



May 20, 2012

Mr. Pedro Reyes
Chief Deputy Director, Policy
California Department of Finance
State Capitol, Room 1145
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subj: Scheduled Demolition of the Palm Springs High School (PSHS) Administration Building by the Palm Springs Unified School District (County of Riverside)/SAB UNFUNDED APPROVAL 50/67173-00-002 (New Construction)

Dear Mr. Reyes,

We are writing to you as the designee of Ms. Ana J. Matosantos (Chair, State Allocation Board/Director, Department of Finance).

In advance of your State Allocation Board meeting on June 27, 2012 we are providing you with a letter we sent to the Palm Springs Unified School District Board of Education on May 2, 2012 (attachment 1). The school district intends to demolish an architecturally and historically significant building (the Palm Springs High School Administration Building (1958, Wexler & Harrison)) and replace it with a new Performing Arts building. They are requesting \$874,416 from you to proceed with this project.

The local community overwhelmingly supports our view that the demolition of the historic Administration Building is unnecessary, wasteful and deprives the city of Palm Springs of a valuable cultural resource (see attachment 2 from the local Indian tribe) and our informative advocacy page on our website at "www.pspreservationfoundation.org/pshs.html" includes local media coverage on this issue. We have even proposed a far superior alternative plan that adaptively reuses the historic building and more adequately meets the needs of the school's performing arts program (see attachment 3). However, the local Board of Education feels that the project is "too far along" and asserts that funding for the demolition and new construction is "90% certain."

We are confident that **not** funding this project will delay the project long enough to allow the school district time to pursue the adaptive reuse of the historic PSHS Administration Building. We ask that you consider the attached information and decide if the \$874,416 at issue is the best use of the taxpayer's money in light of the current budget environment.

Sincerely,

Ron Marshall
President

Attachments:

1. Palm Springs Preservation Foundation letter of May 2, 2012 (with attachments)
2. Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians letter of May 16, 2012 (without attachments)
3. Alternative Plan for the Adaptive Reuse of the PSHS Administration Building

Copy to:

Ms. Lisa Silverman (Executive Officer, Office of Public School Construction)