

## Finding Aid to the Nancy Fahden Collection

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### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Nancy Fahden Collection

**Date Range:** 1979-1992

**Collection number:** 93-47 & 93-60

**Extent:** 26 boxes

**Physical Location:** Special Collections

**Repository:** County History Center, Contra Costa County Historical Society, 724 Escobar Street, Martinez, CA 94553, 925-229-1042

**Abstract:** This collection is from the files of former Contra Costa County Supervisor Nancy Fahden, who served on the Board of Supervisors from 1976 to 1992. Fahden was the first woman elected to the Board.

**Legal status:** public

### Information for Researchers

**Access:** Collection is open for research.

**Publication Rights:** [Contact the Contra Costa County Historical Society for publication permission.](#)

**Preferred Citation:** Suggested citation of these records is: [Identification of item], Nancy Fahden Collection, Contra Costa County Historical Society.

**Scope and Content:** In 1976 Nancy Cardinali Fahden entered the race for Board of Supervisors when the candidate she was supporting had to drop out of the race and suggested that she run in his place. She did so and became the first woman to be elected to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, winning 65 percent of the vote in her first-ever venture into politics. She served four terms (16 years), ending in 1992. She was active in controlling refinery pollution, opposed the controversial proposed Marsh Canyon landfill site near Mount Diablo in favor of the Keller Canyon site in Pittsburg, and opposed the proposed annexation of the Franklin Canyon area by the City of Hercules. During her tenure, the waterfront in Martinez became a park thanks in part to her efforts and advocacy. She organized the first public clean-up of the waterfront, where her father had worked as a fisherman when she was a child. Ultimately the waterfront became a park under the management of the East Bay Regional Park District. Fahden retired from the Board of Supervisors and public service in 1992. She died in 2015 at age 92.

The collection includes correspondence, reports, memoranda and meeting agendas on a wide variety of issues including redevelopment of the Concord Naval Weapons Station, closing of public hospitals, mental illness and homelessness, fire department staffing, reports of abuse of overtime by County employees, traffic safety, and many local building and development issues. The collection also includes correspondence regarding Fahden's personal interests and her political campaigns.

**Arrangement of Materials:** The Nancy Fahden Collection is contained in 26 boxes.

**Box 1:** Subject files: A-Be: Alhambra Creek, the Alhambra Valley Specific Plan Committee, Automobile Oil Recycling, Ballot Measure (to raise funds for mental health services), the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Bass (threatened by selenium in the San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento/San Joaquin River Delta), and the Benicia Bridge (four folders on traffic problems and related issues).

**Box 2:** Subject Files: Bi-Bri: Billboards, Blum Road Truck Refueling Station, Bollinger-Hunsaker (development planning in those two areas), and eight folders on the Briones Hills area including development plans, issues, controversies and studies.

**Box 3:** Subject Files: Br-Cri: Brown Act (political reform), Buchanan Field Airport (safety and noise), Caldecott Tunnel (two folders), Call Boxes 1991, Campaign Finance, Carquinez Bridge Project, Child Care (Board of Supervisors Resolution 81/128), Community Planning, County Hospital Expansion (two folders), County Job Cuts & Finances, Crime Gun Control.

**Box 4:** Subject Files: Crockett: Six folders on various issues in Crockett, including community planning, funding, and a cogeneration plant for electric power.

**Box 5:** Subject Files: Ea-El: Earthquake Safety, East Bay Regional Park District (two folders), Election Reform, Electro-Magnetic Fields, R-4 Committee/El Sobrante Parks and Recreation, El Sobrante Correspondence 1990 (two folders).

**Box 6:** Subject Files: El-He: El Sobrante Valley Traffic Advisory Committee, El Sobrante Fence Problem, Environmental Issues, Environmental-Oil Recycling, Ferry (two folders), Franklin Canyon 1990, Hazardous Waste Tax, Hercules, Hercules Correspondence 1990.

**Box 7:** Subject Files: Ho-IT: Homeless, I.T. Corporation (six folders)

**Box 8:** Subject Files: Ja-Ma: Jail (two folders), Kamps for Kids, Lafayette Library Assistant, Lamorinda Network for Growth, Land Fill, Los Vaqueros, M-17 Letter to the Editor, Martinez-Alhambra Creek, Martinez-Alhambra Valley, Martinez-Arthur Road Development, Martinez Central Corporation Yard.

**Box 9:** Subject Files: Martinez: ten folders on various issues in Martinez including downtown development and parking, expansion of the John Muir historic site, Morello Avenue and the River View Hotel in downtown Martinez.

**Box 10:** Subject Files: Ma-Na: Martinez Shelter for Homeless, Martinez-Shell Community Advisory Panel, Martinez-Stonehurst Sanitary District, Martinez-Vine Hill Area, M-17 Citizens Committee, Mental Health Issues and Funding, Merrithew Hospital Letters of Support, Mobile Home/Trailer Park, M.T.B.E., Naval Weapons Station and Nuclear Materials Transportation and Storage.

**Box 11:** Subject Files: Oa-Pa: Oakmont Cemetery, Off Road Vehicles, Pacheco Junkyard, PROs for Kids 1983, Pacific Refinery (four folders).

**Box 12:** Subject Files: Pa-Po: Pacific Refinery (three folders), Pit Bull Regulations, Pinole Correspondence 1990, Pornography 1988, Porno Bookstore Pacheco, Port Chicago, Port Costa (three folders).

**Box 13:** Pr-Ro: Prisoners Escapes, Probation (five folders), Property Tax Collection, Property Tax Legislation, Public Environmental Health Advisory Board, Public Hospitals and Their Future, Rail, Rodeo (five folders).

