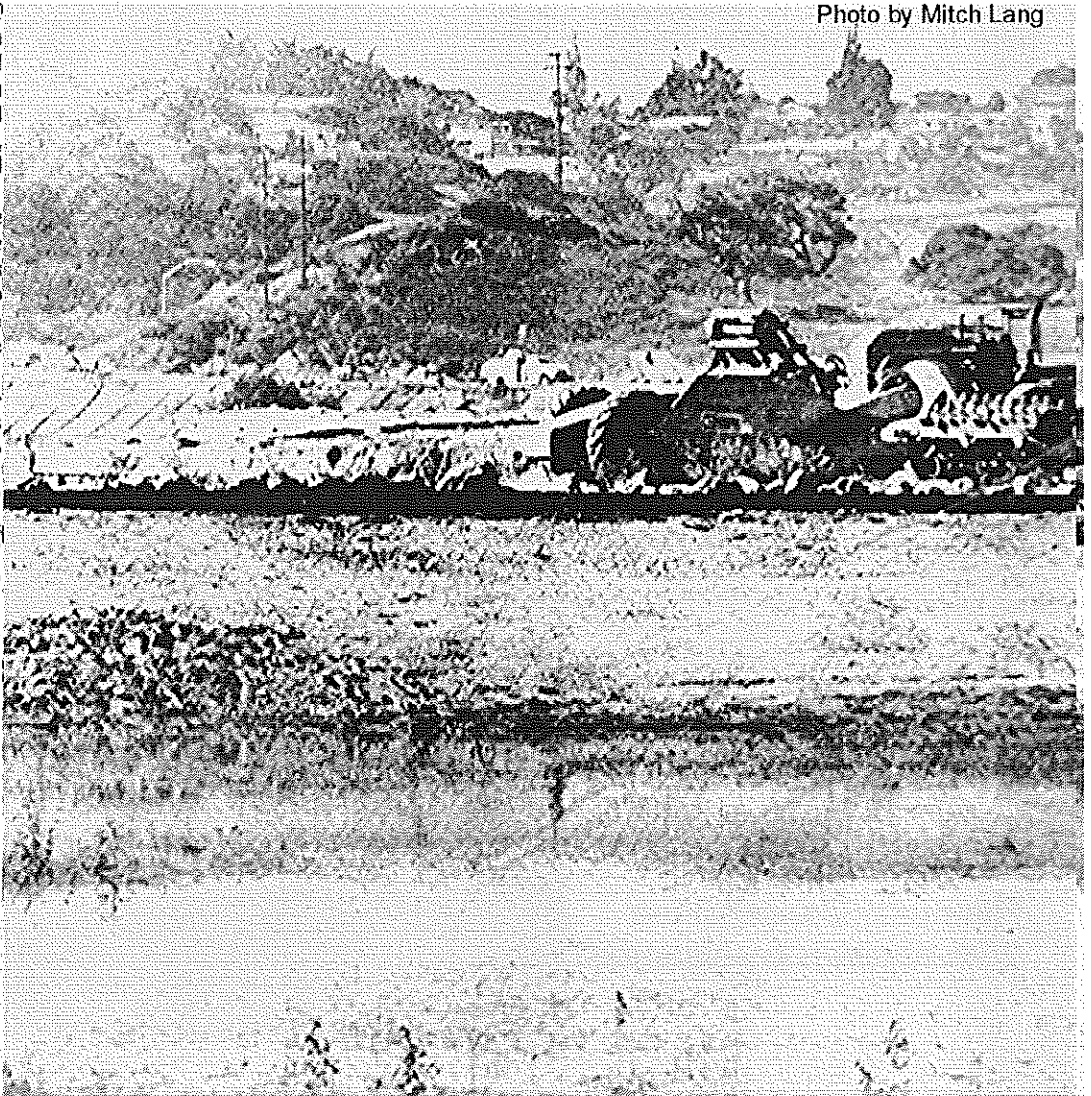
Discussions are planned with the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the state's water pollution agency, Johnston said. So far, the board has not become involved.

Johnston said the developer could change construction methods, not grade during the rainy season and redo the siltation barrier, which he called "not adequate."

Kvidt said the silt barrier and other aspects of the project were designed by a number of professional consulting engineers. An elaborate siltation barrier which incorporates a spillway at one end was placed at the recommendation of the engineers over and above the city's requirements, Kvidt said.

Due to space limitation on this page full article not copied

Photo by Mitch Lang



Oak Park Meet Held; Court Action Viewed

SAN LUIS OBISPO — A settlement conference Thursday to work out an agreement between the California Department of Fish and Game and the developers of Oak Park Acres over alleged pollution of the Pismo Lake ecological preserve resulted in "very fruitful" discussion but left both sides threatening court action.

Christopher Helenius, attorney for developer Reuben Kvidt, said the two-hour meeting with Fish and Game representatives and Deputy Attorney General Edwin Dubiel of Los Angeles didn't settle anything but he expressed a desire on the part of Kvidt to work out a good faith settlement with the state officials.

"We want to sit down as reasonable men and work it out," Helenius said. "We want them (fish and game) to understand there is an evolutionary change down there (the preserve). We don't want to make an argument where that silt came from," he added. He pointed out an independent study by agricultural engineer John Merriam prepared for the District Attorney supported the developer's position that the Helenius said. "We want them (fish and game) to understand there is an evolutionary change down there (the preserve). We don't want to make an argument where that silt came from," he added. He pointed out an independent study by agricultural engineer John Merriam prepared for the District Attorney supported the developer's position that the silt is coming from a larger drainage area of which Oak Park

is a portion.

Helenius said Kvidt felt strongly enough about the matter that he was prepared to go to the mat. "Mr. Kvidt is prepared to fight this out in a lawsuit," Helenius said.

Dubiel said he would have a report from Fish and Game officials within the next week that there was compliance with the law or he would seek an injunction against the developer and contractor A.J. Diani.

"I hope we're not at that point and I don't think we are," Dubiel said. "The discussion yesterday was very fruitful. There is a desire of the developer to correct the problem as it exists."

Dubiel described the problem as one usually worked out by conference agreement between the parties involved. He described the matter as a three-pronged problem, a regulatory problem for compliance, a landowner problem to prevent further siltation, and a mitigation problem to remove the silt that has allegedly been placed in Meadow Creek and Pismo Lake.

"We have tentatively entered into a corrective problem to see that compliance with the permit is immediate," Dubiel said.

"We have tentatively entered into a corrective problem to see that compliance with the permit is immediate," Dubiel said, referring to a permit the developer

contractor has made a tentative agreement to get this done." He said identification of areas that need cleaning out will have to be done first. The amount of damage to the preserve cannot be determined until mitigation measures are taken, he said.

"We're not trying to blame anybody. We're trying to rectify the situation," Dubiel said.

Present at the meeting in the San Luis Obispo law offices of Duenov Burke and Smith were Fish and Game patrol Lt. DeWayn Johnston; Fish and Game Associate Hydraulic Engineer T.J. Vande Sande; Associate Fisheries Biologist Michael L. Johnson; Wildlife Unit Manager J. Linberg, Helenius, and Kvidt. representative of the Soil Conservation Service was also in attendance.

"This effort to settle the case based on a goodwill or good faith concept on our part," Helenius said. "We don't feel that we have any responsibility for what took place because we've hired engineers to survey the property and the engineer's calculations show that the silt retention basin that we built is more than adequate to hold the silt that came off the Oak Park Acres site."

The basin was filled up with sediment last year, Helenius said. "No one had the legal power to compel Mr. Kvidt to dredge it out but he took it upon himself to do it."

Silt from Oak Park





Erosion Tour Sponsored by Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District

Officials Tour the Hills

April 21, 1978 Times Press Recorder.

Photos by Dennis Bou

ARROYO GRANDE — Residents gawked, and once the passengers had to get out because of the steep incline of the road. It's not often that a bus — other than a yellow one — is seen winding through the Arroyo Grande hills.

But last Friday that's what more than 40 officials from all levels of government did: they listened, they asked a few questions, they learned.

That, according to Arroyo Grande Resource Conservation District President D.G. Porter,

was what it was all about. It was a tour of the 3,000-acre watershed which sits behind Arroyo Grande, and it was arranged by the district as an information and education program.

The district, comprised of five local, elected board members, is an arm of the State Department of Conservation.

"It's not the purpose of the AGRCD to fix blame for any land damage by any individual or entity," said Porter.

The tour, he said, was arranged so government officials could better appreciate both present and potential drainage and erosion problems.

County Supervisors Howard Mankins and Kurt Kupper were there, along with Arroyo Grande City Engineer Paul Karp and Public Works Director Joe Anderson. Engineer Bob Garing, who is preparing a study of the watershed and drainage areas for the City of Arroyo Grande, also participated.

Concrete ditches built 40 years ago by the Civilian Conservation Corps — still functioning — were pointed out by Clark Moore, formerly with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service and now a consultant to the district.

Moore was the tour guide, pointing out erosion controls and mistakes along the way. "The CCC boys did some experiments and not all of them were successful," said Moore. "There were literally hundreds of terraces in the hills

around Noyes Road back then, he said.

Winter peas were grown on the Ormonde farm beginning in 1910, and by 1935 much of the land was destroyed. The CCC attempted to restore the land, but it was too late. "You can see they started with some nasty problems," he said.

Moore said it takes 700 to 1,000 years for Mother Nature to make an inch of good soil, and that can be wiped away with one bad storm.

President Porter said the prime concern now is comprehensive planning for the watershed. "We're not trying to create controversy, but cooperation," added Moore.

40 Officials Toured Watershed Above The Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve

The Tour Goal Was For The Officials To Appreciate Both The Present and Potential Drainage And Erosion Problems In the Hills

Moore Said It Takes 700 To 1000 Years For Mother Nature To Make One Inch Of Top Soil, That Can Be Wiped Away In A Bad Storm.



A Dying Marsh

Part 2

“Until the 1970’s, the Pismo Lake Reserve had been a stable wetland, but the development of subdivisions upstream along Meadow Creek created massive erosion, which sent silt spilling into the lake at an alarming rate. Thirty acres of open water were soon reduced to 2 ½ acres. As the water became shallower, reaching a critical depth of 3 feet, tules began spreading like wildfire, choking out natural vegetation that provided food and shelter for the animals,” said Lidberg.”



Using Our Resources But Using Them Wisely

This Study is Dedicated to DG Porter

DG had a War Service Appointment to Work for the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in 1945.

He worked with Clark Moore in the Santa Maria SCS Office as an Engineer. He retired after 30 years and became a director of the Arroyo Grande Resource Conservation District.

As President about 180,000 acres north of the district were annexed and the name was changed to Coastal San Luis RCD

The restoration of Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve happened under his leadership.

He help secure funds to restore the Arroyo Grande Swinging Bridge

Pismo Lake Ecological Preserve Recreated A Living Classroom

1



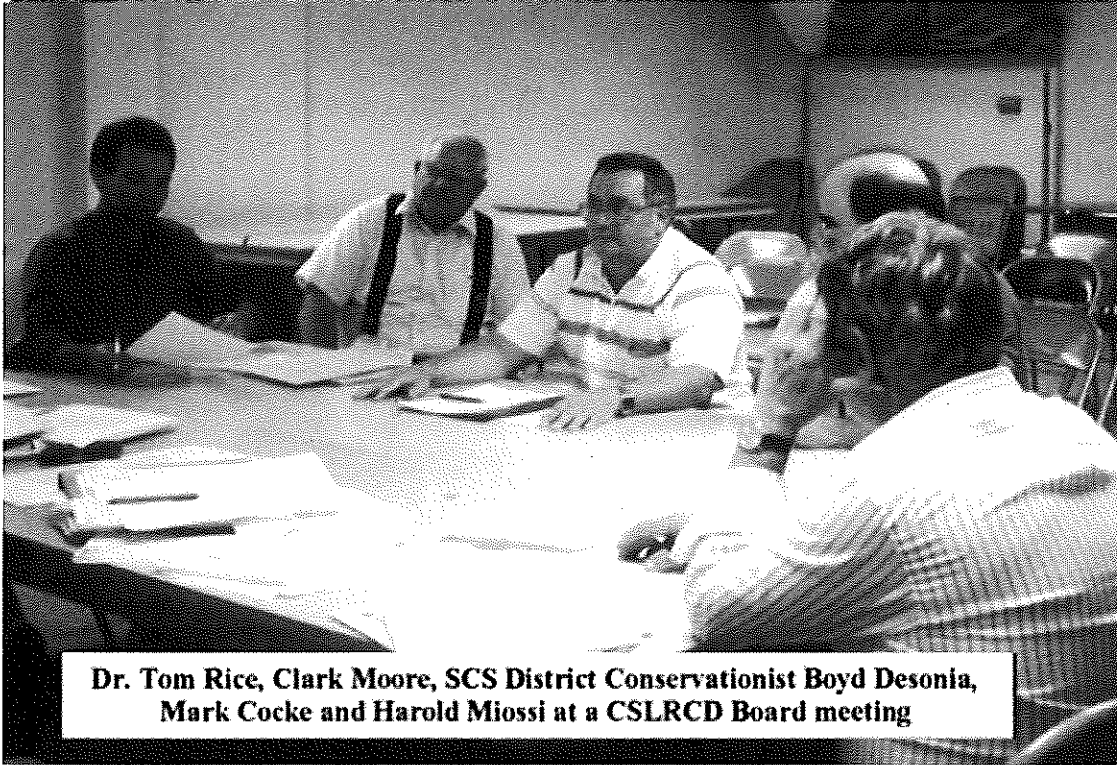
Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve covers 69 acres and is nestled between Grover Beach and Pismo Beach. Today the 30-acre lake stretches north to south and is a lovely riparian-woodland-bordered peaceful lake, with four long islands covered with willows, and other plants native to the Central Coast of California. The reserve is unique because it has both salt and fresh water, according to Jim Lidberg, wildlife biologist for the California Department of Fish and Game. 250 bird species, mammals, reptiles and amphibians inhabit this protected environment.

“A winter survey of the reserve found great numbers of water-related birds including ducks, coots, herons, egrets, rails, and gulls. In the spring and summer, the migratory waterfowl are replaced by several species of migrant songbirds, and newly arrived breeding cinnamon teal and mallard,” wrote Bruce Elliot, Senior Biologist, California Department of Fish and Game, in the 1988 September issue of *Outdoor California*. “At any time of the year, the red shouldered hawks can be heard calling noisily from the trees. Red winged blackbirds can be seen flying in and out of the willows, and the wakes of swimming beaver ripple the lakes surface.”

3,800 ACRE WATERSHED

Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve was a healthy wetland when the Wildlife Conservation Board purchased it in 1976. In less than a decade the reserve turned it into a dying marsh overgrown with tules and cattails. The loss of wetlands is a natural process, but the loss of this marsh was artificial due to development along Meadow Creek that drains a 3,800-acre watershed.

Clark Moore, the District Conservationist, had been monitoring the silt build up in the Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve. After retiring from the Soil



Dr. Tom Rice, Clark Moore, SCS District Conservationist Boyd Desonia, Mark Cocke and Harold Miossi at a CSLRCD Board meeting

Conservation Service he became an advisor to the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (CSLRCD). Under his direction the district began working with the county

and cities to use better erosion control methods in their grading operations and housing developments during construction.

A DYING MARSH

“Pismo Lake had been a stable wetland area when urbanization and storms caused sedimentation that reduced the 30-acre open water wetland within the reserve to just 2 1/2 acres. Open water areas are critical to attracting species such as shorebirds and migratory waterfowl as a resting habitat and wintering area. The diminishing open water space forces wildlife to inhabit less-friendly areas and increase chances of predator-deaths and disease while limiting food resources,” wrote Jerry Czarnecki, Area Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), November 1988 Soil and Water News,

CSLRCD Board of Directors became alarmed at the loss of the habitat for waterfowl at Pismo Lake Reserve. D.G. Porter, was Chairman of the Central Coast Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D), and Ella Honeycutt, sat on the council as a voting member. Working with the San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisor’s representative, Norma Dengler, a proposal was presented to the council. **The RC &D Council adopted the proposal to restore Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve.**

Grant funds for Resource Districts from the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Agency are secured through the multi-county, Central Coast Resource Conservation & Development Council. Projects are proposed and once accepted, placed in their Annual Plan of Action and funded on a priority basis.



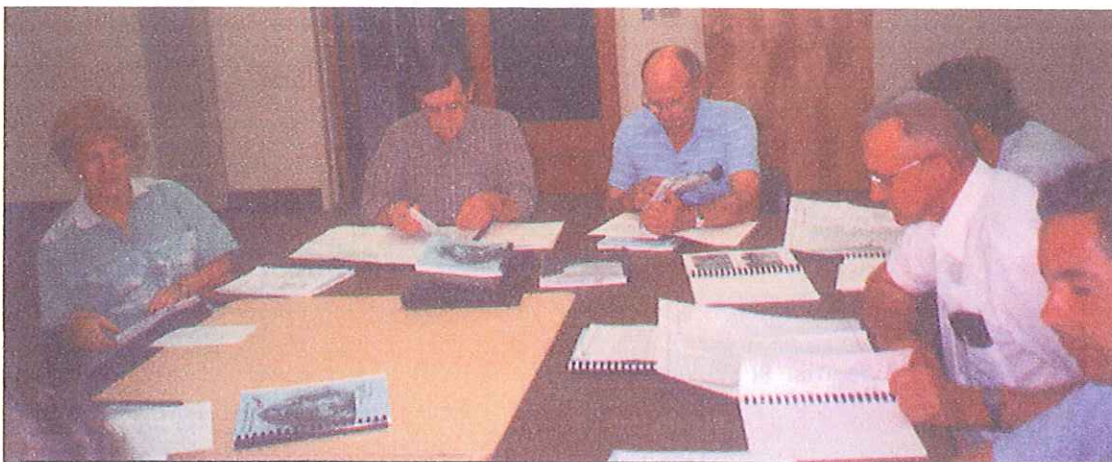
San Luis Obispo County Senior Planner, Norma Dengler, represented the Board of Supervisors on the Central Coast Resource Conservation and Development Council.

