

Saving and Preserving Arts and Cultural Environments

1804 North Van Ness Los Angeles, California 90028

Telephone: 213/463-1629



August 26, 1994

Honorable David G Kelley
Member of the Senate - District 37
11440 W Bernardo Ct. #104
San Diego, CA 92127

Dear Mr. Kelly:

SPACES is a national organization concerned with people of tenacity and vision, generally untutored in the arts, who for a variety of reasons have created large scale sculptural environments on the landscape.

One of the finest of these sculptures, Salvation Mountain in Niland, California - Imperial County is in jeopardy.

This art form has been acknowledged in hundreds of museum exhibits (internationally), in thousands of books, catalogs, magazine articles, films, as well as in untold newspaper articles and TV spots. Eight sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The California State Office of Historic Preservation declared some ten sites as California State Landmarks in the 1980's.

Niland, CA is a point of destination for camping, for hunting, and because of Leonard Knight's art work. It needs to be protected for the future enjoyment of the public.

Currently the California State Lands Commission is in negotiation with Imperial County to lease a 600 acre area known as Slab City (which includes the Mountain) to improve as a "primitive campground" for the yearly influx of "snowbirds."

Improvements includes bulldozing the painted 100 foot high by 300 foot wide by 200 foot deep adobe mountain. Part of their decision is based on Mr. Knights' use of donated paint - some of which contained lead. The question of environmental hazard can be resolved if Mr. Knight is given a chance to do so. Victorian buildings painted with lead based paints aren't simply destroyed — just the paint is removed carefully.

With little publicity, support for Mr. Knight's master work has been coming from all over the United States and from Imperial County. Salvation Mountain can be an important asset for the State, for the County and should not be destroyed. We hope you can let the CA Lands Commission know that Salvation Mountain has positive potential for the County and protection of the site should be considered.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Seymour Rosen
Director SPACES

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August 26, 1994

Honorable Julia Bornstein
Member of the Assembly - 80th District
72-880 Fred Waring Dr.
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Dear Ms. Bornstein:

SPACES is a national organization concerned with people of tenacity and vision, generally untutored in the arts, who for a variety of reasons have created large scale sculptural environments on the landscape.

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August 26, 1994

Russell S Gould
Director of Finance
State Capitol Building - Room 1145
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Gould: Re: California State Lands Commission

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August 26, 1994

Honorable Grey Davis
State Controller
300 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Davis: Re: California State Lands Commission

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August 26, 1994

Honorable Leo G McCarthy
Lt. Governor
State Capitol - Room 114
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. McCarthy: Re: California State Lands Commission

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August 26, 1994

Gloria Brister
Director
Imperial County Arts Council
996 El Centro
El Centro, CA 92240

Dear Ms. Brister:

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Seymour Rosen
Director SPACES



August 26, 1994

Mr. Sam Sharp
Chairman - Board of Supervisors
Imperial County Administration Center
940 W Main, Suite 212
El Centro, CA 92243

Mr. Sam Sharp:

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August 26, 1994

Robert C. Hight
Executive Director
California State Lands Commission
1807 13th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Hight:

SPACES is a national organization concerned with people of tenacity and vision, generally untutored in the arts, who for a variety of reasons have created large scale sculptural environments on the landscape.

One of the finest of these sculptures, under your inventory, Salvation Mountain in "Slab City," Niland, California - Imperial County is in jeopardy. A question of aesthetics and because of a limited use of lead based paint.

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