



September 15, 2020

Chairman Jeff L. Grubbe
Tribal Council of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (ACBCI)
5401 Dinah Shore Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92264

Dear Chairman Grubbe,

For 50 years now, the U.S. Post Office Building at 333 East Amado Road has performed both an essential civic function, and served as an informal community gathering place. Per page 2.0-2 of the ACBCI's "Vision Agua Caliente Master Plan Draft Tribal Environmental Impact Report" of January 9, 2017, the building "would be removed" for a "proposed casino expansion."

Completed in 1970, the Amado Post Office Building is an exceptional example of the "New Formalism" style of modernist architecture. The building's design is highlighted by tall, expressive arches of cast concrete, large expanses of north-facing glass windows, and walls of period porcelain tile. As is often the case in California, and across the United States, the architecture of a town's main post office reflects the dominant architectural style of the surrounding community. As Palm Springs is known for its midcentury architecture, the Amado Post Office Building perfectly reflects and celebrates that. Further, the building's importance is validated by the city of Palm Springs' "Citywide Historic Context Statement & Survey Findings" of December 2018, and earlier surveys.

Accordingly, the Palm Springs Preservation Foundation requests that the ACBCI consider the building's adaptive reuse.

While we understand the "value" of the property, the adaptive reuse of the structure will send a clear and unequivocal message that the tribe is committed to the principles of sustainability and appreciates the continuing value of architectural tourism to the city of Palm Springs. To demonstrate our commitment to the historic preservation of this important building, the foundation would consider funding a sustainability study to quantify the merits of adaptively reusing the building. Please let us know if you would like for us to undertake such an effort.

If you require any additional information, please contact PSPF board member Brad Dunning at (760) 837-7117 or info@pspreservationfoundation.org.

Sincerely,

Gary Johns
President

Copy to:
Desert Sun (Attn: Ms. Julie Makinen, Executive Editor)
City of Palm Springs (Attn: Mr. Flinn Fagg, Director of Planning Services)