

To: Rich Hanna

Rich, hope this is helpful for you to explain my request. Let me know if you need anything else and whether it would be helpful for me to attend any meetings.

Best,

Robin Donaldson

REQUEST:

This letter is to document my request for obtaining ownership and accepting full liability for an abandoned City of Santa Barbara lifeguard tower. For the record, I was a City of Santa Barbara Beach Lifeguard (Junior Guard Instructor) during the summers of 1978-83. I am now an architect practicing and living in Santa Barbara and have an architectural as well as cultural interest in preserving this structure. I do not have any commercial ambition for this structure, I simply appreciate the towers and hope to save one from being demolished. Hopefully my efforts will preserve this era City of Santa Barbara lifeguard towers.

POSSIBLE CULTURAL RESOURCE:

My intent is to offer historical preservation of a unique little structure that in my view has cultural value that may currently be overlooked but someday could be considered worthy of preservation. I believe that Lifeguard Towers have a cultural value as icons of California and Santa Barbara beach lifestyle. They have been an accepted part of the beach landscape in Southern California for almost 100 years. I know some people see them as utilitarian eyesores on the beach, but I see a charming and unique piece of Santa Barbara (and California) history. These particular towers are unique to this city (unlike the mass produced fiberglass model that replaced them) and I hope that we can preserve this generation of tower design.

FUTURE:

I hope to find a permanent home for the tower somewhere in Southern California amongst other towers that are being preserved. At this time it is too soon to say where that will be. I am collecting data on Lifeguard Towers and hope to publish a book about the history of these structures along the coastal cities of California.

LOGISTICS:

I own property in the city that is currently being used as a storage yard. I intend to store it there until I find it a permanent home.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please let me know if there is any other information I can provide.

Sincerely,

Robin Donaldson AIA

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