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Report: Demolishing hotel bad for climate

The Palm Springs Preservation Foundation is continuing its campaign to save the Spa Resort hotel in downtown Palm Springs, releasing a report outlining environmental reasons to not demolish the 229-room hotel.

The report, conducted by Ecotype Consulting in Redlands, concluded that the energy already "embodied" in the hotel represents greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 4,088 tons of coal. This is a measure of all of the energy already invested in the construction and operation of the building up to this point.

Further, the demolition itself will result in additional greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 201 tons of coal. Finally, the study concludes that, "A complete teardown and reconstruction of a similar sized building on the site will result in more than four times as much construction and demolition debris when compared to an extensive rehabilitation of the existing building."

"While we have the utmost



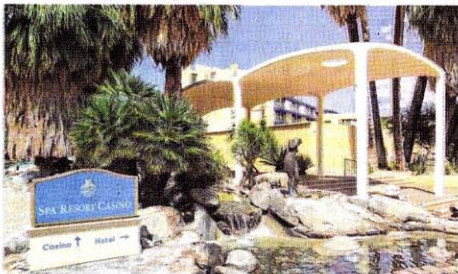
Skip Descant

TALKING TOURISM

respect for the Tribe's planning staff, sometimes divergent views that provide new information can lead to better conclusions," the Palm Springs Preservation Foundation wrote in a letter to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, the owner and operator of the hotel.

The hotel and spa, built in the late 1950s to early '60s, was shuttered on July 8. It's not yet clear what sort of replacement project the tribe has planned for the site, though the Spa Casino will remain open.

And in other historic building news, the restaurant at the historic 29 Palms Inn will be closed for the rest of the



The Spa Resort Casino in downtown Palm Springs was shuttered on July 8. RICHARD LUI/THE DESERT SUN

month for "refurbishing," reopening Aug. 1.

The 29 Palms Inn is a 70-acre resort near Joshua Tree National Park surrounded by the Mojave Desert.

The Inn will remain open for hotel guests during the renovation period, with full access to all the 29 Palms Inn cabins, oasis area and swimming pool, the hotel reported in a news release.

And the July 18 Desert Sun article about electric vehicle charging stations popping up on hotel properties prompted readers to alert me to a few other charging areas. James Canfield, director of the Palm Springs Convention Center, mentioned there are four charging stations at the convention center and two at the Palm Springs Visitors Center on Tramway Road. All are free



The mineral pool sits outside the Spa Resort Casino hotel in Palm Springs on March 26, 2010. RICHARD LUI/THE DESERT SUN

to use.

And the JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort in Palm Desert has four charging stations on the property.

"They are complimentary for our guests and these are utilized frequently," said Kathryn Cortese, marketing and e-commerce coordinator at JW Marriott's Western Region Resorts.