

Kennedy, Kathleen

From: deforek@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2009 1:44 PM
To: Kennedy, Kathleen
Subject: El Encanto Negative Declaration

Ms. Kathy Kennedy By Email (KKennedy@SantaBarbaraCA.gov) Community Development
Department
City of Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, California 93101

RE: El Encanto Hotel Master Plan Revision Negative Declaration - Public Comments

Dear Ms. Kennedy:

What is omitted from this proposed negative declaration is the importance of the historic landscape design intent and the landscape features of the historic El Encanto. As long as I can remember the garden ambiance of the hotel was one of its principal drawing cards. Where is the analysis of the impacts to the cultural landscape carefully developed in the hotel's period of significance? A thorough study of all the landscape is essential.

I have attended many of the Historic Landmark hearings and have been disturbed by the piecemeal chipping away at the fabric of the historic El Encanto, I realize that many of the changes were and are required to upgrade the facility to 21st century needs and standards. What started out as a rehabilitation has turned into a complete rebuild with many of the old structures demolished and new ones proposed. For this reason alone this negative declaration is insufficient.

The use of a negative declaration is designed to speed up the application process for projects that have little impact. Just the acreage involved, the number of changes and variances proposed and the neighbors concerns make this project cry out for a full Environmental Impact Report or at the very least a cultural landscape report for the grounds. The Historic Structures Report, since it was a structures report, did not address the landscape and its importance to the entire campus.

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