The limited RC&D funds were designated for projects in several counties and San Luis Obispo County had never received any substantial grants from the RC&D Program.

Joining together, Norma Dengler, D. G. Porter, and Ella Honeycutt presented the Pismo Lake Ecological Preserve proposal to the council. The Central Coast RC&D Council adopted the proposal to restore the dying marsh. It took several years of bringing the issue forward, before the proposal was funded. A \$500,000 grant was secured and work began in 1978 on the reconstruction of the 30-acre open water Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve.

THE RESTORATION PLAN

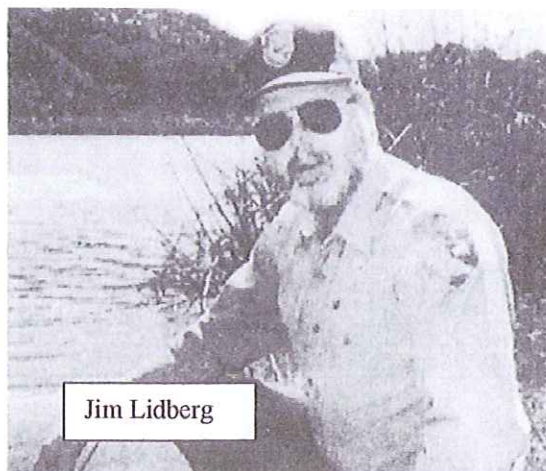
The plan was developed through the Santa Maria field office of the Soil Conservation Service and the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG). DFG and SCS provided funding for the project. The SCS share of the funding was provided through the Central Coast RC&D Area council. Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District took over the administration of the \$100,000 restoration project.



Central Coast Resource Conservation and Development committee meeting, Mike Simmons and D.G.Porter are presiding.

“The project was designed to recreate the historical natural environment and to provide habitat for the wide range of waterfowl, fish and other wildlife native to the area,” wrote Jerry Czarnecki. CSLRCD directors held meetings with local service clubs, governing bodies, city councils, and environmental groups and private citizens with homes adjacent to the reserve, both to inform them of the program plan and goal and to solicit their support and views on the Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve restoration project. A permit of authorization was required because there were nearly two dozen different agencies and organizations with an interest in the restoration.

Ironically, the initial restoration process was enhanced by efforts concluded earlier to meet the legal requirements of the state’s lawsuit against the creator of the original erosion problem,” stated Bruce Elliot.



Jim Lidberg

Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District
Administered the \$100,000
Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve
Restoration Project



CSLRCD Directors:

Jim Miller, Harold Mioffi, Bill Denneen
Dr. Tom Rice, John Swift, Vard Ikeda,
Royce Lambert and Ella Honeycutt, President

Consultant, Clark Moore
District Conservationist Boyd Desonia
Pismo Lake Design, Jerry Czarnecki DC
Engineer, Mark Cocke

WORK BEGINS

To satisfy the legal requirements in the lawsuit against the developer a detailed environmental impact document had been produced by DFG fisheries biologist Paul Chappell and wildlife biologist Jim Lidberg. “With copious detail, the document addressed the many aspects of the reserve both prior to and after the impacts of the sediment. This information provided a strong basis for many environmental documents that would be required during the project permit process. After fourteen months and dozens of meetings the permits, easements, and authorizations were finally secured and the reconstruction could begin on the ground,” wrote Bruce Elliot.



In the summer of 1986, Pettibone Construction Company of Glenbrook, Nevada was selected by competitive bid as the contractor for the four-month job. The first task was to dry out the marshland before heavy machinery could be brought in to dredge the heavy muck on the wetland bottom. By the middle of summer the marsh had dried and the heavy equipment was able to begin the excavation.

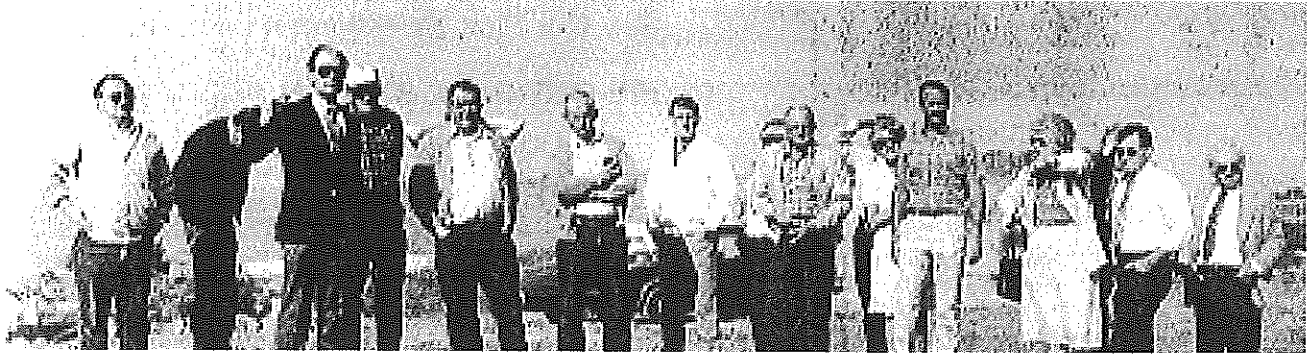
“By autumn 78,000 cubic yards of soil had been moved. The silt was used to fill an existing stagnant side-channel along the western boundary of the marsh, increasing the wildlife habitat. The lake was excavated and



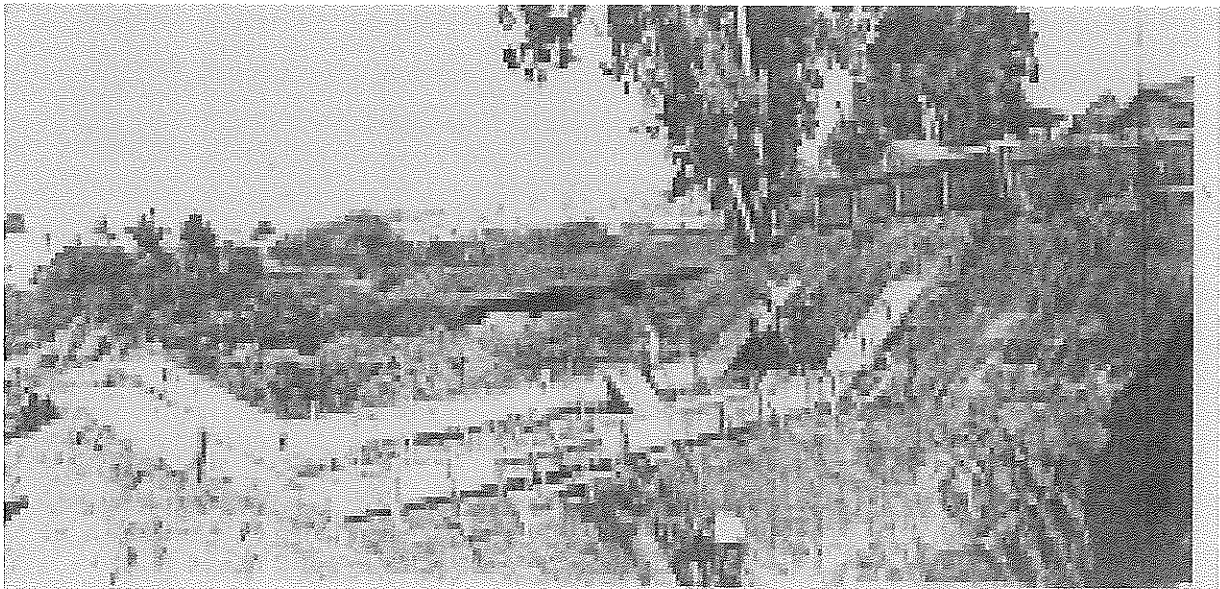
deepened along its length, with a spillway installed down stream to maintain a water depth of about five

feet. Hauling away the excavated soil would have been very costly so it was used to build the islands. The four islands were developed down the middle of the 30-acre lake and they range in size from ½ acre to 2 acres.

The Central Coast Resource Conservation and Development Council, local public officials and RCD directors from five counties visited the Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve rehabilitation project on October 24, 1986.



The California Conservation Corps workers are pictured building a spillway to help maintain a five-foot level of water in the lake at all times. New habitat was gained when the stagnant side channel near the big tree was filled in. The big tree had to be removed because unsupervised children would climb the tree and swing out into the water by rope and drop into the shallow water.



PLANTING BEFORE THE RAIN

The re-vegetation program had to be completed before the winter rains. The Camp San Luis unit of the California Conservation Corps (CCC), under the supervision of Domenic Santangelo, covered thousands of square yards of bare soil with straw, dug thousands of holes for plants and slips, planted the plants and installed water pipes. They continually did touch up work like installing gates, fences, posting boundaries and removing debris.

Clark Moore was the overall supervisor for CSLRCD during the planting phase of the project. He stated, "In the newly created riparian bench they planted more than 1,000 sycamore trees and cottonwood slips, where just weeks before the side-channel was full of stagnant water. Over 20,000 plants had to be planted in the raw soil in order to stop erosion in case the winter rains were early. The plants arrived by rail and the CCC workers began the task of planting the new arrivals in the water."

"The mud in the lake was goeey and one of the CCC crew wearing hip waders got out into the lake and started to sink when the mud gave way," said Clark Moore.

The winter of 1986-1987 was a drought year in California and there was concern that the re-vegetation program would be hurt by lack of rainfall. However the rains were adequate to fill the lake and water was flowing over the spillway by Christmas," wrote Bruce Elliot. The lake took time to fill up to the five-foot level. It was finally filled in March, on Friday the 13th.

"The only significant problem came from one of the elements that the restoration was designed to serve. The migrant waterfowl and coot population arrived at the reserve and found the newly planted shoreline plants an irresistible banquet. A major area had to be replanted after the birds flew north in the spring. The denuded spots had to be replanted and the CCC built frames out of plastic pipe and covered them with chicken wire to protect the new plants," wrote Elliot.



A California Conservation Corps worker up to his hips in water planting roots.



Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve



PLANTING IS AN ON GOING PROJECT

The March rains filled Pismo Lake and the Ecological Reserve was once again a wetland, with 30 acres of open water. Money was needed for plants and supplies. The Native Plant Nursery in Nipomo donated oak seedlings. Mitigation funds were received when Oak Park Boulevard was widened because wildlife habitat was disturbed. Maria Singleton, a Community Relation's representative for Pacific Gas and Electric Company delivered a \$3,000 donation to buy materials for the protective plant screens and additional plants.

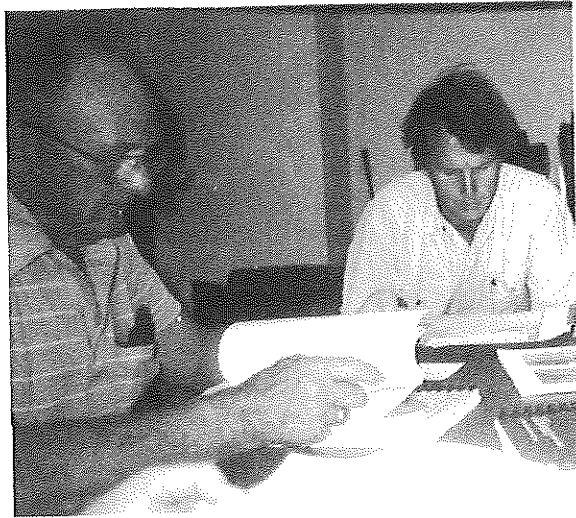
The California Department of Fish and Game, the Soil Conservation Service and Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District signed a Memorandum of Understanding that requires a yearly maintenance inspection of Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve to insure against abuse.



A canopy of shade from the trees and bushes planted in 1986-87

THE ISLANDS HAVE BEEN ADOPTED

Friends of Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve was formed in 1986. The Soils Department at Cal Poly, the Native Plant Society, the California Conservation Corps and the Sierra Club each adopted an island and gave them Indian names. They have done maintenance work when needed on the islands.



**President DG Porter and
Director John Swift**

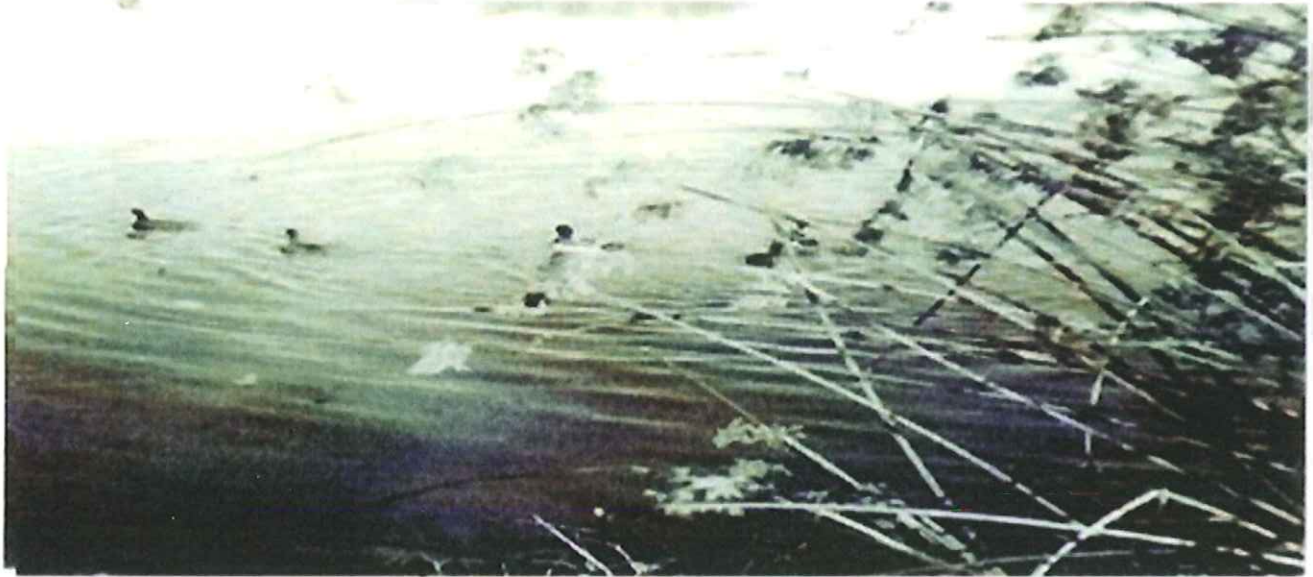
**Jerry Czarnecki DC., SCS
Designed Pismo Lake
Ecological Reserve**



**Yearly Maintenance Inspection
Lidberg. Honeycutt, Desonia SCS DC**

Open Class Room

Open classroom programs can be developed now for our young people. "Water recreation is not permitted on Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve.



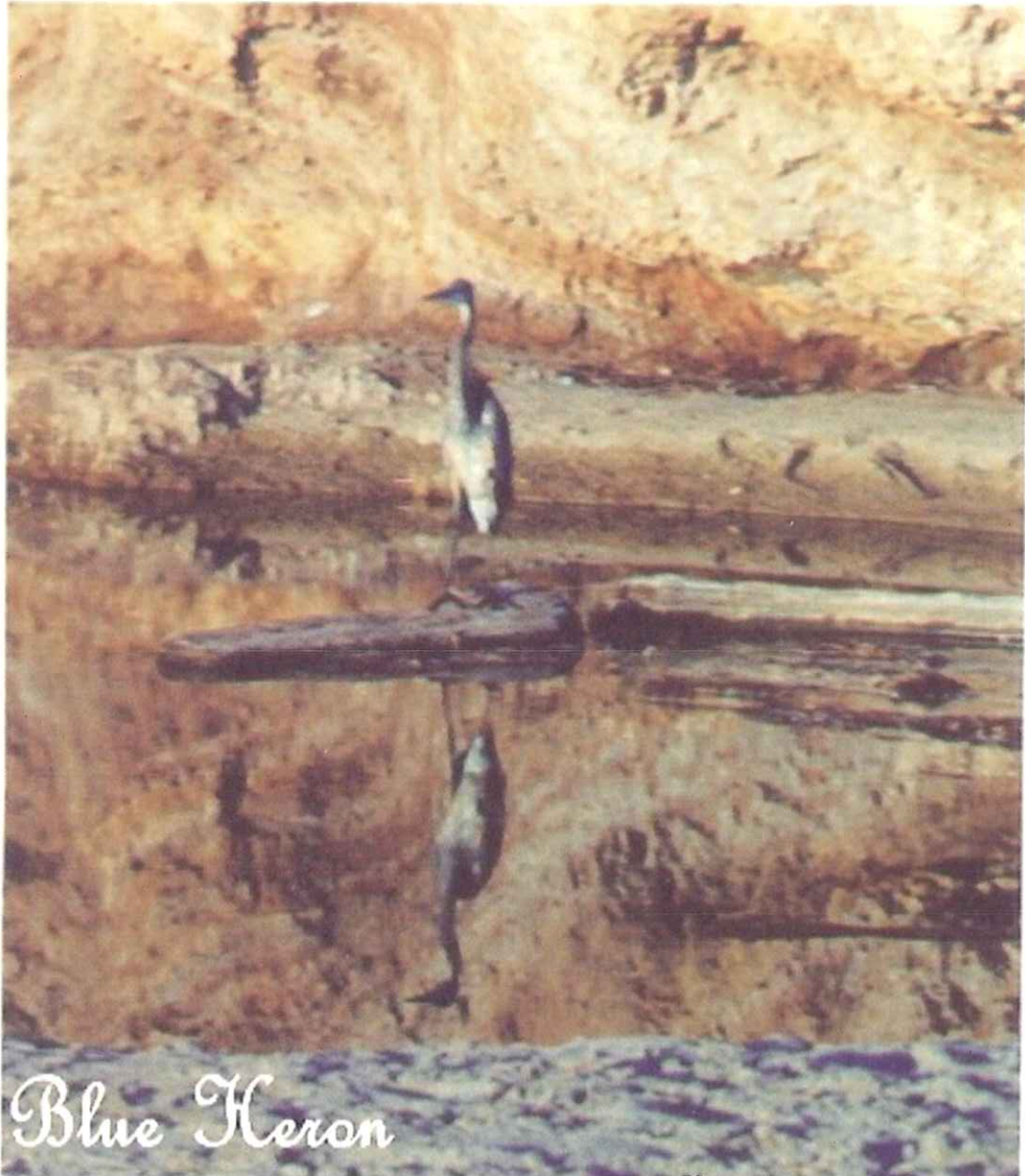
However, the urban wetland is within easy commuting distance of two major universities, two junior colleges, and dozens of high schools. Biological research will be permitted as well as wildlife and bird watching activities once an observation platform is in place," wrote Jerry Czarnecki.

