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COACHELLA VALLEY

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Group works to save the Spa Hotel

By Skip Descant
The Desert Sun

PALM SPRINGS—More than 600 letters have been electronically signed and sent to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, imploring the tribe to not demolish the legendary Spa Resort hotel in downtown Palm Springs.

The letter-writing campaign is being led by the Palm Springs Preservation Foundation, which would like to see the modernist building, constructed in the late 1950s and early 1960s, renovated.

The tribe, however, announced last month that it plans to take the building down in preparation for new development on or near the site. The Agua Caliente have yet to unveil redevelopment plans. The hotel closed its doors July 8. The Spa Casino nearby will not be affected.

"We knew there was a great deal of passion for the preservation of this iconic

Please see **SPA HOTEL, A4**

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The mineral pool at the now closed Spa Resort Casino hotel in 2010. The Palm Springs Preservation Foundation is using a letter-writing campaign to urge the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians to not demolish the hotel. RICHARD LUI/THE DESERT SUN

Spa Hotel

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Palm Springs landmark and we wanted the tribe to hear directly from our members," Erik Rosenow, president of the Palm Springs Preservation Foundation, said in a statement.

The letter-writing campaign began Friday afternoon, and in the first hour of the campaign, 114 letters had been electronically signed and sent to the tribe. By Monday morning, that number had climbed to 646.

In part, the advocacy letter asks Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians Tribal Council Chairman Jeff Grubbe "to reconsider the Tribe's proposed demolition of the Spa Hotel & Spa Bath House," and further that Grubbe support "the community's efforts to preserve and rehabilitate this important architectural and cultural resource."