



June 24, 2012

Dr. Christine J. Anderson, Superintendent
Palm Springs Unified School District
980 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Suite 101
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Dear Dr. Anderson,

We have had an opportunity to review in detail the "Historic Resources Assessment Report" prepared by Pamela Daly of Daly & Associates on the Palm Springs High School (PSHS) Administration Building (Wexler & Harrison, 1957) for the Palm Springs Unified School District. The assessment, to its credit, draws liberally from documentation we provided to you, but the preparer's additional research is incomplete and rife with errors.

Palm Springs Preservation Foundation board member Patrick McGrew (who meets the professional qualification standards for evaluating historic resources as defined in 36 CFR Part 61) began a peer review of the document but found the task to be prohibitively time-consuming due to the report's numerous errors. Instead, McGrew rewrote the relevant Primary Record (DPR 523A) which can be found at attachment (1) to this letter. We invite you to compare it to the Primary Record completed by Daly.

Perhaps the most glaring shortcoming contained in Daly's report is her assertion that "Research did not reveal any direct relationship between persons important on a national, state, or local level and the...Building." McGrew's revised Primary Record corrects that shortcoming. Daly & Associates could have benefitted by consulting with local experts and the authors of the books *Donald Wexler: Architect* and *Steel and Shade: The Architecture of Donald Wexler* during the course of her research. She might have also reported that Wexler is the architect of Palm Springs' seven Steel Development Houses (1962), one of which is the city's most recent addition to the National Register of Historic Places. Daly even cites a real estate blog as one of her research sources, but this is only one of many "red flags" in her report.

It is challenging for any outside consultant to become familiar with our city's complex history in just a few weeks or even months. However, since this report is part of a larger, more important, historic resources assessment of the buildings under your stewardship, we trust there will be close scrutiny of this consultant's taxpayer-funded work product. Unfortunately, as presently constituted, Daly's historic resources assessment suffers from numerous research omissions, as well as erroneous conclusions.

The foundation can be contacted at (760) 837-7117 or by email at info@pspreservationfoundation.org.

Respectfully,

Ron Marshall
President

Attachment: (1) Revised Primary Record (DPR 532A) for PSHS Administration Building

Copy to:
President, Board of Education (Attn: Mr. Richard Clapp)
Desert Sun (Attn: Ms. Mariecar Mendoza)
The Planning Center/DC&E