Pismo Lake Reserve is a fragile environment that can be opened to the public on a limited basis. "The reserves main purpose is to protect wildlife. Whatever we do, it has to be done very carefully. We don't want to damage the basic biological resources of the area," wrote Jim Lidberg. Pismo Lake is not in a city park; it is in a nature reserve. Nesting birds on the islands will be protected and paths will be limited to protect the animals.

A PROPHECIC STATEMENT

"Many attempts have been made in the past to purchase the parcel on 4th Street, but none have been successful," wrote Mr. Lieb on page 2 of, The Enhancement and Mitigation proposal for The Acquisition of Pismo Ecological Reserve Support Facilities, in November 1996. It is possible that the opportunity for acquisition, and subsequent staging area for public access to the Reserve, will soon be gone." The grant application was turned down.

A second attempt to purchase the property was not successful in 1999. Pismo Beach was highly rated for a grant by the San Luis Obispo County of Governments, but the city withdrew its application because the First Church of Christ Science (owners of the land) had a pending escrow on an acre of land that was needed.



Blue Heron

Photo by Stan Honeycutt

Pismo to pursue purchase

Feb 4-20-2010

ONE-ACRE PARCEL OVERLOOKS ECOLOGICAL PRESERVE

BY JERRY BUNIN
THE TRIBUNE

The city should try to buy an acre overlooking the Pismo Lakes Ecological Preserve, the City Council has unanimously agreed.

The council Tuesday night gave City Manager Mike Fuson authority to negotiate with the First Church of Christ Science, which owns the land on Fourth Street near Five Cities Drive.

Pismo Beach hopes to create an interpretive center, parking area and staging point for trails leading into the 80-acre wetland the state Fish and Game Department owns.

Mayor John Brown said the church's decision to ask Pismo to buy the land is an "incredibly unique opportunity. ...

"It fits nicely into what this city does," he said of giving Pismo another attraction to lure and entertain tourists.

Local environmental activist Ella Honeycutt told the council she was pleasantly surprised to read about Pismo's renewed interest in the acre.

Honeycutt, a longtime member of the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (which fought to get the preserve restored more than a decade ago), said Fish and Game has a design for an observation area that Pismo could use.

She encouraged the city to pursue grants to buy the land and develop the project.

"If you can get the original, other funds will follow," she said.

Fuson told the council that there was "a strong likelihood" the city would get state approval

Preserve

From Page B1

in July for a \$250,000 grant.

Pismo also could reapply for a \$300,000 grant that the countywide San Luis Obispo Council of Governments favors giving toward preserve access.

Pismo Beach was highly rated for a grant last year by the council of governments, but the city withdrew its application because the church didn't want to sell to Pismo.

At the time, the church was in escrow for the land with Affordable Homes Inc., a non-profit that proposed a senior housing complex for the land.

When that deal fell out of escrow, the church's attorney,

Kirby Gordon, approached the city about negotiating to buy the land.

Grover Beach has supported Pismo buying the land for a preserve access point. Fourth Street — where the preserve access would be — is a main gateway to Grover Beach.

The cities are jointly working on a beachfront boardwalk that could be extended so tourists could walk to the preserve.

The preserve is home to 59 species of birds, 24 species of mammals and four species of reptiles and amphibians.

Jerry Bunin covers the South County for The Tribune. Story ideas and news tips can be e-mailed to him at jbunin@thetribunenews.com or phoned to 781-7935.



Pismo Votes to Buy the One-Acre Parcel

When the escrow was canceled, the church's attorney approached the city about negotiating to buy the land. On Tuesday April 20, 2000 the Pismo City Council gave the City Manager, Mike Fuson authority to negotiate with the Church. "Pismo Beach hopes to create an interpretive center, parking area and staging point for trails leading into the 80-acre wetland. The California Department of Fish and Game owns", Reported Jerry Bunin in the Tribune, April 20, 2000.

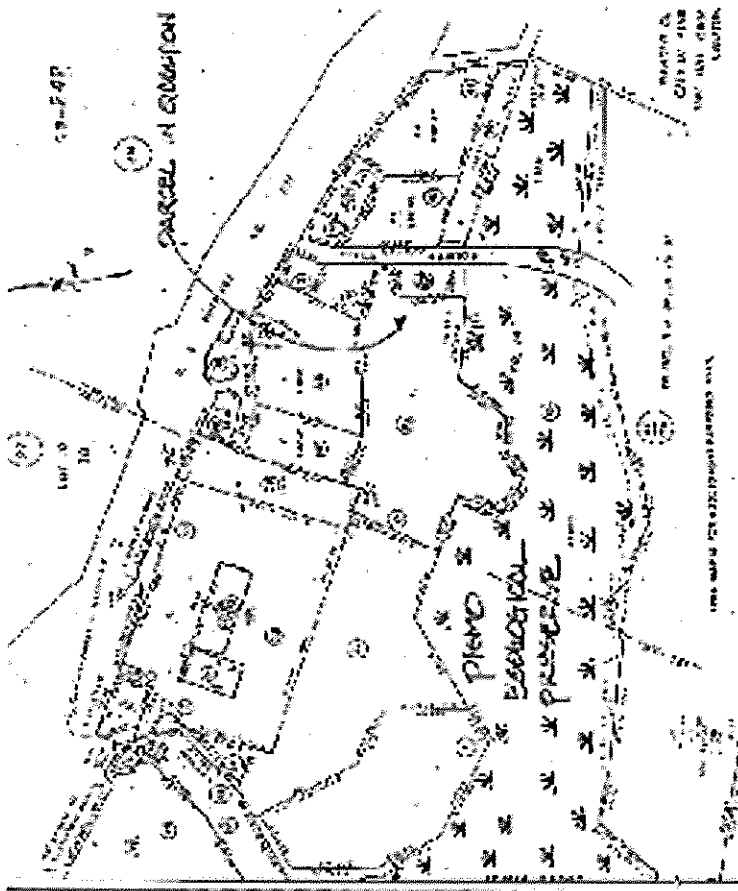
"Local environmentalist activist Ella Honeycutt told the council she was pleasantly surprised to read about Pismo's renewed interest in the acre. Honeycutt, a longtime member of the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (which fought to get the preserve restored more than a decade ago) said Fish and Game has a design for an observation area that Pismo could use. She encouraged the city to pursue grants to buy the land and develop the project", reported Jerry Bunin. Ella has been working with the Pismo Beach Task Force and Neil Havlik has been instrumental in helping with grant applications.

City Manager Mike Fuson reported there was a good chance to get a \$250,000 state grant in July. Grover Beach has supported Pismo buying the land for a preserve access point. Fourth Street-where the preserve access would be-is a main gateway to Grover Beach. The California Coastal Conservancy and the Pismo Beach Men's Club have pledged money for the project, and Pismo Beach will apply for other grants.

Working Together

The dream is becoming a reality because public agencies and citizens are working together with guidance

from the California Department of Fish and Game Department. CSLRCD and the CDFG support an observation platform, an interpretive center and a limited amount of trails within the Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve. CSLRCD Director Charles Davis is developing a Docent program for Pismo



DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

20 LOWER RAGSDALE DRIVE, SUITE 100
MONTEREY, CA 93940
(408) 649-2870



July 16, 1997

Ms. Carol Arnold, Program Manager
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, California 94612-2530

Subject: Funding for Visitor-Serving Facilities

Dear Carol:

Ella Honeycutt of RC&D, San Luis Obispo phoned yesterday to inform me that you had mentioned the possible availability of funding for development of a visitor-serving boardwalk-overlook at the Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve near the City of Grover Beach.

Our staff has long-standing contingency plans for such a development, and we have a prototype of same constructed at the Moss Landing State Wildlife Area in Monterey County. The latter was developed with funds provided by the late David Packard. I have included information from our files regarding the materials and labor costs for construction of the structure, plus working sketches utilized by the California Conservation Corps to conclude the project. Materials totaled \$5,600.00 and labor \$18,800.00 (which the local Santa Cruz CCC performed for half-rate).

If this is an item appropriate for the funding source, please advise what additional effort you might require from me to carry through the process. My phone in Monterey is (408) 649-2890 or CALNET 587-2890.

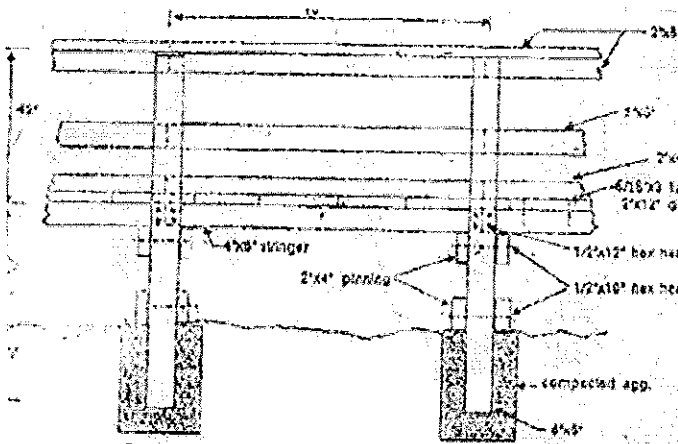
Sincerely,

Bruce Elliott
Senior Biologist Supervisor

RECEIVED

JUL 21 1997

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

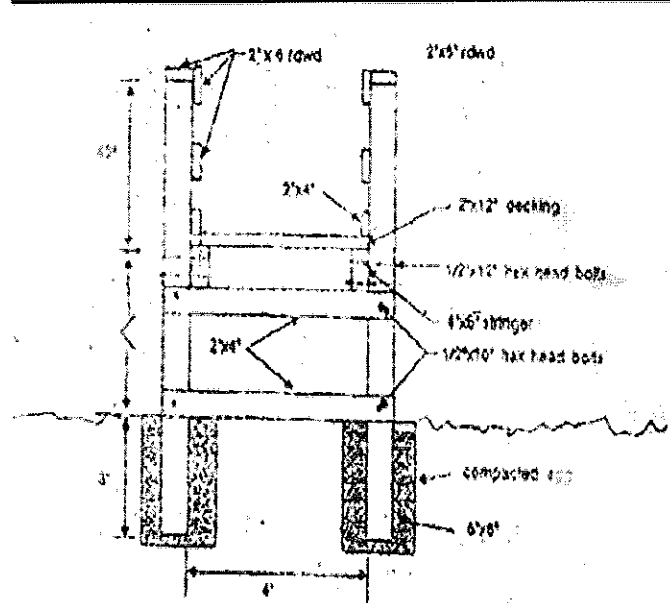


Boardwalk - Side View
Scale: As shown
M. Butler 8/87

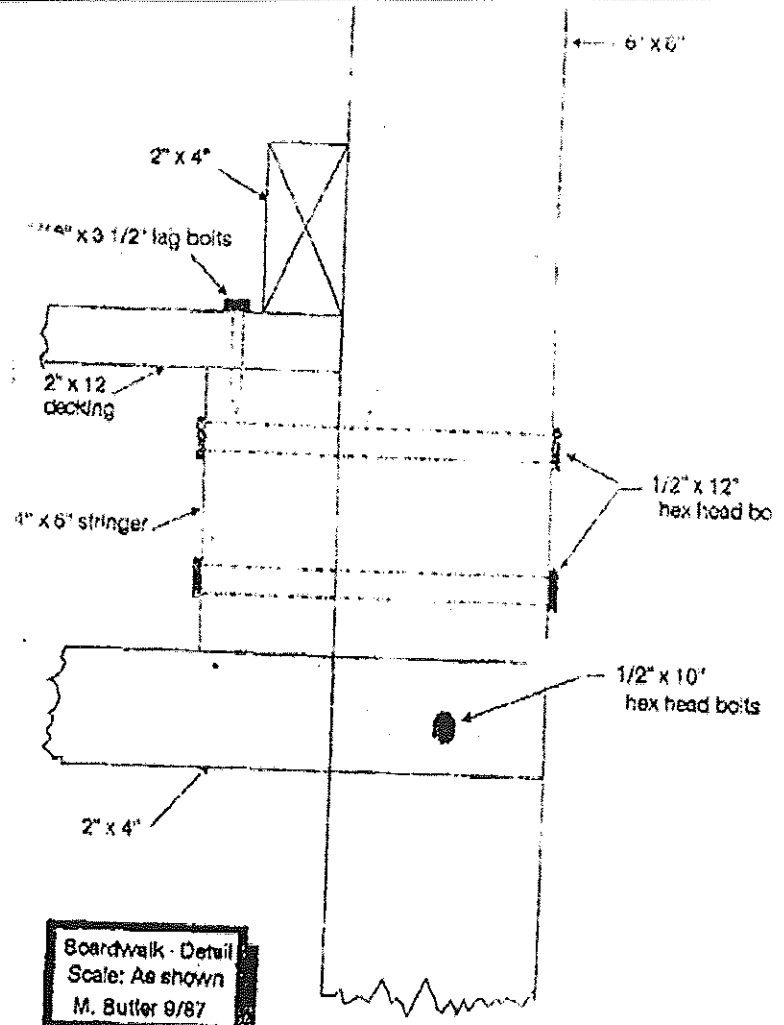
Ca Fish and Game's Letter-July 16, 1997 informed Carol Arnold, Program Manager for the CA Coastal Conservancy, that the Moss Landing Observation Platform Plans were available for building an Observation Platform in the Pismo Beach Ecological Reserve.

The Local Kiwanis and the Men's Club of Pismo Beach offered to spearhead a program to develop funding in 1997. Carol Arnold retired and the funding was not a priority for the newly elected CSLRCD President.

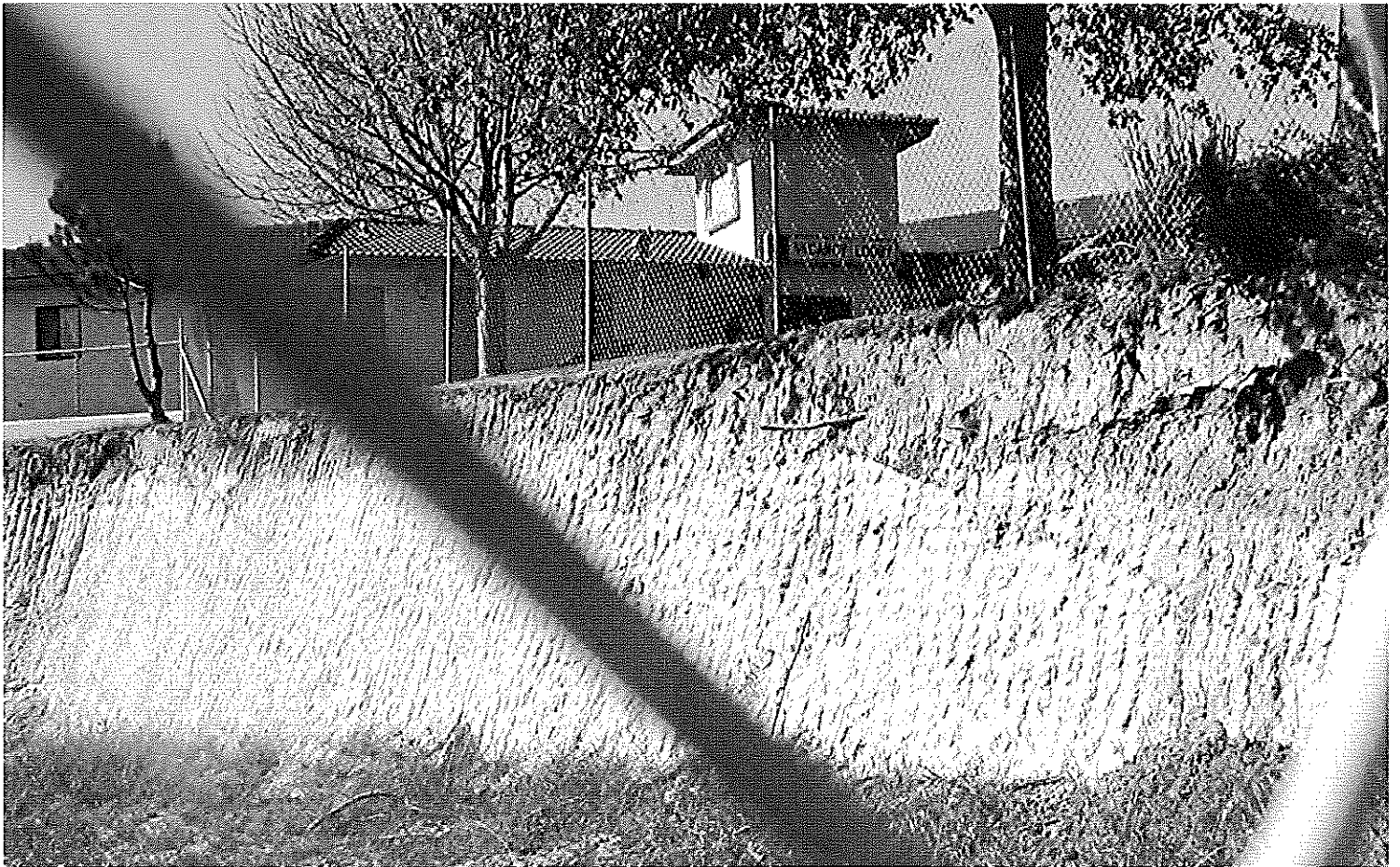
In 2008 Neil Havlik, President of CSLRCD, is working with the CA Parks and Recreation Department in developing an Interpretive Center and limited trails in the Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve.



