

Exhibit E

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From: [Ryan Smith](#)
To: [293-pchearingcomments](#)
Subject: Connell House: Richard Neutra
Date: Monday, January 9, 2023 9:58:22 AM

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The Connell House designed by Richard Neutra is a piece of history that must be preserved. There is no reason to tear this house down. It should be required to be restored to its former glory and saved from demolition.

If the current owner, Massy Medhipour, wanted to tear it down she should have bought another home without the historic significance of this one. The only option for her should be to restore the home or sell it to someone who will. This house is significant and will stand the test of time, anything she would build after its destruction would not.

Please enforce the historic preservation of this home and deny any requests to demolish.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS 1-25-23

Monterey County Planning Commission

Honorable Chair, Francisco Mendoza and members of the Planning Commission:

My name is Denise Estrada, resident of Monterey County. My ancestors were some of the people who worked to establish early California and Monterey County, as an important economic center of the new state. I now work to help preserve those unique resources that make our County, an important destination. People come from around the world to visit places that reflect our history and the unique character of hardworking, creative people who have made Monterey County such a special place.

The Neutra house at Signal Hill, is one of those unique assets. Its historic significance is not in question. Tragically, the current property owner has failed to protect that asset and through years of blatant neglect, demonstrated a lack of any intent to respect and preserve that asset. The current condition of the property is a clear demonstration that there never was any intent except to destroy the home and replace it.

This neglect has brought us to a point in time where restoration/preservation efforts are difficult and costly. That does not mean that it is impossible. There are too many examples, world-wide, that clearly demonstrate that with dedication and the funds to do the work, any preservation project can be a success story. The property owner is not without the funds to do the work, but clearly lacks the dedication to preserve the house. The HRRB reviewed the alternatives that were listed in the staff report and failed to reflect their mission of preservation in the decision. I submit that the appropriate decision should have been to recommend Alternative 1 to require the property owner to preserve the house, not demolish it and replace it with a new home of no historical significance and is out of scale and character for the location.

Should the property owner, finally have her wishes granted by the Planning Commission, to destroy this historic property, this sends a message to other owners of historic properties, that it is okay to destroy these irreplaceable assets through neglect and even intentional acts of destruction. Please be wise in your decisions and knowledgeable of the impacts a decision to demolish this house, would send.

I implore you to preserve the Neutra built house by approving the environmentally superior Alternative 1 of the county's FEIR and to require the property owner to immediately begin the process of repairing the damage that has occurred during her tenure as the property owner.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Denise Estrada

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Board Member Alliance of Monterey Area Preservationists (AMAP), Salinas First Mayor's House, Regional Advisory Council Member, Salinas Valley Tourism and Visitor Bureau