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June 22, 2020

Sent Electronically

Supervisor Janice Hahn  
500 W. Temple Street, Room 358  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
[isulic@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:isulic@bos.lacounty.gov)

**RE: Rancho Los Amigos Couth Campus Project**

Dear Supervisor Hahn:

On behalf of the Los Angeles Conservancy, **I am writing to strongly encourage you to not support or certify the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed redevelopment of the south campus of Rancho Los Amigos.** As planned, the County's project will needlessly destroy the Rancho Los Amigos Historic District and turn its back on a significant part of L.A. County's heritage.

For over a decade the Conservancy has been working closely with various County representatives in regards to Rancho Los Amigos and its future, with numerous reuse and redevelopment proposals considered. In all cases we have pressed for meaningful retention of the Historic District and repurposing the buildings for new uses. We strongly believe there is a "win-win" scenario available to the County where both preservation and new construction is possible.

The Conservancy is looking for the retention and reuse of additional buildings than what is currently proposed to ensure meaningful preservation and to adequately tell the story of Rancho Los Amigos. Given the County's proposal impacts only 35 of the overall 74 acres, there are large areas of historic buildings currently targeted for demolition that could be easily retained without impacting the project at all. This would be a good place to start.

Throughout the entire environmental review process we have repeatedly raised various concerns with the method in which the County has addressed its California Environmental Quality Act responsibility. The County's inclusion of a demolition-only component outside the Project's Development Area circumvents CEQA, and eliminates consideration of



potentially feasible alternatives linked to that action. No analysis was provided in the EIR that substantiates that buildings are beyond repair or reuse and therefore must be demolished. Further, no recent analysis was provided that substantiates how such infeasibility was ascertained. The lack of condition and feasibility analysis are core legal deficiencies in the EIR.

**Is it possible to achieve both preservation and allow the County's proposed project to move forward? Yes.** There absolutely is a way to achieve both as this is not an either/or approach. We implore on your office to press County representatives to reconsider their approach and find a way to achieve meaningful preservation of the south campus of Rancho Los Amigos. This will only occur by not voting to certify the current Final EIR. There is no need to rush this process and so we and our many supporters ask that you take a step back and help us find the middle ground.

We are also pressing for safeguards to ensure demolition does not occur unnecessarily if the proposed project does not proceed for some reason. We ask that when you vote on the Final EIR you require a condition as part certification that states demolition can only proceed once the project is funded and building permits are issued.

**About the Los Angeles Conservancy:**

The Los Angeles Conservancy is the largest local historic preservation organization in the United States, with nearly 6,000 members throughout the Los Angeles area. Established in 1978, the Conservancy works to preserve and revitalize the significant architectural and cultural heritage of Los Angeles County through advocacy and education.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (213) 430-4203 or [afine@laconservancy.org](mailto:afine@laconservancy.org) should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Adrian Scott Fine  
Director of Advocacy