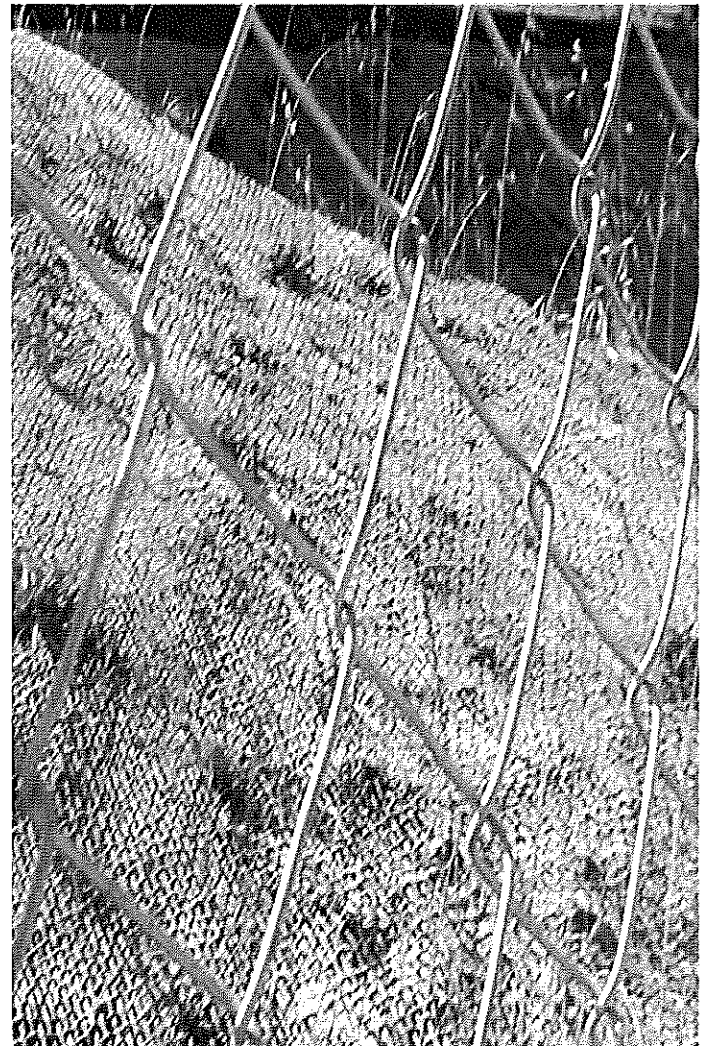
Boardwalk - Front View
Scale: As shown
M. Butler 8/87

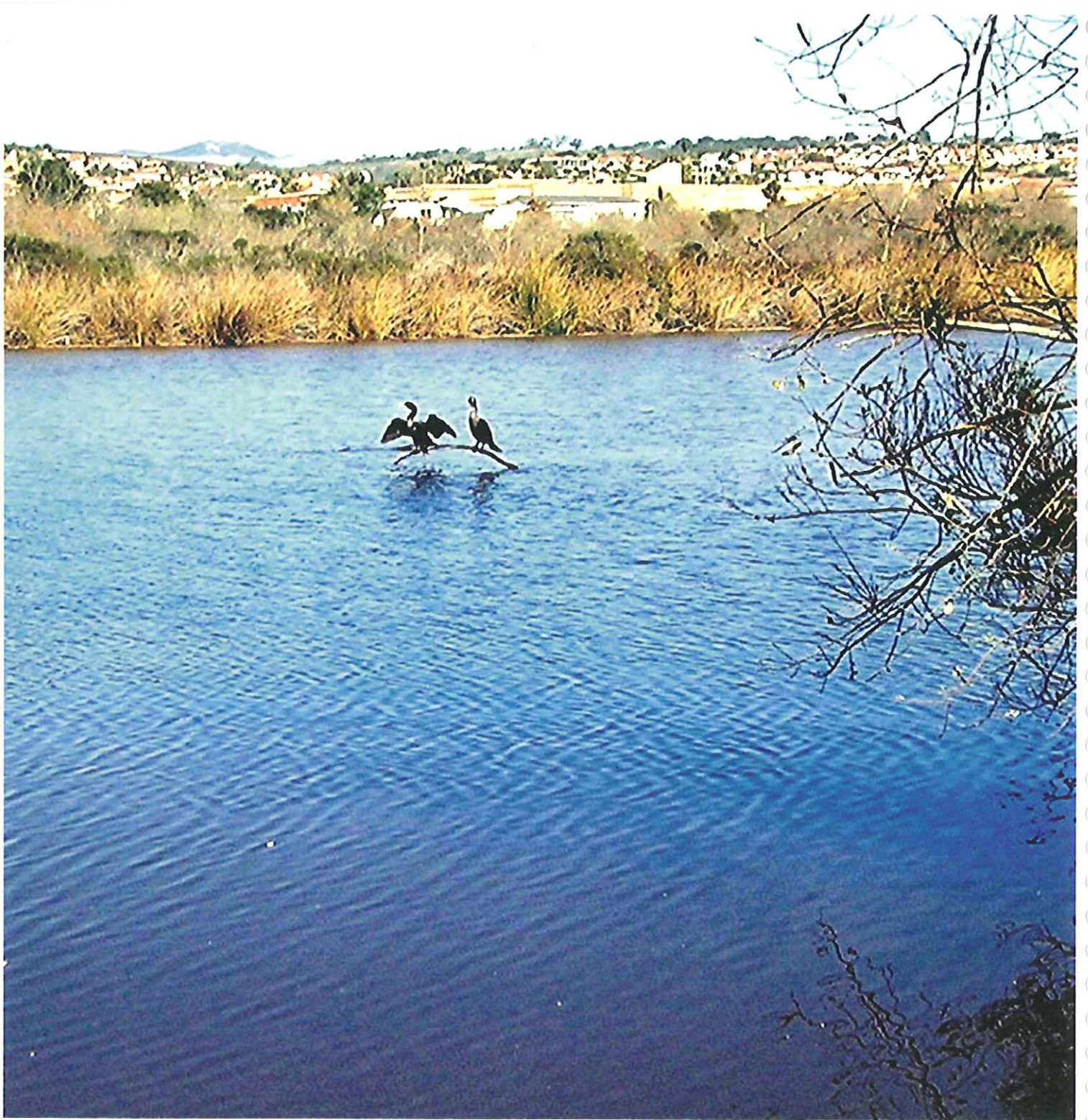


Boardwalk - Detail
Scale: As shown
M. Butler 8/87



Arroyo Grande Erosion Control Kept the Soil in Place---2007-2008





*Pismo Lake
Ecological Reserve*

Part 3

- 1.** Tract 1998 multiple housing planned next to the headwaters of the East fork of Meadow Creek which flows into Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve. Citizens join together to protect the wetland area.
- 2.** Arroyo Grande City Council adopts new Conservation and Open Space Policies-they establish new set backs.
- 3.** New development proposed for the Hidden Oak area behind James Way. Massive erosion happened in this area on March 5, 2001.
- 4.** Service agreement between the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District and the city of Arroyo Grande-defines procedures for the provision of erosion and sedimentation control expertise by the RCD to the city.

James Way March 3, 2000-the second time massive amounts of silt was deposited in the Arroyo Grande debris basins.



Silt can be seen in Meadow Creek as it flows toward Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve- near Clinton Street in Arroyo Grande.



Doug Tate, a park ranger who works in San Luis Obispo County and has³ 13 years experience with open space conservation, told the council the parcel is an important habitat for wildlife particularly because it includes wetlands "In California, we have already lost 90 percent of our wetlands, and we are only now beginning to understand the role wetlands perform-they are the most productive ecosystems in the world."

Locals in arms over hill project

Jasmine Marshall
Times Staff Writer

ARROYO GRANDE— When Marge Raymond bought her home in the Highlands subdivision four years ago, she was attracted by the view from her back yard of a hill covered with oak trees.

"When we came out here, the whole area was loaded with oak trees. That's what we fell in love with," Raymond said Friday, looking with a group of her neighbors at the 26.6-acre wooded parcel near their homes on Asilo Way in Arroyo Grande.

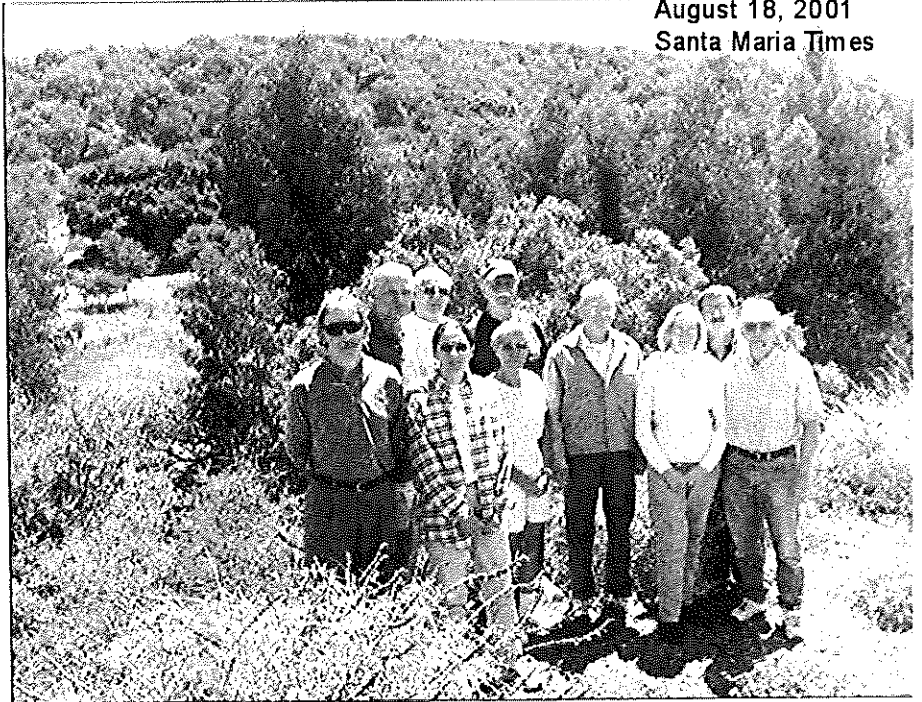
Other neighbors nodded, many saying they, too, bought homes in Castlerock Development's Highlands because of their views of the parcel, which also includes a creek, a wetland and a riparian habitat that attracts wildlife.

A 1998 environmental impact report on the parcel found 33 different species of wildlife living there.

It is also home to the Pismo Clarkia, an endangered plant species. Several said when they bought their homes, they believed the hill would be preserved as open space.

"Now when I think of what (Castlerock) wants to do there it just disgusts me," Raymond continued.

What disgusts Raymond and others is Castlerock's plans to build 36 homes on the hillside. They aren't taking those plans lying down, though. As Arroyo Grande updates its general plan, city residents who want the



August 18, 2001
Santa Maria Times

to ask the City Council to uphold the Planning Commission's recommendation that the parcel be zoned as open space with minimal development allowed.

Paul Farrell told the council Thursday that his wife is already so upset by the "eyesore" steep grading work being done by Castlerock up the road on James Way that she can't bear to look at the hillside anymore.

"We are stripping away our integrity, dignity and very soul," Farrell said of plans to build on the hillside near Asilo.

Doug Tate, a park ranger who works in San Luis Obispo County and has 13 years of experience with open space conservation, told the council the parcel is an important habitat for wildlife, particularly because it includes wetlands.

"In California, we have already lost 90 percent of our wetlands, and we are only now beginning to understand the role wetlands perform," Tate said. "They provide flood protection by soaking up excess

Tate said the parcel warrants further study, particularly since the red-legged frog known to inhabit creeks on the Central Coast was listed as an endangered species in 1996. The last study of natural resources in the parcel was over ten years ago, he said.

Most of those at the hearing said they want the parcel rezoned as open space.

But Castlerock Development believes it has a right to develop, representative Dean Cocker said. The designation for development made to the area with the Rancho Grande specific plan supersedes any general plan changes, he argued.

The public's opinion carried heavy weight with the council though. Mayor Michael Lady initially suggested the council make a recommendation that no units be allowed to be built there.

City Attorney Timothy J. Carmel said there could be legal problems with completely banning any homes on the property. He emphasized the city must process it

**It's beautiful, and
once it's gone it's
gone forever.**

— Grace Mitchell Berg,
neighborhood resident



A place of rare significance

Want to see a true wetland? Don't delay in viewing. Mr. Shetler seems determined to transform tract 1998 into his next desolation project. I've witnessed trucks driven across sensitive areas at this location, building supply storage, water channels knocked out by heavy equipment, silt accumulation leading to impassable streambeds. Now I see the land being clear-cut in the name of "removing lower branches for fire protection." All in a CEQA study area.

Where are our support enforcement officers? Does the city even have a way to enforce its regulations? Is the game to remove all signs of riparian habitat, invalidating CEQA review?

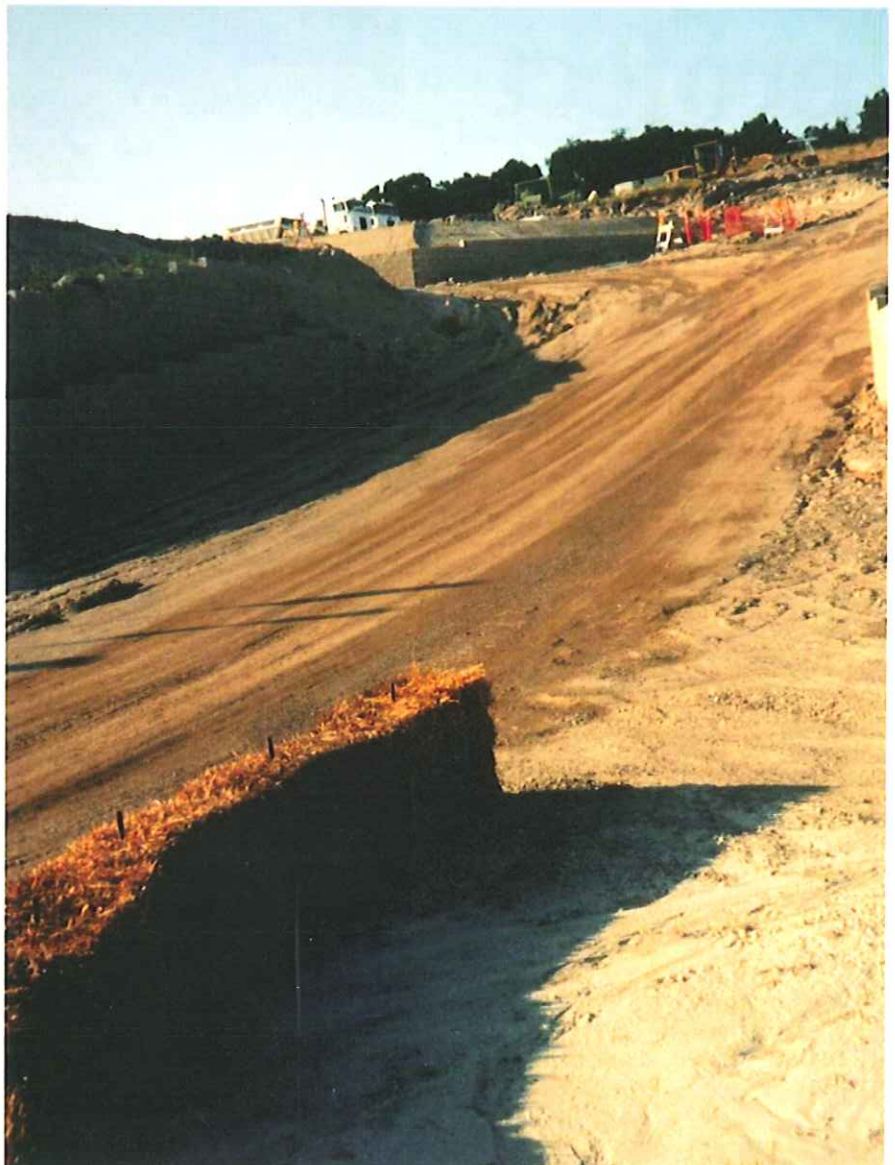
We all know, including the owner, about the sensitive Native-American artifacts, the many vulnerable animals and plants, including nearly extinct Pismo Clarkia, and the importance of protecting the origin of the sensitive habitat of Pismo Creek.

