

December 6, 2010.

Supervisor Salud Carbajal
Supervisor Janet Wolf
Supervisor Doreen Farr
Supervisor Joni Gray
Supervisor Joe Centano

Dear Supervisors:

The Pearl Chase Society supports the Santa Barbara County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission's nomination of the "Frances Rich Beach Cabaña" for a Santa Barbara County Historic Landmark designation. The HLAC nomination reveals that the Cabaña reflects the social history of Santa Barbara in the 1950's and was part of a flourishing art colony. The Cabaña is also connected with persons of historic import, the actress Irene Rich and her artist daughter, Frances Rich, in addition to many other notables. Its existence on the Hope Ranch bluff is a familiar feature, and it is one of only a few remaining beach cabañas in Santa Barbara County.

The Pearl Chase Society also supports established HLAC oversight regarding alterations, demolition, and/or repairs that Landmark designation affords. The Pearl Chase Society does not support circumventing this oversight by County Planning for any reasons since such an exception to established, legal policy creates a precedent which may imperil all County Landmarks.

Leaving oversight and review to HLAC insures that historic structures have an advocate and that all possible remedies or solutions have been explored before demolition, if necessary, is allowed. The "Rich Cabaña" meets the criteria for full Landmark status, and the Pearl Chase Society does not support designating the property as a Place of Historic Merit since such a designation does not afford the necessary HLAC oversight and review.

Sincerely,
Hattie Beresford, vice-president
Pearl Chase Society