



August 4, 2014

Mrs. Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Obama:

The foundation is asking you to please help us save the Palm Springs Spa Bath House and Hotel (William F. Cody and Wexler & Harrison, 1959-1962). The city of Palm Springs is a "Preserve America" community and the Spa Hotel complex is a much-loved and architecturally significant local landmark.

The Spa Hotel complex is owned by the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and is sited on tribal land. You may recall that Tribal Council Chairman Jeff Grubbe (and others) greeted you upon your arrival at the Palm Springs International Airport on June 13, 2014.

On June 19, 2014 Tribal Chairman Grubbe announced that the Spa Hotel complex would be demolished as early as January 2015. He went on to say that the tribe currently has "no plans in place yet" for the site. The hotel complex closed on July 8, 2014.

We have mounted a multi-faceted advocacy effort, including an on-line letter writing campaign and the funding of an environmental impact study. To date, over 980 individuals have signed the on-line letter including actress-singer Nancy Sinatra and designer Trina Turk (Ms. Sinatra also took the time to send a personal letter to Tribal Chairman Grubbe). A summary of the results of our environmental impact study were recently published in the *Desert Sun* newspaper and many local businesses are displaying our "Save the Spa" signs in their windows.

Despite our efforts, a brief note or telephone call from you could result in finally convincing the tribal council to save the historic Spa Hotel complex.

We thank you in advance for any efforts you might make on behalf of this important advocacy.

If we can be of any further assistance, your staff can contact the foundation at (760) 837-7117 or info@pspreservationfoundation.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Erik Rosenow", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Erik Rosenow
President

Copy to:

Valerie B. Jarrett, Senior Advisor
Offices of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Secretary Sally Jewell
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Assistant Secretary Kevin K. Washburn
Department of the Interior – Indian Affairs
MS-3642-MIB
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Governor Jerry Brown
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Dianne Feinstein
11111 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 915
Los Angeles, CA 90025

Senator Barbara Boxer
3403 10th Street, Suite 704
Riverside, CA 92501

Congressman Raul Ruiz, M.D.
777 East Tahquitz Canyon Way
Suite 338
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Mayor Steve Pougnet
City of Palm Springs
3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Stephanie Meeks, President
National Trust for Historic Preservation
The Watergate Office Building
2600 Virginia Avenue, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20037

Cindy Heitzman, Executive Director
California Preservation Foundation
5 Third Street, Suite 424
San Francisco, CA 94103