



PRESERVATION SACRAMENTO

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RE: Notice of Preparation for an Environmental Impact Report for Aggie Square--Historic Resources

Mr. Dulcich,

The Board of Directors of Preservation Sacramento wishes to comment on the above named Notice of Preparation for an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Specifically, there are two buildings in the project area, the Machinery Building and Governor's Hall, which constitute the only surviving buildings from the site's previous use as the California State Fairgrounds. Both properties are eligible historic resources that must be taken into consideration as part of the Aggie Square project, and, ideally, rehabilitated for continued use. At a public meeting regarding Aggie Square, a UC Davis representative stated that they had received analysis of the two buildings, concluding that Governor's Hall was eligible but not the Machinery Building. We were not provided with copies of evaluations of the properties, but question the assumption that the Machinery Building is not eligible for the California Register or National Register. The building, constructed in 1928 by the State Architect's Office under the supervision of George McDougall, retains a high degree of integrity, and is architecturally complementary to the adjacent Governor's Hall building. As the only surviving buildings of a massive State Fair complex of great importance to Sacramentans, the rarity of type and intact external appearance merit greater consideration for eligibility. Both buildings should be retained as part of the Aggie Square project, and both should be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, in order to facilitate their rehabilitation and reuse as part of the Aggie Square project.

William Burg
President, Preservation Sacramento Board of Directors