



CATALINA ISLAND CONSERVANCY

A responsible steward of its lands through a balance of conservation, education and recreation

June 28, 2011

Carol Carter
Project Manager
California Cultural and Historical Endowment
California State Library
900 North Street, Suite 370
Sacramento, CA 95814
ccarter@library.ca.gov

Dear Carol Carter,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Conservancy, I would like to add my wholehearted support to the case being made for the restoration of Eagle's Nest Lodge at the eastern entrance of Middle Ranch rather than at its current location. In all other aspects of the project, the restoration work remains absolutely identical to that proposed. As a result of the extensive planning process with our Master Plan architects, we feel that we cannot ignore their recommendation. Although we made an enthusiastic case for restoration *in situ*, with this advice, we feel that it is unwise to invest such a large amount of public and Conservancy money in a site which is more isolated and could be laid waste by storms when there is such an attractive alternative available that will enable us to serve better the people of California and beyond.

We can assure you that the preservation of the historic and cultural resources on our lands is central to our mission. Our Board members are as passionate and concerned as you are with the historic thread that would be affected by the move. Several of them come from families whose history on the Island goes back to early 1900s. Given that it is along the same stagecoach road, on the same ranch property, and will be eventually clustered with complementary buildings that will deliver a wholly enhanced experience of what it was like to ranch, hunt and travel on our Island long ago, we feel that the project integrity is intact and would ask that you continue to provide funds as planned.

We are dependent on your help to make this happen. We have worked hard to raise the matching funds to bring this wonderful old building to life once again, but without the CCHE grant we may not be able to find a further \$500,000 in time to save it. We are also committed to enhancing the site with other historic buildings from Middle Ranch as envisioned in our Imagine Catalina Master Plan. I can assure you that the Board will work diligently and with integrity to make sure public dollars are leveraged with private dollars for maximum impact.

Sincerely,

Victoria Seaver Dean
Chair, Board of Directors