Is our city incapable or ineffective in following through on CEQA mitigations and city building codes? It now becomes vital to address the City Council in reminding how important this area is during the update process.

There are few places so significant that this many community members come forward to protest a development. Clearly, this is one of them.

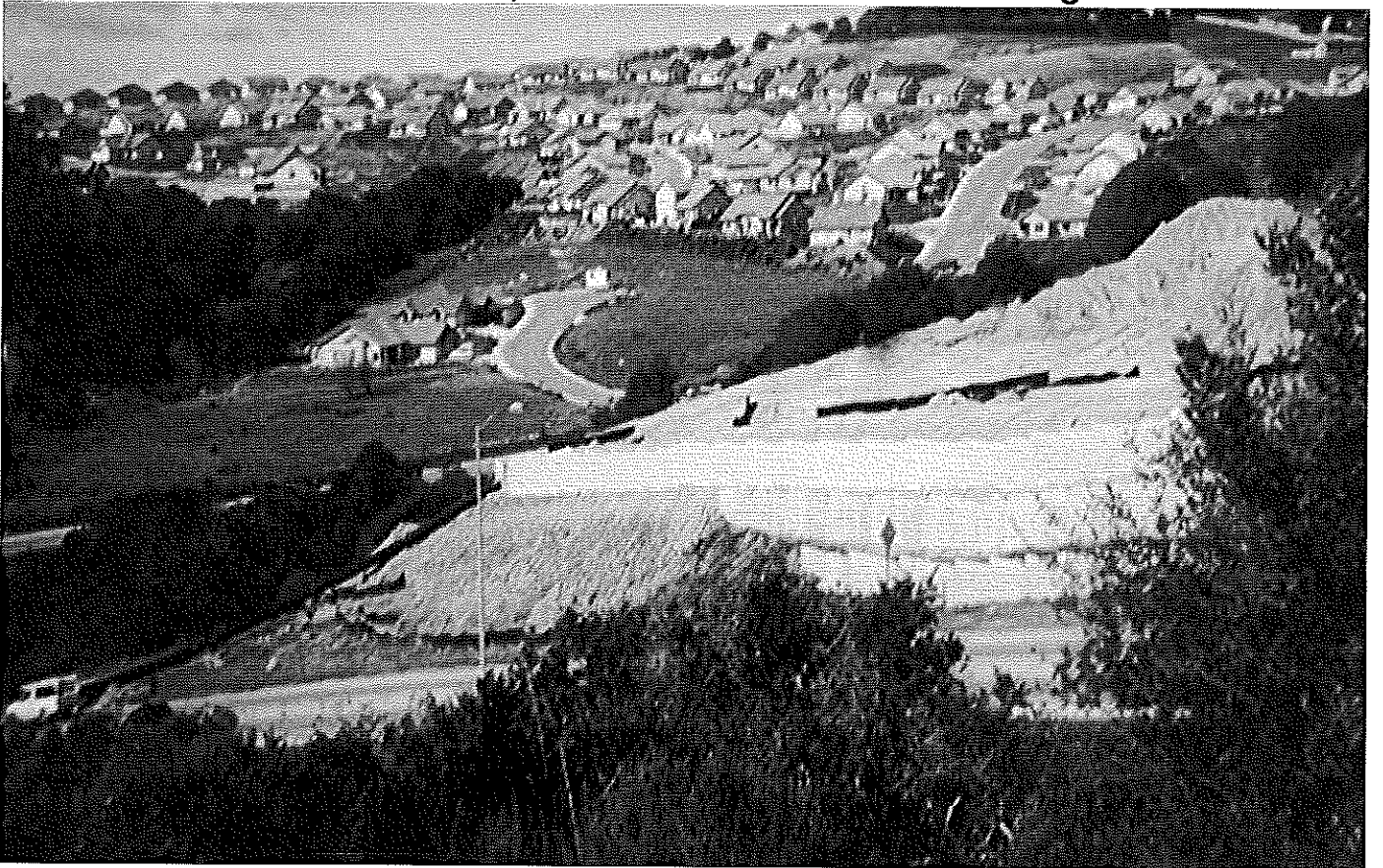
Nanci Parker
Arroyo Grande

Letter to Editor Tribune 2001





The massive grading on the Castle Rock Construction site ended up in a mountain of earth about 10 stories high. It took trucks with trailers two weeks, running night and day, to remove the soil before the next rain storm which would have deposited it in Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve.



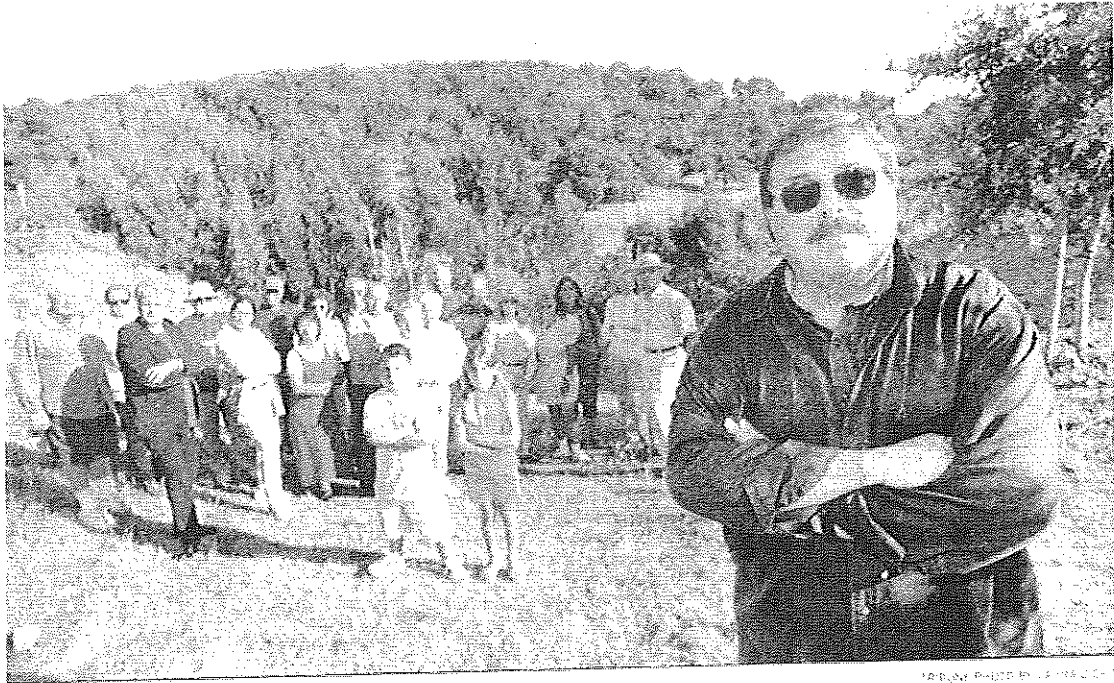
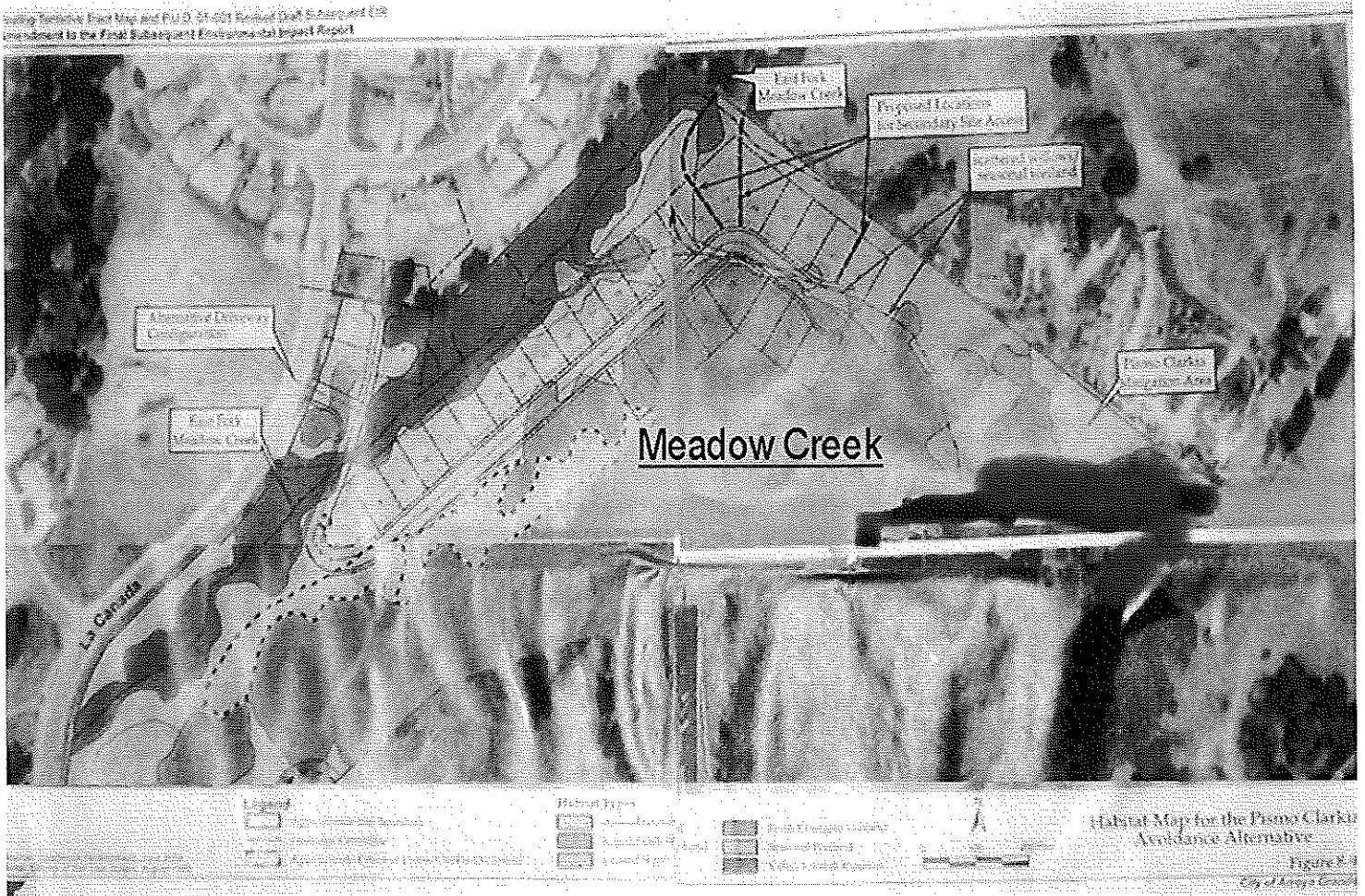


PHOTO BY J. J. [unreadable]

Bob Brownson, who leads the effort, and other residents of Arroyo Grande are fighting to keep as open space the 26 acre, tree studded parcel that is approved for a housing tract. These opponents of a development plan for the Rancho Grande hillside and wetland area are concerned because the property has oaks and creek habitat. The East Fork of Meadow Creek flows into Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve needs protection.

Using Technical Plan Map and PU 01-001 Revised Draft Subsequent EIR
 Amendment to the Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report



Part 4

1. 2008 Pismo Beach's Los Robles del Mar 182 acre annexation hearing before the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). Included in the plan was the transfer of some of the water to other parts of Pismo Beach. "Water Mining" is taking more water than an aquifer can readily replace. Meadow Creek Watershed Aquifer is Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve's only source of renewal water. Citizens spoke out because their wells in the rural area are threatened. LAFCO denied the annexation on January 24, 2008. Under LAFCO's rules there has to be an adequate and sustainable water supply before an annexation is allowed.

2. Erosion control must be included in any development in the proposed annex area. The CCC rebuilt the hills in 1934 and a disaster must be prevented using good erosion control practices as outlined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

City of Pismo Beach City Limits and Sphere of Influence

State and County: CA, SAN LUIS OBISPO



Legend

-  City of Pismo Beach Sphere of Influence
-  Los Robles Del Mar, Project Site
-  Pismo Beach, City Limits



BACKGROUND Get complete report from LAFCO 11

The San Luis Obispo Local Agency Formation Commission is considering the proposed annexation of the Los Robles Del Mar property into the City of Pismo Beach. Typically, LAFCO acts as a Responsible Agency and relies upon the Lead Agency's (City of Pismo Beach) environmental documentation to evaluate annexations. In this case LAFCO has become the Lead Agency for preparing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report focused on the use of the on-site wells as a municipal water supply. The City of Pismo Beach approved a Specific Plan and other entitlements that govern the future land uses to be allowed on the site. The City has also certified two Environmental Impact Reports for the Los Robles Del Mar project. LAFCO is precluded by State Law from making decisions directly related to the land use authority of a jurisdiction.

The Los Robles del Mar project site involves 182 acres of vacant land located adjacent to and immediately west of Oak Park Boulevard and adjacent to the northern boundary of the City of Pismo Beach (see Figure 1, Vicinity Map). The rectangularly-shaped parcel borders the eastern portion of the City of Pismo Beach and consists of two separately owned parcels referred to as Property A and Property B. Property A involves a total of 154 acres comprising the northern and western portions of the site while Property B involves a total of 28 acres within the southeastern portion of the site.

The Specific Plan approved by the City of Pismo Beach calls for the land uses of the 182 acre site as shown in the following table. It should be noted that 38% of the site, which is currently zoned Rural Lands, is proposed for Open Space. The Executive Summary of the Specific Plan can be found in Attachment E of this Staff Report:

Land Use	Acres	Units	% of Site
Residential			
Affordable Senior Housing	2.9	60	1.6%
Low Density Homes 5,000 s.f. Lots	15.5	99	8.5%
Estate Homes 6,000-10,000 s.f. lots	23.1	104	12.7%
Custom homes 10,000 to 20,000 s.f. lots	12.3	40	6.8%
Rural Estate-1 acre lots	10.2	9	5.6%
Subtotal	64	312	35%
Other Uses			
Open Space	69.8	0	38%
Public/Semi Public/School Use	27.4	0	15%
Roads	20.2	0	12%
Totals	181.4	312	100%

In March 2006, during the Study Session for the LRDM annexation, the potential impacts cause by the use of the Los Robles del Mar wells as a municipal water supply and the lack of adequate analysis of the potential impacts of this use upon wells in surrounding areas were documented. **Municipal Water Supply**

David Church, AICP
Deputy Executive Officer San Luis Obispo LAFCO
1042 Pacific Street Suite A
San Luis Obispo, Ca 93401

September 10, 2007

Re: Supplemental Environmental Impact Report
Annexation, Los Robles Del Mar

David,

Thank you for your extra effort to provide this supplemental EIR. . We all appreciate the consideration that has been provided by the Commission. However, the product is truly disappointing. I have reviewed the SEIRLRDM Annexation and have questions or concerns regarding the projected low average per unit demand for this project, inevitable future increase in demand for water from both aquifers, lack of consideration of potential drought conditions, decreased percolation into both aquifers as a result of this project and questions regarding salt water intrusion.

How can the total demand for the project be 150 afy when the accepted standard is 1 afy per household? True some units are specific for senior residences and may require somewhat less; however, others have many times more acreage and are especially suggested to be for estate sized homes. Give or take, there are still 312 homes proposed and if for some reason it doesn't average to 1 afy per unit it should be shown why.

1

My primary concern and the thread that unravels the SEIR is that the document suggests potential increases of water drilling from the deep aquifer but makes no effort to quantify that additional use . There is no effort to evaluate its impact on the project viability even though analysis of current and build out demands on the basins was included in the contract documents for this document. Page V 22 acknowledges the rights of overlaying property owners. How many parcels have existing development plus additional rights? How many are zoned but are not developed? How many parcels are appropriate for domestic and commercial agricultural uses including orchards and vineyards, truck gardens and animal husbandry projects? How much water should be anticipated for these existing and future senior users? Further, how many existing larger parcels can be subdivided under current county zoning? Arroyo Grande extracts from the deep aquifer and currently has no limitations on future pumping but has expressed the intent to significantly increase pumping.

2

3

While the SEIR projections are based upon the average rainfall, there is no regard for the potential of extended years of drought as do occur periodically. Years of drought and additional development consistent with existing zoning would necessitate current users of the shallow aquifer to exercise their rights to drill into the deep aquifer.

4

Percolation is effected in two significant ways not addressed by the study. Hard surfaces such as asphalt, roofs and sidewalks eliminate percolation into both the shallow and deep

13
5

aquifers in the area of the project. Wastewater from the project is not returned to aquifers after being processed and filtered; rather, it is pumped into the sewer system and lost from the resource reserve.

