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October 21, 2020

Craig Spencer
RMA Planning Manager
County of Monterey
Salinas, CA

Re: Shaw House
9260 Pias Ranch Road
Big Sur, California
Mills Act Historical Property Contract Application

Dear Craig,

Thank you for meeting with Christi di Iorio and Aleli Balaguer of Chattel, Inc., Historic Preservation Consultants, to address staff concerns about the Mills Act Historical Property Contract application for the Shaw House in Big Sur.

I understand that staff had a particular concern about visibility of and public access to the Shaw House. In order to address this concern, I am pleased to provide public access to the house at least one day each year. This would include the ability for the County of Monterey or others to plan a tour, program or event with my assistance. I believe that allowing this annual access would provide a significant public benefit to residents of Monterey County and others from outside the area. Shaw's design philosophy stressed harmony with nature, and his home is a vivid reflection of that sentiment. He was a steward of the California central coast, particularly the Monterey Peninsula south to Big Sur. Having his home available for public viewing would pay homage to his leadership role in conservation of the Monterey Peninsula and important cultural resources of its communities.

To provide further clarification, this is truly an exceptional property. As you know, the house was constructed of salvaged redwood from the heavy timber local Dolan Creek Bridge (1937-1962) and thus embodies the environmental consciousness of Shaw as well as the tangible and intangible heritage of Big Sur. The materials used to construct the house were already some 40 years old when used to construct the house. Thus, its long-term maintenance is a unique aspect of the Mills Act application before the Historic Resources Review Board.

I recently repaired a rotted timber post using a Dutchman patch technique with salvaged material from the collection of Mary Morse, whose family still had salvaged redwood from the bridge. These elements, and their careful preservation, are vital to an appreciation of this remarkable house. We expect that much of the work we recently completed over the last three years will need to be revisited over the next 10 years. We intend to take similar due care, extending the life of these irreplaceable elements long into the future.

Its unique materiality is key to understanding this resource. It is the essence and core of the house so important to Will Shaw's legacy. Thank you for the opportunity to provide these clarifications to our application. Please let us know if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Mark Haddawy



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