**Box 14:** Subject Files: Rodeo: Six folders on various issues in Rodeo including community planning, redevelopment, Lone Tree Park and the waterfront.

**Box 15:** Subject Files: Sa-St: Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, San Pablo Correspondence, San Pablo Redevelopment Purchase Agreement, San Ramon Wiedemann Ranch, Senior Housing, Sick Leave Issue/John Stiglich (two folders), Solid Waste/Recycling, SP [Southern Pacific] Rail, SP Switching, Special Districts Listing, Stateco First Choice Health Plan (two folders).

**Box 16:** Subject Files: St-Ta: Street Lighting Charges, Street Sweeping Policy, Striped Bass, Suspended Drivers License, Storage Tank Rules (Air Quality), Tara Hills Mobile Manor, Proposed County Business Tax License, Tax Increment Financing, Tax Override, Taxicab Ordinance, Taylor Bus Company.

**Box 17:** Subject Files: Ti-Tr: Time Capsule Program, Teenage Pregnancies (two files), Telephone Usage Reports (by County Employees), Cable Television Televents (three folders), Cable Television Regulations, Tobacco, Tosco Refinery Proposed Road, Traffic Mitigation Fees 1990, Transfer Station.

**Box 18:** Subject Files: Tr-Ut: Trails, Transportation Issues (four folders), Tree Task Force, Tree Trimming Policy, Tri Valley Sewer Line, United Way Fundraising 1987, Unocal Settlement, Urban Limit Line 1990 (two folders), Utility Users Tax.

**Box 19:** Subject Files: Ve-Wi: Veterans Administration, Veterans Halls, Veterans Day Care Center in Martinez, Vial Of Life (Medical Program For Seniors), Victim Assistance For Seniors, Video Display Terminals, Vietnam Veterans Memorial In Martinez, View Ordinance, Vine Hill, Voter Information And Registration (two folders), Withholding of Crime Victims' Names (Legislation, 1981).

**Box 20:** Subject Files: Water: Waterfront, Water Merger (Contra Costa Water District and East Bay Municipal Utility District), Water Issues/Newspaper Articles, Contra Costa Water Plan (two folders), Water Task Force 1986.

**Box 21:** Subject Files: Wa-Yu: Water Hyacinths, Waterford County Ireland (Sister County Proposal), Weed Abatement, Welfare 1991-1992, Wellness Programs, West County Planning Programs, Wetlands Ordinance, White Bass, Wickland Oil Company, Wildcat Creek Flood Control, Year Of The Teenager 1989, Wood Shakes And Shingles, Yellow Ribbon County 1991, Youth Conservation Corps, Yuba City Bus Accident Memorial.

**Box 22:** Fahden: Political: Campaign Material (Fahden And Len Battaglia For Supervisor), Correspondence (two folders), County Budget And Insurance, Nancy Fahden Political (three folders).

**Box 23:** Fahden: Political & Personal: News Items, Letters To The Editor, Family, Accomplishments And Awards, Statements Of Economic Interest, Certificates Of Election And Appreciation, Old Newspaper Articles, Fahden Farms (Vineyard) Award, Fahden County Salary And Compensation; Non-Fahden Subjects: County Policy On Public Speaking Engagements, Carquinez Scenic Drive Hiking And Biking Trail, Buy American Policy, Solicitation Charity Regulations.

**Box 24:** Individuals (B-M): George Baird, Jerry Boyd (Martinez Police Chief), Charles Bock Lawsuit Against County Clerk Steve Weir, Paul Brotzman (Martinez City Manager), Gary Brown, Harriett Burt (Martinez City Council), Henry L. Clark, Sheila Cogan (County Staff), Craig Crossley (Moraga Mayor), Earl Denison, Mary Erbez (Pittsburg), Tim Farley (Martinez City Council), Superior Court Judge Richard Flier, Larry Hagin, Sara Hoffman (County Staff), Joel Keller (Antioch Mayor), Gus Kramer (County Clerk Campaign), Julian Frazer, Chuck Latting, Lieutenant Governor Leo McCarthy (Dinner, 1991), John McTigue Letters Of Support (District Attorney), Mike Menesini (Martinez Mayor And City Council, three folders).

**Box 25:** Individuals (N-Y): Barbara Neustadter (County Staff), John Proconier (Died in Sheriff's Custody 1986), Russ Quinn Letters Of Support For Fahden 1984, Darnell Reese, Elizabeth Rimbault (Antioch City Council, 1990, two folders), David Rowlands (Antioch City Manager 1991), Jeff Smith (County Board Of Supervisors, two folders), Joan Sparks (County Staff), Andrew Surges (County Fish And Wildlife Advisory Board), Michael Tucevich (District Attorney), Claude Van Marter (County Staff), Lee Walter, Karl Wandry (County Staff), Richard Desmond Washington (Homeless Person), Ann Williams, Barbara Woodburn (Martinez City Council 1990), Robert Whelan (Posse Comitatus), Safety Retirement For Probation Officers.

**Box 26:** Correspondence to or from Nancy Fahden on issues including Ambulance Service, Animal Control Services, Appointments to County Boards, Legislation, Miscellaneous (only one or two letters on each topic), Personal & Political (including a thank-you note from First Lady Barbara Bush), Property-Specific Issues (such as code violations, inspections, complaints), Social Services, and Transportation Issues.

**Indexing Terms:** Animal control services, Nancy Fahden, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, parks, Concord Naval Weapons Station, East Bay Regional Park District, Keller Canyon Landfill, pollution, public hospitals, homeless services, social services, transportation, traffic safety, Southern Pacific, parole, probation, air quality, local politics, Martinez waterfront, water quality.