Given the informational deficiencies in this document, it is unable to establish the resource availability data necessary for informed decision making. The proposed monitoring and remediation program appears to be based upon speculation, false assumptions or perhaps false optimism. Even assuming the numbers are real, if the project is developed using state of the art conservation measures as is responsibly recommended and required, what recourse is there in the event of an overdraft detected by the monitoring program? Mechanisms of cooperative enforcement between Arroyo Grande and Pismo Beach of water use after houses are built and occupied are a bit more problematic than an MOU regarding a fire truck or two.

Finally, because this is a common problem on the central coast, please address issues of saltwater intrusion as deep aquifer is 1,400' below sea level and Fig 6 does not fully characterize aquifer outcropping.

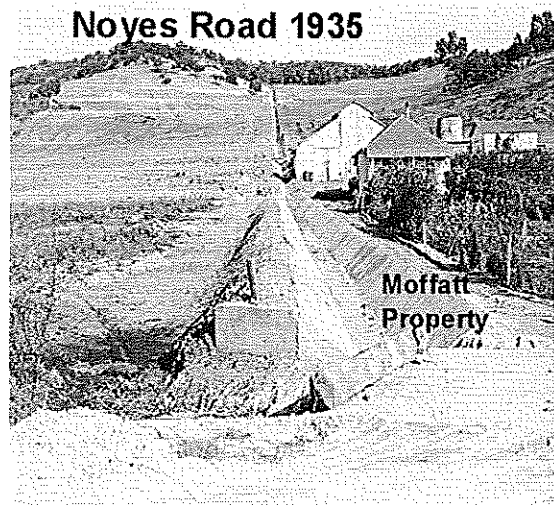
As the document for informed decision making, this SEIR has no redeeming qualities and does not fulfill the requirements of CEQUA or the intent of the Cortese-Knox Hertzberg Act. There is much to be done.

History gives us Owens Valley. Today we have Los Robles Del Mar.

Thank you again David. This is painful.

Respectfully,

Carolyn Moffatt
1096 Noyes Rd.
Arroyo Grande, Ca.



Noyes Road Above Printz Road Near Arroyo Grande

State	California	Photographer	As H. Vollen
County	San Luis Obispo	Date	March 27, 1935
Section and quarter	400	Time	1:00 PM
Range	10N	Scale	1:1000
Location by Permanent Monument		Filed	March 27, 1935
Section	400	Filed by	Walter H. Miller
Photographer's Name	As H. Vollen	Lead Geologist	Walter H. Miller
Topic	Topography	Name	Miller
Address	Arroyo Grande	Address	Arroyo Grande
		Cooperative Contract	1-2-34-56

SUBJECT AND HISTORY

Public Lands, Contour Map, and other features with main data in center.

History: This field was worked a year ago, and is now being subjected to the building of stone subject.

SEP 10

141

September 6, 2007

David Church, Deputy Executive Officer SLO LAFCO
1042 Pacific St Suite A
San Luis Obispo CA 93401

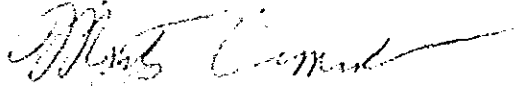
Dear Mr. Church,

My name is Marty Ormonde. I have owned my current property since 1990. My family has lived in the Oak Park area for several generations. As a concerned citizen, there are several issues I feel have not been adequately considered regarding the proposed LRDM development.

The well on my property was drilled in 1979 and has supplied a steady supply of water until recently. Although several EIRs have been conducted, as stated in II-1 of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report, "this aspect of (water resource allocation) was not fully addressed within either of the prior environmental documents...". I am concerned about the lack of empirical evidence found regarding the impacts of significant of water demand expected from the LRDM development. Is it possible the test stages of the LRDM project has been a contributing factor in the decline of my well?

The EIR and proposed plans are ambiguous and provide no boundaries or limits to future abuses of water supplies. Does the proposed plan include any consideration for future droughts and the impact on surrounding communities? Could a severe drought push all wells past their threshold to supply enough water? The proposed project lacks convictions regarding water use, citing "the City will at minimum, pump these wells at a volume equal to the water demand for the LRDM project"(II-2). In addition, the proposed project has not considered the possible water needs of currently undeveloped properties. Will the well being of the Arroyo Grande and future developers be incorporated into the plan? There is no concrete way to measure the impacts of the LRDM project, even with incorporation of water saving strategies LRDM will strain limited water resources. Will LRDM be supplied with water at the expense of surrounding homeowners?

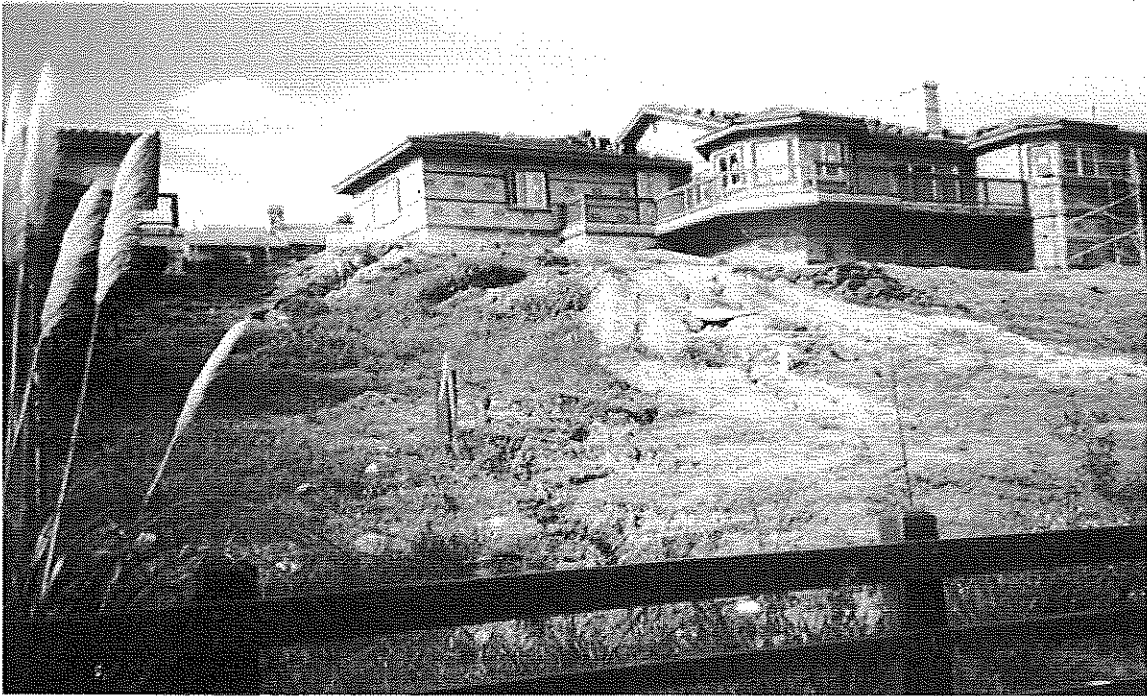
Sincerely,



Marty Ormonde
Business Owner
Ormonde Truck and Tractor

590 Las Lomas Dr.
Arroyo Grande CA 93420

-----The way to stop costly erosion when building and farming in the Pismo Beach Sphere of Influence area is to use the Natural Resource Conservation Service's "Best Management Practices".



During the March 2000 storm there was erosion on many construction sites within the Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve Watershed. Documenting the top soil loss by photographs opened the door to institute better erosion control practices.



Water Worries Spur Pismo Annexation Denial

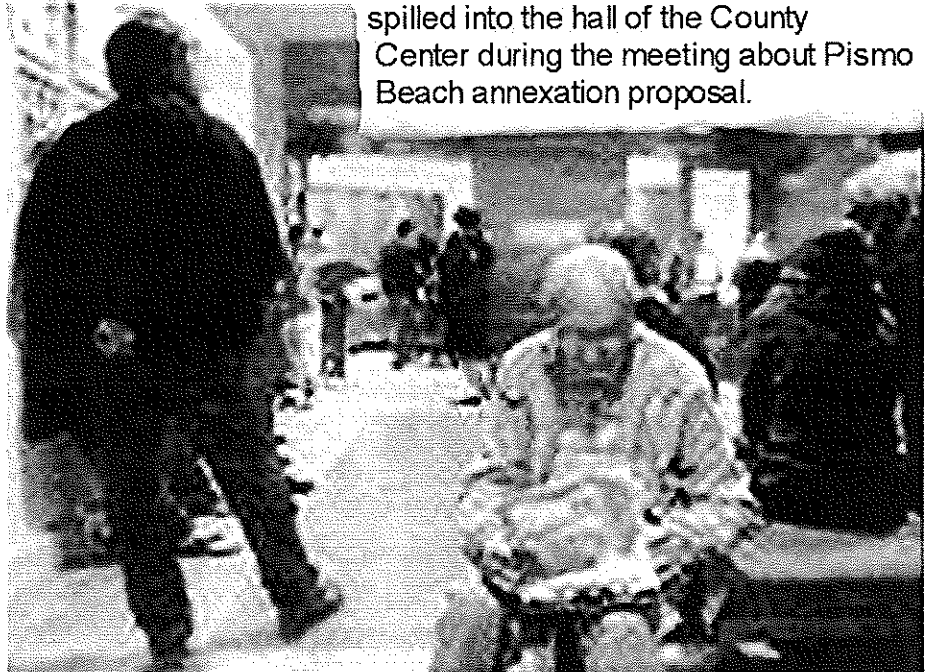
16

An agency's vote stalls—and possibly destroys — plans to build a school, senior center and homes

By Bob Cuddy

After a daylong hearing attended by more than 200 people, an obscure county government body that decides on city annexations tentatively told Pismo Beach leaders Wednesday that the city cannot annex 182 acres north of the city limits known as Los Robles del Mar.

There isn't enough water there for present and future city needs, the Local Agency Formation Commission said.



Lorin Brown, 93, part of large crowd that spilled into the hall of the County Center during the meeting about Pismo Beach annexation proposal.

Tribune Photo By Jason Mellow

The annexation would have opened the door for Pismo Beach to entertain plans for a Christian school, 60 senior citizen homes, and 252 single-family homes on the property.

However, Pismo Beach officials also wanted to divert some of Los Robles del Mar's water supply—located under the project site—the project site — to uses elsewhere in the city.

In addition, the city of Arroyo Grande takes water from the same aquifer.

On a 6-1 vote, LAFCO said the underground aquifer does not have enough water for Los Robles del Mar and the other uses, as well as future water demands that cannot be predicted.

Under LAFCO rules, a water supply "has to be adequate, reliable and sustainable," before it can permit an annexation, said Commissioner David Brooks.

Developers of Los Robles del Mar said they will have to regroup before planning their next move. Lance Tullis, principal of Coastal Christian School, said, "I'm not sure there are other options for us."

Nonetheless, commissioners suggested they sit down with government leaders from the county, Pismo Beach, and Arroyo Grande, as well as neighboring landowners, and work out a solution.

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Nonetheless, commissioners suggested they sit down with government leaders from the county, Pismo Beach, and Arroyo Grande, as well as neighboring landowners, and work out a solution.

One alternative would be to extend the Nacimiento pipeline to the site, suggested Allen Settle, San Luis Obispo city councilman.

Whatever the source, Pismo Beach city leaders need to show LAFCO an additional source of water, Commissioner Bruce Gibson said.

Commissioner Katcho Achadjian urged school leaders to work through the county government to get its school built. The property is governed by county land-use rules.

"We'll help you every which way we can," Achadjian said. All the commissioners expressed regret that their vote stopped the school, at least temporarily, and praised the youngsters who came to testify.

The hearing drew partisans from every side: Homeowners who live near the land and draw their water from the aquifer that would be tapped; school supporters who have been waiting more than a decade to develop the campus; the elderly seeking new senior housing; Pismo Beach and Arroyo Grande residents; and a slew of bureaucrats.

Observers spilled out of the chamber and into the hallways of the County Government Center, watching the events on four television sets. Longtime observers said it was the largest crowd they'd seen at the center, which opened in 2005.

Listeners heard a highly technical discussion on hydro-geology and land use, larded with terms such as "supplemental EIR" and "impact assessment."

When residents' turns to speak came, they kept it more down to earth.

Many of those using the water underneath the site said their wells may already be drying up.

Gabriel Ross of the Oak Park Community Group called the Pismo Beach annexation plan "water mining," —taking out more water than comes back in. "That's a way not to have a future," he said.

The vote was especially disappointing for the school, which owns 28 acres and has been waiting for years to build a new campus.

And several senior citizens said more housing for them is "desperately needed." Achadjian agreed but said he preferred to see it closer to shopping and other amenities.

Commissioners stressed that they were not there to make decisions on land use. Their role, they said, was to determine whether the annexation would have adequate services, including water.

In addition to Achadjian, Settle, Brooks and Gibson, commissioners Barbara Mann and Richard Roberts opposed the annexation. Duane Picanco voted "no" on the denial, saying he wanted to find a compromise. He did not elaborate.

Bill Morem: Pismo can't just suck the water supply dry

Finally, a government agency has put some teeth into the concept of living within our resources. I'm referring to the Local Agency Formation Commission's denial of Pismo Beach's thinly veiled bid to capture water through a 182-acre annexation called Los Robles del Mar.

In case you may have missed it, here's the scenario: Developers want to build 252 single-family homes on unincorporated acreage east of Pismo Beach. Perhaps to make the deal more palatable, the developers added 60 senior citizen homes—and a Christian school thrown in for good measure.

The problem: Folks who already live in the rural area are dependent on the groundwater under their homes, water that would—under Pismo's annexation— be split among the new subdivision and school and Pismo Beach, as well as Arroyo Grande.

The commission denied the annexation, sagely deciding there wouldn't be enough water for the existing residents, the new homes, school and Pismo Beach.

As Commissioner David Brooks noted in Tribune reporter Bob Cuddy's story, under LAFCO's rules, a water supply "has to be adequate, reliable and sustainable" before an annexation is allowed.

Sure, it's difficult to deny a school that's been waiting to build for a decade or so, and having youngsters give LAFCO testimony certainly hit an emotional note with some of the commissioners.

It also seems hard-hearted to deny a new source of senior housing.

Yet the cold, hard truth is that it does no one any good — not school, subdivision, cities of Pismo Beach or Arroyo Grande — to indulge in what neighbor Gabriel Ross aptly called "water mining," taking more water out of an aquifer than can be readily replenished.

It should be remembered that although the recent rains are slaking our collective thirst, it's no secret that we live in a semi-arid Mediterranean climate. It's also no secret that for the most part this county's aquifers are finite reservoirs that recharge slowly over time through an uncertain combination of streams and rainfall.

Finally, it shouldn't be a secret that we can't keep poking more and more straws into these limited sources and not expect trouble down the road. Morem 2
19

Look no further than Los Osos or Nipomo. Both communities sit on giant sand dunes that have acted as sponges over the millennia. Both communities have been allowed to grow at rates that have now placed their water basins in jeopardy. Both communities face the threat of saltwater intrusion into their water supplies. Both communities will no doubt be adopting water conservation measures in the future.

How draconian those measures will be is dependent on the level of personal sacrifice individuals are willing to make; the availability of a secondary source such as desalination or plugging into a pipeline at great cost; and the assessment of the true carrying capacities of our resources.

And that's why LAFCO's decision is so refreshingly sane: Finally, a government agency that's willing to put some teeth into just such an assessment.

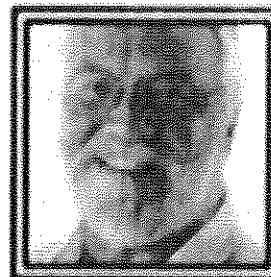
Moral: You don't keep adding straws to your soda when you're in danger of sucking wind.

Link to the county staff report on the Los Robles del Mar property at sanluisobispo.com.

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<http://www.sanluisobispo.com>

"It should be remembered that although the recent rains are slaking our collective thirst, it's no secret that we live in a semi-arid Mediterranean climate. It's also no secret that for the most part this county's aquifers are finite reservoirs that recharge slowly over time through an uncertain combination of streams and rainfall."



Viewpoint
**Annexation
denial in Pismo
is a good move**

The Los Robles del Mar project would have sucked the reserve and creeks dry

BY ELLA HONEYCUTT
AND NANJI PARKER

Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve covers 69 acres and contains a 30-acre lake stretching north to south. This lovely and almost hidden riparian woodland-bordered area is nestled between Grover Beach and Pismo Beach, behind the outlet center off the Fourth Street exit. Within the lake are four islands covered with willows and many other plants native to the Central Coast.

The reserve is unique because it has salt and fresh water. According to Jim Lidberg, wildlife biologist for the California Department of Fish and Game, more than 250 bird species, mammals, reptiles and amphibians inhabit this vital and protected environment.

lake. These islands have since become important riparian breeding grounds for waterfowl.

Since 2002, additional hillside development and poor grading practices again have threatened this reserve. The Local Agency Formation Commission recently held a hearing on the Los Robles del Mar 182-acre annexation

The Los Robles del Mar annexation project in Pismo Beach called for transfer of aquifer water for resident and business use within the city.

This is water that will then no longer be available for the natural recharge of groundwater, which provides base flow to the creeks.

in Pismo Beach, and it denied the project. It was calling for transfer of aquifer water for resident and business use within the city. This is water that will then no longer be available for the natural recharge of groundwater, which provides base flow to the creeks. This is even more important during our low rainfall years.

"Under LAFCO rules, a water supply has to be adequate before an annexation can take place," LAFCO Commissioner David Brooks noted.

