

**CALIFORNIA STATE  
LANDS COMMISSION**

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**CRAIG L. BROWN**, *Director of Finance*



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July 24, 1997

Mr. Seymour Rosen, Director  
Saving and Preserving Arts and Cultural Environments  
1804 North Van Ness  
Los Angeles, California 90028

Dear Mr. Rosen:

This is in response to your letter to Mr. Don Reese concerning the nomination of Salvation Mountain as a California State Landmark.

As you are probably aware, Salvation Mountain is part of a former military training facility and is in a rather primitive area frequented by individuals who spend the winter months camping on the concrete foundations of the former military facilities. The Commission has tried to discourage this transient use and would not like to encourage additional visitors to the area. A deluge of visitors would increase the number of trespasses on state-owned land and would increase the risk of injury to persons seeking to view Salvation Mountain.

For this reason, we cannot recommend that our Commission support the nomination of Salvation Mountain as a California State Landmark. However, we would consider recommending to the Commission the sale of Salvation Mountain and the adjoining state-owned property to SPACES, or to any other nonprofit or governmental organization if this would facilitate your efforts to have Salvation Mountain designated a California Landmark. If you have any questions or want to discuss the purchase in more detail, please contact Don Reese at (916) 574-1859.

*back from vacation  
Sep 22*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William V. Morrison". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

WILLIAM V. MORRISON  
Assistant Executive Officer

cc: Don Reese