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COLLABORATIVE

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Steve Kinsey
Board of Supervisors
Marin County

Dear Supervisor Kinsey and Board of Supervisors:

An application to the County to declare David & Bee Hoffman's property in Lagunitas a County Historic Landmark is now in preparation by John Torrey, a neighbor of the Hoffman's and I urge the Board to approve a Resolution giving County Historic LandMark status to the site. Upon doing so, the Application can be forwarded to the California State Historic Restoration Commission for State Historic Monument status.

I first visited the site in 2004 after three summer's work restoring sacred sites in Tibet under the sponsorship of The Mountain Institute in Washington, DC. I was amazed and delighted to see a bit of the Himalaya so artfully and lovingly built in West Marin. As California's State Architect during the first Brown administration, I worked to simplify building and related codes in rural California. As a member of the State Building Code Commission, I knew that many unnecessary code requirements are added at the request of corporate interests who benefit from such actions. During my years in Sacramento, the only code reform that addressed real needs was ADA, which was opposed by major real estate and business interests.

You and I have read the many letters of support by neighbors and residents of the West Marin community. It is ironic that the agency charged with enforcing the codes has over many years enabled Mr. Hoffman to create this magical place that incorporates so many features of advanced ecological design by not following through on alleged violations. It is ironic that if the County follows through on its threat to bulldoze Hoffman's lovingly crafted life's work, it will have to go through an EIR process, great expense and neighbors will be outraged by the noise and the mess. A creative solution is to honor this creative work of love and folk art by designating it as County Historic Monument. Frank Lloyd Wright (another notorious code violator) would be proud of you!

Sim Van der Ryn

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