

## EAC's lost history comes to light

*EAC member Jim Gault recently found this fascinating memo from EAC's earliest days. If you have any EAC history in your files, we'd be pleased to have a copy for our archives. If you are interested in helping collect information for a history of EAC, please contact the office at 663-9312.*

May 22, 1972

In the fall of 1970 the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin was formed as a result of the opening by the National Park Service of the road to Mt. Vision to the private auto. By April 1971 we were an incorporated group and by June, Jerry Friedman decided to leave Walden Center School in Berkeley after 6 years of teaching, in order to devote his time and energy in helping to solve West Marin environmental and planning problems.

John Holt, the well known educator and author (*How Children Learn, How Children Fail*), agreed to pay Jerry \$4,000 in order to keep the group going on a full time basis. Standard Oil contributed \$500 as a result of our work during the oil spill, and the Sierra Club Foundation has periodically contributed funds for non-legislative work connected with the Point Reyes National Seashore. In late fall of 1971, the Conservation Foundation of Washington, D.C., agreed to hire Jerry for the duration of the Tomales Bay Study as one of the coordinators, with funds separate from those collected for the study by local citizen groups.

During the next year, John Holt will diminish his contribution to the group so that we must be self-sufficient.

Consequently, to continue on as a viable, full time, self-supporting organization, a fund raising committee of volunteer members has been established. The goal of our fundraisers is \$5,000. With this amount our group will be able to support a full time representative to attend meetings and do all the necessary research and information dissemination crucial to accomplishing the goals of our organization. To date, EACOWM's primary expenditures have been for our monthly phone bill which has run around \$120, for our newsletter at a cost of \$15 per mailing, and for expenses connected with EACOWM meetings and special projects.

As a first step toward our goal of \$5,000 we are asking each individual member to contribute \$10 or more. (For those members who cannot afford \$10 a year, any contribution above \$1 will be counted as a membership fee.) The importance of such contributions is threefold.

First, it raises money. Second, it firmly establishes a roster of truly supporting members. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, it opens the door to foundation matching grants.

Our next steps towards our goal are still in the exploratory stages, and we seek your advice and help. Members of the fund raising committee are actively investigating the possibilities of sponsoring an arts and crafts fair and/or auction, rummage sale, a musical benefit concert featuring a well-known artist or group, and the creation and sale of our own West Marin poster (complementary ones, of course, for all our members). All of these different projects could be profitable and fun with active support and participation from all of us.

We have an outstanding and well-respected organization. The positions expressed and actions taken by this group, made public through our representatives, have earned our group an ever increasing part in influencing decision making bodies not only in Marin but also in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. Your active support and participation will insure the future of EACOWM.

Sincerely yours,

Marj Stone, Chairman, EACOWM Fund Raising Committee

### Some Highlights of EACOWM's Work 1970-1972

- Organized a coalition of groups to prepare a joint statement on the Seashore Master Plan.
- Supported the Sierra Club's wilderness proposal for Point Reyes National Seashore.
- Set up West Marin's first recycling center.
- Won the repeal of the West Marin General Plan, and the establishment of an Interim Ordinance to protect West Marin.
- Won the adoption of A-60 zoning.
- Won the extension of the Tidal Waterways Ordinance up Lagunitas Creek and all tidal areas in Marin.
- Won protection of Limantour Estero and Point Reyes Headlands as research natural areas.

*Please note: Many of our battles would not have been won without the help of many other local and countywide groups.*