Continue First Page Column 1

In 1976, the reserve was a healthy wetland when it was purchased by the Wildlife Conservation Board. In less than a decade, the reserve turned into a dying marsh, densely overgrown with tules and cattails. The loss of wetlands can be a long and natural process, but the loss of this particular marsh was caused by sedimentation from development along Meadow Creek. The creek is a vital waterway in South County, as it drains a large 3,800-watershed through Arroyo Grande and Pismo Beach where these headwaters are located.

Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District board of directors became alarmed at the loss of the habitat for waterfowl at the reserve. With the help of San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors, the directors created a plan to restore the failing reserve. The Soil Conservation Service and the Department of Fish and Game funded the restoration. In 1986, the lake was dredge: the 78,000-cubic yards of silt that were moved were then used to create four islands within the lake.

Continue First Page Column 2

It is important to remember that the rainwater flowing down from these hills is vital to the survival of the wetlands in this 3,800-acre Meadow Creek Watershed.

In his January 24 column, Bill Morem wrote that water mining is "taking more water out of an aquifer than can be readily replenished--we live in a semi-arid Mediterranean climate. It's also no secret that for most part this county's aquifers are finite reservoirs that recharge slowly over time through an uncertain combination of streams and rainfall."

The wise vote by the LAFCO Commissioners is an example of good stewardship of our resources. LAFCO Commissioners helped protect the well water of citizens and the water vitally needed to keep the base flows of the creeks, they also helped to prevent Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve from drying up. Protection of the good health of our community and our land is an on going process that we all need to remember and value.

*Ella Honeycutt and Nanci Parker
with the Coastal San Luis
Resource Conservation District*

Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District continues to be interested in educational improvements to Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve. Therefore the District will continue to work with the California Department of Parks and Recreation and the Cities of Pismo Beach, Arroyo Grande, and Grover Beach to develop an interpretive trail informing citizens about the area. This would include a parking area, informational kiosks, and a trail to an overlook of the lake. The District is also interested in extending such a trail across Fourth Street to reach the hotels to the east and provide a recreational and educational resource for area visitors and incorporate City of Grover Beach Open Space lands into the Reserve.

Specific steps that the District will undertake include:

1. Continue to distribute the District's history report on Pismo Lake.
2. Support State Parks Department in interpretive trail development.
3. Contact CA Fish and Game for the Moss Landing Observation Platform Plans.
4. Reestablish the Friends of Pismo Lake group.
5. Inform the public about activities at the Lake.
6. Develop a docent and interpretive program for the Lake.

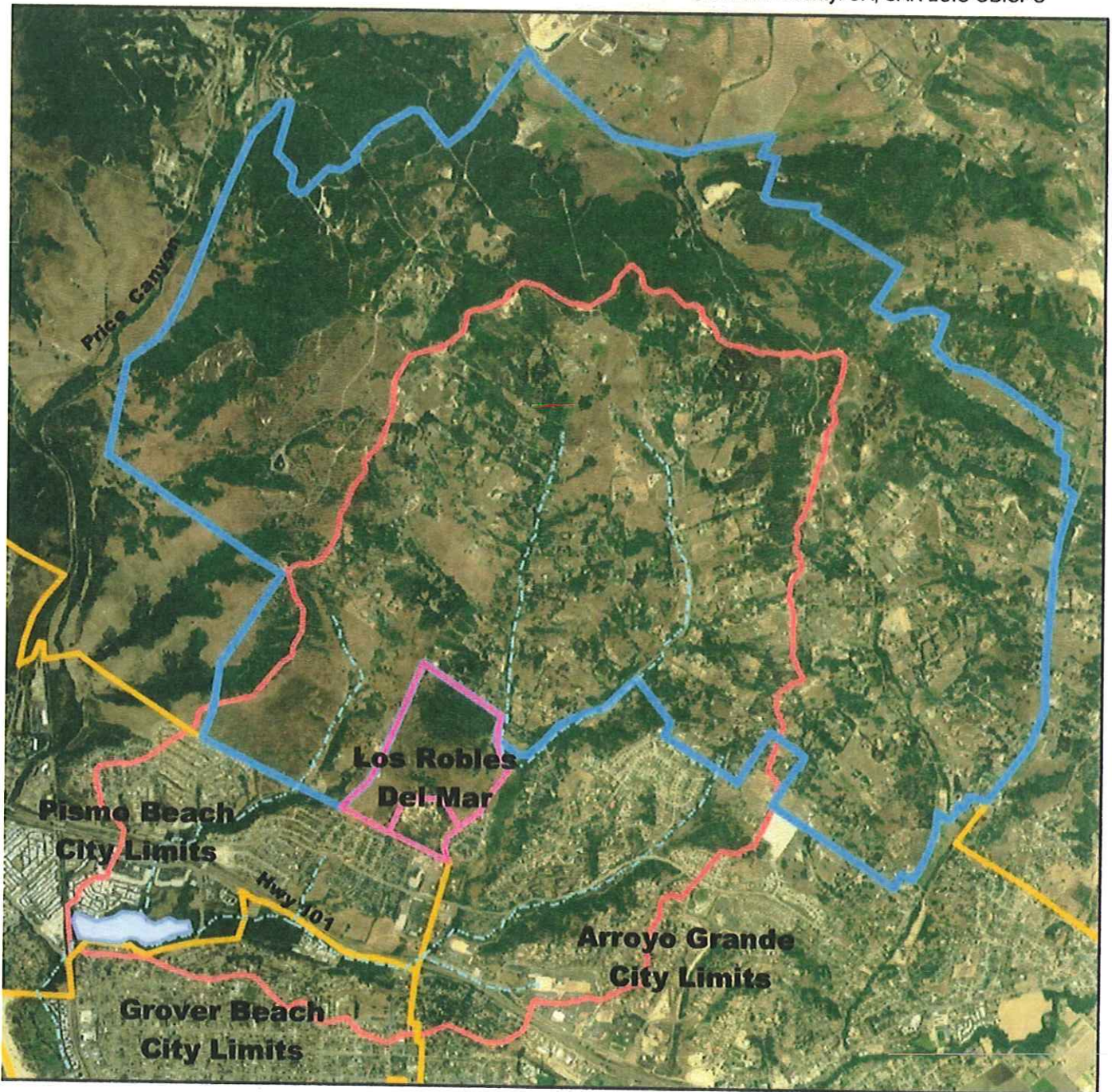


Pismo Lake Watershed







Date: 3/19/2008 23

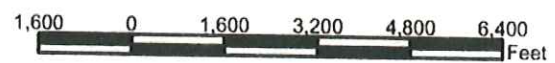
COASTAL SAN LUIS RCD

Field Office: TEMPLETON SERVICE CENTER
Agency: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
State and County: CA, SAN LUIS OBISPO



Legend

-  Pismo Lake
-  City Limits
-  Parcels in Deep Aquifer
-  Los Robles Del Mar Project Site
-  Meadow Creek Tributaries
-  Pismo Lake Watershed





Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve



Grover Beach and Pismo Beach are Working Together to Continue their Trail from the Butterfly Grove on Highway 1 to Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve.

For the past thirty years the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District has maintained an interest in Pismo Lake. This jewel, brought back from the brink of total loss and tucked away where few people really know about it, has to the District Board members been a “diamond in the rough”.

As we move forward, the District looks to working with the Lake’s new stewards, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, to make the Lake more accessible for environmental education, both for our own citizens and for visitors to our region. To that end, the District is leading an effort to secure funding for the building of an interpretive trail that would extend from the Lake itself across Fourth Street and connect to the hotels along El Camino Real. This would include the new Hilton Hotel, planned for the old bowling alley property. In this way visitors will be able to access the Lake for short walks and experience the beauty and interest that is there. Local residents would access the trail from a trailhead off Fourth Street. The State Parks Department, Cities of Pismo Beach and Grover Beach, and the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District are partners in this effort.

Following the extensive restoration work of the late 1980’s, the Lake’s health today continues to be good. The District however, remains interested in establishing and maintaining silt catchments and other watershed improvements that will help keep the silt from the highly erosive soils in the watershed where they belong...on the hillsides. The abbreviated *Pismo Lake Enhancement Plan*, developed in 2004, is intended to guide watershed management activities in order to protect the Lake. The District looks ahead to the continued functioning of the Lake as a valuable wildlife area and educational resource for the community.

Neil Havlik, President
Board of Directors
Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District

Service agreement between the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District and the City of Arroyo Grande 26

Regarding the provision of erosion and sedimentation control expertise by the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District to the City of Arroyo Grande for the review of grading and drainage and erosion control plans submitted for development in the City of Arroyo Grande.

This agreement between the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (RCD) and the City of Arroyo Grande (the City) defines procedures for the provision of erosion and sedimentation control expertise by the RCD to the City.

The RCD agrees:

1. To provide the services of the District engineering staff, specifically staff with expertise in the area of erosion and sedimentation control, on a fee for service basis to the City to perform reviews of grading and drainage and erosion control plans submitted to the city for development within the city of Arroyo Grande.
2. RCD staff will be covered under the RCD's insurance policy for workman's compensation and public liability and property damage and will cover activities performed by the RCD in performance of services to the City under this agreement.
3. RCD staff are supervised by the Board of Directors of the RCD and/or their designee(s). Any disputes pertaining to the quality, validity or appropriateness of the work of RCD staff will be reviewed and resolved by the RCD Board or their designee(s).
4. The RCD agrees to keep confidential all information pertaining to reviews.

The City agrees:

1. The RCD's fee for these services will be performed on an hourly basis at the cost of \$75.00 per hour.
2. To be the custodian of the review documents upon completion of the review by the RCD and maintain a record of reviews performed. The ownership of these documents will be determined by the City.
3. To formulate policy regarding the implementation of the recommendations contained in the review and provide for an enforcement mechanism in the event recommendations are not followed by the applicant. The city understands it is not the intention of the RCD to provide day to day inspection of the job site, but that the RCD will, if requested, provide initial inspection of the site with the city inspector. Further, the city agrees that changed conditions during actual implementation may necessitate initiation of a new review by the RCD.

4. Provide RCD staff with access to photos, maps, office space or other materials the city deems appropriate to facilitate completion of reviews.

The RCD and the City agree mutually to:

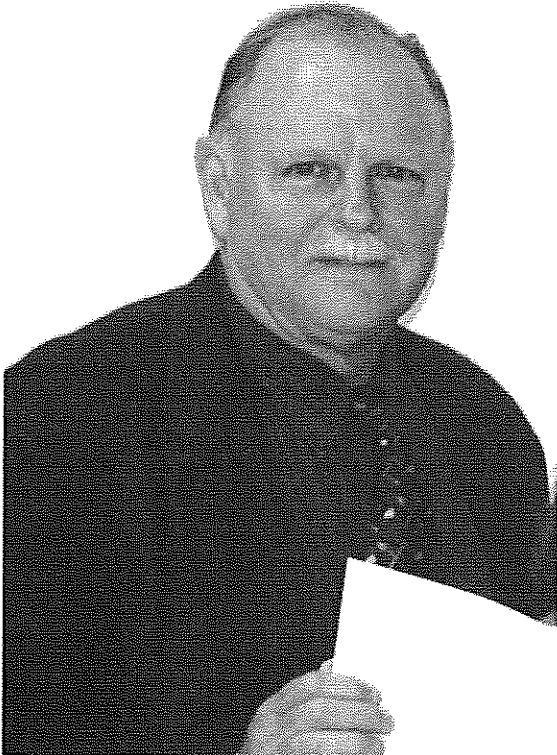
- 1. Coordinate activities to ensure efficiency in program delivery and good working relations.
- 2. Meet annually to discuss the effectiveness of this agreement and determine where improvements or enhancements can be made.
- 3. This agreement can be modified by agreement of both parties, or terminated by either party at any time. Termination of this agreement by either party will be issued in writing.

Neil Hawlik

President, Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District

[Signature]

MAYOR, City of Arroyo Grande



Neil Hawlik

Citizen Involvement:

Nanci Parker
1127 Vard Loomis Lane
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

RINCON DEVELOPMENT IN ARROYO GRANDE

Conclusion:

1. It is not within the best interest of the city of Arroyo Grande to allow a 25 foot setback to maintain the habitat and to prevent chemical runoff into this biologically protected area which is predicated on the participation of a Homeowners Association. Neither home owners nor a Home Owners Association have appropriate or affective means of enforcing adequately the ongoing protection of such an environmentally rich area.

In order to protect the surrounding areas from the run-off and airborne particles from weed abatement chemical application as well as other protection for our agricultural lands, we have a full 100-foot designated buffer setback. It seems prudent that we address the same impacts in this situation. A 50-foot minimum setback from State regulated and Federally recognized endangered species is the only way we can ensure the continuation and viability of this area. We cannot rely on homeowners to mitigate this impact.

2. The Environmental Impact presented has addressed many important points, it is vital to take heed of the issue of significant and unavoidable impacts and take them seriously. It is also important to recognize that several of the impacts listed as mitigatable are in fact only so if possible achieve. As stated before, several of the listed mitigations are impossible to attain, or they do not achieve the avoidance of the impact. These must be viewed as further unavoidable impacts.

The only way this developer will bring back an appropriate development that clearly prevents destruction to this region is to deny all projects that impact a 50-foot buffer. Only then will the developer take seriously the situation and present a legitimate project we can all live with. These projects presented must be turned down. None of the projects presented so far are responsible to our community.

3. As per CEQA standards, Direct and Indirect Impacts [Guidelines Sec. 15064 (c)] "in evaluating the significance of an impact, the Lead Agency must consider both the direct and the indirect impacts of the project. Indirect Impact, also referred to as Secondary Impact, of the project that may occur either later in time or at some distance from the project site but that are still reasonably foreseeable."

This is, in my judgment, the most serious Impact this project leaves this community. Many community members as well as government agencies have worked for years to preserve the wildlife and riparian/wetland marsh lands regions of Meadow Creek and the Pismo Marshes. This incredible area has been set aside and maintained by a uniting of our entire regional community. [See Attachemnt 1]

The springs that feed this incredible territory stem from the P.U.D. 01-001 Project

riparian/wetland location, identified by the U.S. Geological map as a "blue line" seasonal creek. If anything damages this riparian/wetland area, or if damage comes to the spring that feeds it, this will do huge and permanent damage to the entire region of wetland/riparian we have already decided, as a larger community, to save.

Meadow Creek, including its tributaries, all contribute to either the good health or the demise of the Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve, also home of federally protected species. By destroying this East Fork Tributary, we contribute to the destroying of the Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve, as well as every site along the way. This is not just an Arroyo Grande pocket, this decision affects the whole South County region, a region that many have been trying to protect for years.

Homes must not be built on or near this stream or the wetland/riparian portion of this land. Damage must not spill over to this stream or to its banks, or to the portion of land that homes the wildlife and rare vegetation that live within it. This impact will be serious and irreparable to our community as well as to our neighboring communities. This is not just one of those "environmental arguments" that go on and on. This is serious. This is worth fighting for.

Americans criticize our neighboring continents for their continuous ravaging of natural resources. Although this project seems to be too small to have any vital effect, the accumulated impacts to this vicinity as well as others can be enormous. The size of this project over the area of the world may seem insignificant, but this does not mean it does our community does not have value. We have special endangered creatures and plant life growing in abundance here that will be lost forever. Would this impact be worth an addition of more homes to our community? I believe it is the responsibility of this builder as well as this community to protect what we have, as well as to build responsibly. Some of our city areas can easily maintain homes, often even a higher density. This area simply cannot.

The construction of homes on this site must not encroach on this vital riparian area. The only acceptable compromise is to limit the amount of homes built to a number this land can legitimately sustain. Limit the number of homes to areas that do not encroach in any way on the riparian/wetland and stream area. Plan for an allowance of adequate buffer between home sites and sensitive habitat area for preservation and protection. Enforce all mitigation to the fullest extent and provide for continuance of protection once a project has been completed.

It is in the hands of our city to decide to allow or disallow such destruction to take place. By reviewing the facts presented, the only way to permit this destruction is to rule for an overriding consideration, and ignore the pleas of the people as well as the facts surrounding the demise of this rich habitat.



Before and After-Destruction of Wetlands



Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District Watershed History 1956

WATERSHED WORK PLAN SIGNED

Public Law 1018-84th Congress, 2nd Session. The Supplemental Watershed Work Plan Agreement between the Arroyo Grande Soil Conservation District, SLO Co. Flood Control and Water Conservation District, State and Soil Conservation Service was executed on March 28, 1956:

Whereas, the Watershed Work Plan for the Arroyo Grande Creek Watershed met the requirements of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act. The SCS is now authorized to provide assistance to the Sponsoring Organization: in the installation of works of improvement in accordance with the terms, conditions, Public Law 1018 (84th Congress, 2nd Session). The sponsoring Local Organization will acquire without cost to the Federal Government such land, easements, right-of-way as will be needed in connection with the works of improvement. (Estimated cost \$64,632).

