

# AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS

TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION



May 16, 2012

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

**Re: Palm Springs High School Administrative Building, Palm Springs, CA**

Dear Ms. Anderson:

The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) has comments and concerns regarding the Palm Springs Unified School District's plans to demolish the Administration building located on Ramon Road. The proposed project location is not within the boundaries of the Agua Caliente Reservation; however, it is within the Tribe's Tribal Use Area. The THPO is a preservation partner to the community. As part of its mission we work with municipalities to preserve historic sites and buildings while balancing need for development.

The Administration Building for the Ramon Alternative School administrative office is set to be demolished later this year. The Administration Building was designed by renowned Donald Wexler and Richard Harrison and built in 1957; the building is now 55 years old.

The THPO requests a comprehensive analysis be completed prior to demolition to weigh the cost and benefits of using the existing building vs. demolishing the structure to make room for an entirely new building. It is our understanding that the building is to be demolished to make room for a Performing Arts Building specifically for the Palm Springs High Band which is currently 400 large and growing. Analysis would consider 1) utilizing the structure as is, 2) utilizing the structure with additions and alterations 3) as well as demolition/rebuilding.

Additionally, an analysis of the structure would investigate the history of the structure, its use life and the significant events that may have taken place there. Furthermore the analysis would consider the structures' integrity and evaluate the structure for its inclusion on the California Register ([http://www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=21238](http://www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21238)) and the National Register of Historic Places ([http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb15/nrb15\\_2.htm](http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb15/nrb15_2.htm)).

National Register of Historic Places Criteria of Designation:

- be associated with important events that have contributed significantly to the broad pattern of our history; *or*
- be associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; *or*
- embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; *or*
- have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history



California Register Criteria for Designation:

- Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history or the cultural heritage of California or the United States (Criterion 1).
- Associated with the lives of persons important to local, California or national history (Criterion 2).
- Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region or method of construction or represents the work of a master or possesses high artistic values (Criterion 3).
- Has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California or the nation (Criterion 4).

If the Building does meet the criteria for either Register or both the building should be considered for preservation. I would like to meet with the district to discuss plans for this structure and any future plans regarding other historic structures.

The Agua Caliente appreciates your time. If you have any questions, please call me at (760) 699-6907. You may also email me at [ptuck@aguacaliente-nsn.gov](mailto:ptuck@aguacaliente-nsn.gov).

Cordially,

Patricia Garcia-Tuck  
Director  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS

C: Agua Caliente Cultural Register  
Palm Springs Preservation Foundation

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