



August 31, 2012

Submitted electronically

Pacific Facilities Service Office
US Postal Service
Diana K. Alvarado
1300 Evans Ave., Suite 200
South San Francisco, CA 94188-8200
Email: Diana.Alvarado@usps.gov

RE: Santa Monica Post Office, 1248 5th Street, Santa Monica, CA

Dear Ms. Alvarado:

On behalf of the Los Angeles Conservancy, I am writing to express the Conservancy's concern about the potential closing and sale of the historic Santa Monica Post Office located at 1248 5th Street in the city of Santa Monica. We are formally appealing the U.S. Postal Service's decision to close and sell this historic facility. The Los Angeles Conservancy is the largest local historic preservation organization in the United States, with nearly 7,000 members. Established in 1978, the Conservancy works to preserve and revitalize the significant architectural heritage of Los Angeles County through advocacy and education. Our organization is a partner with the Santa Monica Conservancy.

The PWA Moderne Santa Monica Post Office has been serving the Santa Monica community since its opening dedication in 1938 as part of the Federal New Deal-era programs. The building is attributed to Neal A. Melick and Robert A Murray. The Conservancy believes that the Santa Monica Post Office qualifies as a historical resource, and urges the U.S. Postal Service to do whatever it can to ensure this important local landmark is protected. It is ideal for a historic building to maintain its historic use whenever possible, especially for public mainstays such as a post office. In examples throughout the country, historic post office buildings have continued to operate and effectively serve communities. Sensitive alternations and updates can also be made to accommodate changing needs over time while maintaining the original building.

If following all appeals and a decision is ultimately made by the Postal Service to vacate the Santa Monica Post Office, we urge the Postal Service to do all it can do to ensure this historic building is protected in the future. We ask the Postal Service to be proactive in finding an appropriate owner who understands the significance of the building and can work with the community to maintain public access in the future. We also urge the Postal Service to consider voluntarily nominating the Santa Monica Post Office for local landmark designation through the Santa Monica Landmarks Commission. This will

ensure proposed alterations are reviewed by the City and would allow subsequent owners to take advantage of various incentives such as code flexibility offered under the California Historical Building Code and property tax relief through the Mills Act.

The Conservancy looks forward to working with the U.S. Postal Service as well as any future owner(s) and neighborhood residents on the long-term preservation of the Santa Monica Post Office. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (213) 430-4203 or afine@laconservancy.org should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adrian Scott Fine". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Adrian Scott Fine
Director of Advocacy

cc: California Office of Historic Preservation
California Preservation Foundation
Office of U.S. Representative Henry A. Waxman
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Santa Monica Conservancy