Work Begins

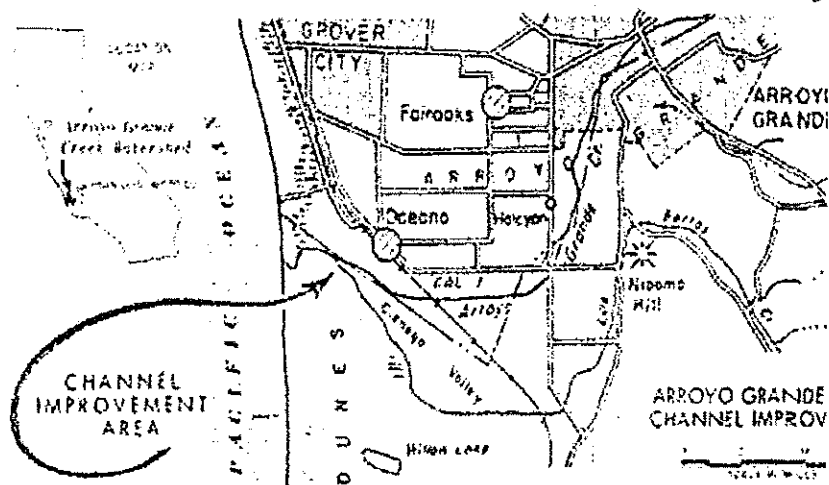
Land treatment included better cropping systems, range and pasture management, range and pasture seedlings and sand dune stabilization. Structural works included more fire protection, on 18,000 acres and 3 1/2 miles of rock riveted-channel construction with highway bridges and other appurtenant structures.

Information from
SCS Booklet



Survey Party- Left to right-Charles Scribner, Paul Skidmore and Darrel Parker 6/77/57

Arroyo Grande Creek Watershed 566 Proj



Arroyo Grande Channel Improvement .

1978

COASTAL SAN LUIS RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

CSLRCD First Watershed Management Meeting 1978



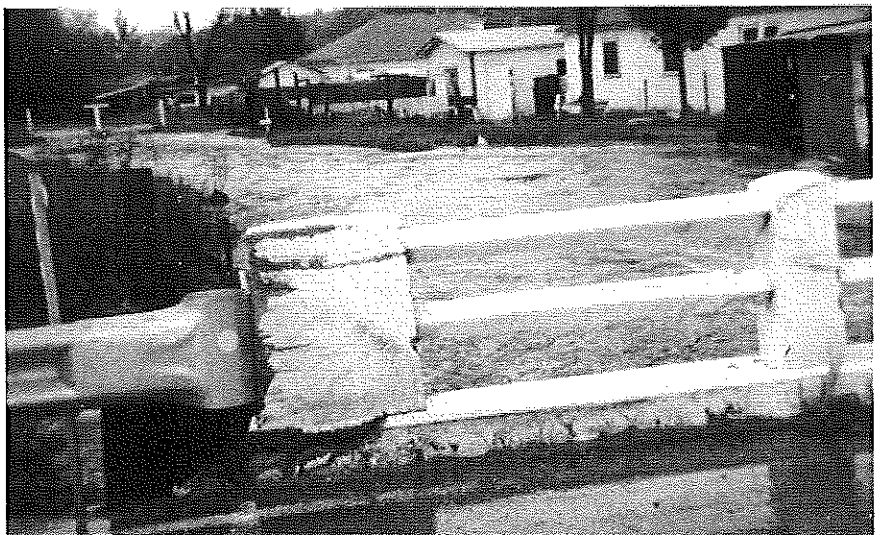
WORKING TOWARDS COMPREHENSIVE WATERSHED DRAINAGE PLANS FOR COASTAL SAN LUIS RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

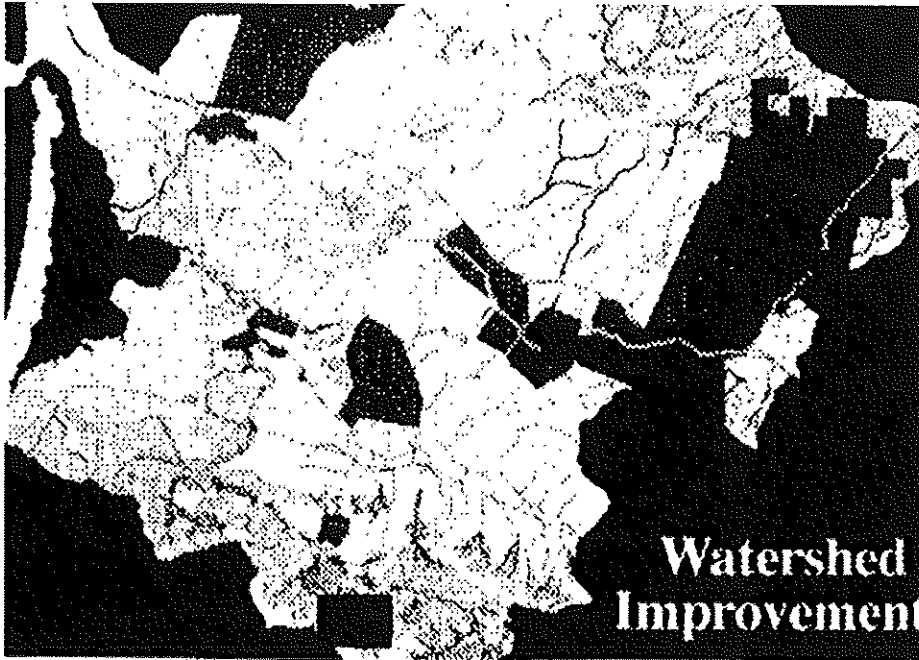
The Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District cordially invites you to attend a meeting on "Working Towards Comprehensive Drainage Plans". The meeting will be held Wednesday, November 1, 1978 at the Veterans Memorial Bldg., Bello Avenue and Main Street in Pismo Beach. The meeting will start promptly at 9 A.M. and end at 1 P.M. There will be a panel of speakers and a discussion period.

As you are aware, there are numerous agencies that are concerned with flooding problems. Serious flooding occurs as a result of the lack of overall comprehensive watershed drainage planning. The purpose of this meeting is to coordinate the different agencies and their expertise into a unit working toward the comprehensive drainage plans for all of the watersheds within the Coastal San Luis RCD.

Your attendance at this meeting would be most helpful to our deliberations in developing a cooperating agreement between the various agencies.

RSVP 489-8186 or 489-2992
D.G. Porter
D.G. Porter, President
P. O. Box 548, Arroyo Grande





1991

Sediment is filling Morro Bay prematurely. Dark areas on the map show where land owners are working with the Morro Bay Watershed Enhancement Project to preserve valuable topsoil.

September 20, 1991

Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District received a **\$3,000,000** Grant at the Coastal Commission Meeting in San Francisco for watershed work in Morro Bay.

Lauana Kiger and Carol Arnold were instrumental in acquiring the money from the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service and the California Department of Transportation.

Watershed work in the Morro Bay Estuary was done by Coastal San Luis RCD, Extension Service and other conservation programs shared the grant money.

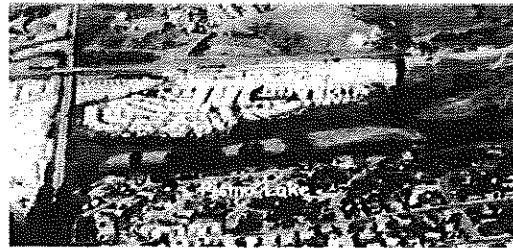
Carol Arnold Speaking to the CA Coastal Commission on behalf of the Morro Bay Estuary Grant.



2000- 2008 Department of Conservation Resource Conservation District Watershed Coordinator Grant Program

The Watershed Coordinator Grant Program for Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) was established in the Budget Act of 2000 to fund watershed coordinators throughout the state. As used in other states, and in a few California watersheds, watershed coordinators bring diverse stakeholder groups together to implement consensus-based improvements to the watershed. This includes reducing erosion and pollutants, restoring fisheries and habitats, removing noxious weeds, reducing fire danger, and expanding public education. Coordinators build coalitions for watershed improvement, obtain funds for those improvements, carry out those projects, and educate residents of the watersheds on how to best manage and care for them.

Watershed Coordination and Memorandums of Understandings between San Luis Obispo County, Pismo Beach, Grover Beach, Arroyo Grande and numerous State and Federal Agencies is needed, because development pressures are building in the Meadow Creek Watershed Area north of Oak Park Road.



Pismo Lake Watershed Enhancement Plan

Pismo Lake Task Force

March 22, 2004

The RCD's involvement in Pismo Lake has been long and constant through the planning, funding, implementation and maintenance phases. The RCD, California Department of Fish and Game and NRCS were all involved in making the project happen, recognizing the importance of the resource as a unique wetland and open water ecosystem that provides vital wildlife habitat, protects water quality and provides an important flood water management function for the community. The public's involvement, as the property is transferred to State Parks, is essential for it's continuance. The long term keepers of this precious resource are the people living in the watersheds that flow into Pismo Lake - it is time for their watch to begin.



Saving Pismo Lake

Forthcoming book documents its history and its threats

BOB BEHME
Staff Writer

PISMO BEACH — For years, Ella Honeycutt has been considered by many as the Five Cities' clearest voice for conservation and ecological good sense.

She has written a number of books on local history, fought to preserve nature and farmland, is a director of the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District and is a member of the Pismo Lake Task Force.

Her latest concern is Pismo Lake, a unique 30-acre body of water be-

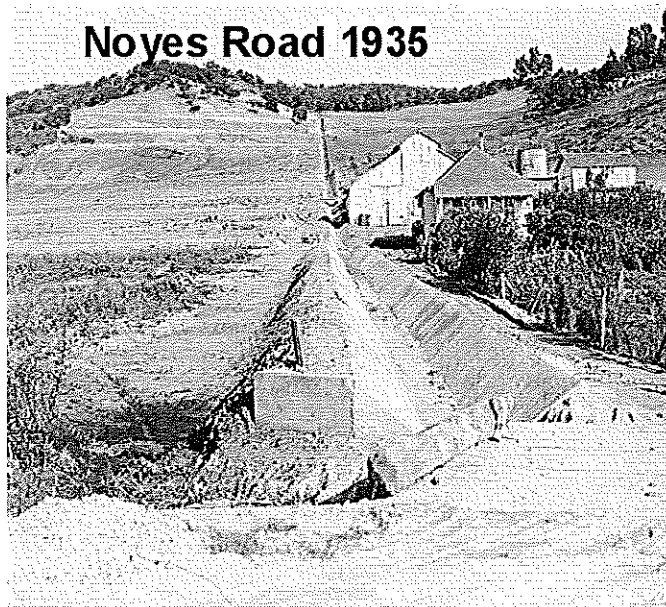
tween Grover Beach and Pismo Beach that is also the focus of a task force study authored by Honeycutt.

Almost hidden by 39 acres of woodland habitat, thick with willows and other native species, the lake sits in a swale between the Hacienda del Pismo Mobile Home Park, Prime Outlets of Pismo Beach and the hills north of Grover Heights.

It is invisible from Highway 101, and from Fourth Street you catch only a quick, disjointed glimpse as you drive by. Many locals consider it the "Five Cities' Forgotten Lake."

A result of the Pismo Lake Task Force project, Honeycutt's latest book, "Pismo Lake Ecological Plan," spells out the history and life of the area, although to Honeycutt it has a

See **PISMO LAKE** / A1



Noyes Road 1935



Noyes Road 1979

Noyes Road Above Printz Road Near Arroyo Grande

State <u>California</u>	NUMBER <u>6017</u>
County <u>San Luis Obispo</u>	Photographer <u>A. H. Yallut</u>
Distance and Direction from nearest town <u>about 1/2 mile from Arroyo Grande</u>	Date <u>December 6, 1959</u> Time <u>11:15 P.M.</u>
Location by Permanent Landmark <u>Printz 1/2 mi. S.</u>	Weather <u>Bad</u>
Photographer's Position <u>From Printz looking at main and farm roads, looking northeast</u>	Camera <u>3 1/2" Nikon Vario</u>
	Film <u>Quincy 2 Grand 135</u>
	Stop <u>11</u> Exposure <u>25</u>
	Film # <u>Kodak</u> Meter Reading
	Land Owner or Operator
	Name <u>Cardona</u>
	Address <u>Arroyo Grande</u>
	Cooperative Contract <u>1-7-58-10</u>

SUBJECT AND HISTORY

Subj: Terraces, contour ditches, and Outlet Ditches with main ditch in center.
History: This field was useless a year ago, and is now being cultivated due to the building of above subject.



The erosion control canal in Arroyo Grande goes through the property of Floyd and Carolyn Moffatt before it reaches Noyes.

TPR/Glenn Bolivar

Book Finished
April 2008

PISMO LAKE: Threats outlined in book

Continued from A1

more important mission — to alert developers who are building houses on the slopes east of the lake that the dirt they leave behind flows to the lake and creates silt. Unless they take care, that silt can overwhelm the lake, Honeycutt insists.

In the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps built concrete ditches and terraces to control rain runoff, a problem that has old roots and is documented by Honeycutt.

Honeycutt believes Pismo Lake is one of the most unusual and important bodies of water in the area. Part saltwater and part fresh — a combination unusual in itself — the lake acts as a collector for the winter rains that come off the slopes and flow down Meadow Creek, which empties into the lake and is its only source of renewal.

By collecting runoff, the lake prevents flooding farther downstream and provides a much-needed habitat for birds and mammals, according to Honeycutt.

Today, the lake and the land around it form the Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve, home to 250 species of birds,

mammals, reptiles and amphibians.

It was a healthy wetlands when the Wildlife Conservation Board purchased it in 1976 but, as Honeycutt documents in her book, in less than a decade sediment from developments along upper Meadow Creek reduced the lake to less than 2 1/2 acres.

California Department of Fish & Game went after the developers who caused the siltation and reached a settlement.

As Honeycutt writes, Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District directors became alarmed at the loss of waterfowl habitat and, with the help of county supervisors, created a plan to restore the failing reserve. The then-Soil Conservation Service and the Department of Fish & Game helped.

In 1986, the lake was dredged and deepened, and 78,000 cubic yards of silt were used to create four islands in the lake. The islands have since become important breeding grounds.

Since 2002, additional development along the hillsides has again threatened the lake.

That development currently concerns Honeycutt and

is what makes her book so timely.

Honeycutt's book began as a history of Pismo Lake. But with the coming of the task force, its scope was broadened to include the history and importance of the surrounding watershed.

Another aspect of the book is the collection of never-before-seen photos it contains. Taken from the personal collection of Clark Moore, who was district conservation officer for 40 years, they are published for the first time in Honeycutt's book.

The task force is composed of staff from Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District, San Luis Obispo County and the cities of Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach and Pismo Beach.

Honeycutt's book is currently in final revision and will be printed shortly. Copies will be available at the Arroyo Grande Library, local book stores and, perhaps, at the South County Historical Society store in the Village of Arroyo Grande.

Staff writer Bob Behme can be reached at 489-4206, Ext. 5014, or by e-mail at bbehme@pulitzer.net.

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Royce Lambert Soil Scientist Cal Poly
Central Coast Resource Conservation and Development Council
Mike Simmons NRCS Soils Engineer
Dr. Tom Rice Soil Scientist Cal Poly
Mark Cooke NRCS Engineer
Bob Bronson Wetland Activist
Nancy Parker Arroyo Grande Planning Commissioner
Dr. Neil Havlik President CSLRCD
Julie Thomas Watershed Coordinator CSLRCD
Pismo Lake Ecological Reserve Study # 1, 2, 3 by Ella Honeycutt

LOCAL

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THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2008

BOB CUDDY



Ag ally still toils for soil — even after retirement

You may not know Ella Honeycutt's name, but every time you drive by a working farm in the South County you should give her a mental salute. She has been helping agricultural lands and farmers for 30 years.

Honeycutt just retired from her post with the Natural Resources Conservation Council. But don't expect her to climb into a rocking chair. She still has work to do.

Nevertheless, 30 years is quite a benchmark, and county supervisors have honored Honeycutt for her work.

"In the South County, she's considered to be the best steward of farmland and the great protector of earth erosion control," Supervisor Katcho Achadjian said. "Pismo Lake in the 1980s was almost destroyed" until Honeycutt started working to bring it back, a task now close to complete.

Honeycutt grew up in Colorado, where her father and grandfather farmed. She came to California at age 13, graduated from high school in Colton and attended San Bernardino Valley College.

When she moved to San Luis Obispo County, Honeycutt hooked up with the soil conservation service, learning a great

deal from the late Clark Moore. In the early days, she said, she worked more with family farmers, who came for advice.

"The one person who is forgotten is the farmer who wants to stay in farming," Honeycutt said.

Later, her reach broadened.

She met Shirley Bianchi, who is now a retired county supervisor but at the time was beginning her political career.

"Those were really wild and heady days," Bianchi recalled last week. She said prominent developers were "putting out the word that 'agriculture is dead in San Luis Obispo County.'"

Bianchi said Honeycutt "attended meeting after meeting in an effort to protect the prime ag land in South County and elsewhere.

"Ella is the one who used to say, 'If it is bad being dependent on foreign oil, think how bad it will be to be dependent on foreign soil.'"

And she used her own technique: "forceful, but gentle and constant pressure," said Neil Havlik, natural resources manager for the city of San Luis Obispo.

Honeycutt was a key player in protecting South County farmers and residents from the ravages of Arroyo Grande Creek, which used to fill regularly with silt and is now safe because of her lobbying.

Honeycutt also was an educator.

"She was ... instrumental in bringing to the attention and then educating people on the need for the protection of ag land" from the consumer and environmental points of view, Bianchi said.

Honeycutt, who has written several local histories, is working to finish saving Pismo Lake, a small body of water that few people know exists in Pismo Beach.

It is visited by 260 kinds of birds, including blue herons, cormorants and egrets. Honeycutt hopes to see an observation platform and trails there one day.

Honeycutt looks back on her years as an advocate with satisfaction, all the more so because she and her husband have passed on their community-oriented values to their four adult children.

It's been fun and rewarding, she said. "How many people can sit back and say, 'I helped save it?'"