

#5

Allen, Michael (COB)

From: jrv121752@cox.net
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 10:40 AM
To: Allen, Michael (COB)
Subject: Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

Michael Allen,
Chief Deputy Clerk
Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Room 407
Santa Barbara, CA, 93101

Dear Board of Supervisors;

I am the domestic partner of James R. Vincent a Santa Barbara resident since the 60s. I have been in residence for several years now, taking care of the Santa Barbara house. The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden is a great place to go for a walk and I have used my membership in the Wildflower Guild to purchase drought resistant local plants and have taken several out of town visitors to the Botanic Garden (they like it very much). I would like to encourage you to allow the SBBG to move forward with their desire to make their needed improvements to the Meadow Terrace display. It is important that you clarify the intent of the Historic Landmark Resolution to prevent further confusion. I visit several times a year right now, and more often in March when James will wrap up his work at Lockheed and complete his move home to Santa Barbara. I grew up in the Ozark Mountains of Missouri on a small family farm. Never in my life did I think I would end up in such a nice house and in such a wonderful, scenic, and historic city. It will be nice when the landscaping changes have been completed to open a greater area of the garden to the handicapped. I feel those in charge of the Garden have kept the historical value of the original Garden in mind during these improvements. Please help the Botanic Garden by convincing the Landmark Advisory Commission that the trustees of the Garden have and will keep the garden's history intact while making improvements to the Garden.

Sincerely;
Janet L. Wingate
4055 Naranjo Drive
Santa Barbara, CA, 93110

2008 FEB 13 PM 12:39
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Best Regards;
James Vincent
4055 Naranjo Drive
Santa Barbara, CA, 93110

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*Sue Ehrlich
Bill Elliott*

*1249 Camino Meleno
Santa Barbara, CA 93111
(805) 967-6577*

February 11, 2008

By email to Michael Allen, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board

Dear Supervisors,

We want to add our support for the efforts of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden to make minor improvements on the property without having to obtain approval from the Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission.

We have been members of the Garden for years and love to visit the gardens for planned activities as well as for personal walks and for birding . The Garden is on our "must see" list for our out of town visitors. We are familiar with the projects planned and believe that they do not impact the aspects of the Garden that make it an historic landmark , as they affect neither structures designated as landmarks nor the historic landscape design concept. They will reinforce rather than detract from the use and appreciation for this Santa Barbara treasure.

We have always been impressed with the good stewardship of the site demonstrated by the Garden.

Please support rather than hinder efforts to enhance the mission of the Garden as it serves our wonderful Santa Barbara environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sue Ehrlich and Bill Elliott

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cc :Ed Schneider, President, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

* 5

Allen, Michael (COB)

From: Daniel R. Ledbetter [drajled@cox.net]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 9:30 PM
To: Allen, Michael (COB)
Subject: RE: Santa Barbara Botanic Garden Hearing on the Meadow Terrace Stop Work Order.

Dear Mr. Allen,

In reviewing the resolution between the SB Botanic Garden and the HLAC, It absolutely amazes me that any stop order perpetrated by the HLAC would or could be issued. It is obvious in the language of the resolution that the Meadow Terrace landscape changes are not under the auspices of the HLAC. I totally agree with the Garden that HLAC has overstepped their authority in this case.

If I had the resources, as a friend of the SBBG, I would immediately file an injunction with the court to have the stop order lifted and instruct the county to abide by the language in the resolution. Once I had read the resolution between HLAC and the SBBG, it is obvious that someone in the HLAC must have a lot of influence in the county organizations to have the order issued in the first place! I would also ask for damages for this frivolous action. I am a member of the Garden and contribute to its welfare every year and hate to see SBBG (and my) money and manpower resources squandered in petty situations over nothing!

**Take Care, Daniel R. Ledbetter
5643 Berkeley Road
Goleta, CA 93117
967-8763**

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Allen, Michael (COB)

From: Robert Wolff [bwolffb@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 11:30 AM
To: Allen, Michael (COB)
Subject: botanic garden

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From: terikson6@netscape.net
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Dear Mr. Allen: This communique is in reference to the HLAC attempt to micromanage improvements to the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.

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As you know, especially if you garden at all, a garden is a dynamic place with in which change in a constant. To require the Garden to curtail it's displays is ludicrous because change is occurring, it works to adjust to that change. Not to take up too much of your time, I ask for a rapid resolution of the current issues facing the HLAC resolution and some understanding of how this ridiculous fiasco could have evolved in the first place.

The garden was there long before the Mission Canyon residents over built it.

Thank you for your consideration, Toddie Erikson

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Allen, Michael (COB)

From: fpdiani@aol.com
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 6:04 PM
To: Allen, Michael (COB)
Cc: info@sbbgvitalmission.com
Subject: Botanic Garden

Sir,

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Respectfully,

Frank Diani
Goleta

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

2-9-08

Ed Schneider, PhD
Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens
1212 Mission Canyon Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Re: Vital Mission Plan

Dear Dr. Schneider,

I received your letter dated 4-7-08 on the same day my wife gave me an article she found in Santa Barbara Seasons Dec/Jan/Feb 08 Issue about how the childhood relationship between Wright Ludington and Lockwood De Forest resulted in his commission to re-designing Val Verde's gardens and catapulted the young and talented landscape architect into prominence. Behind that story, there is another one! Both men had great vision and a burning desire to improve, rather than preserve, the current states of their environment. Ludington, De Forest and the famed architect, Lutah Riggs, continued to collaborate and transform Val Verde for another 30 years.

Never one to get stuck in a rut, Ludington sold Val Verde and started over again in 1957 with a new estate known as Hesperides. In 1973, at age 73, he repeated the process with another new house. My father built both houses and knew Ludington, Riggs and De Forest well. I think these shapers of our community character would be dismayed if their names were invoked to prevent their successors from improving upon their abandoned gardens.

For reasons that started out as personal, I have become involved with the Mission Canyon Association and have gained more insight into very serious issues of fire, traffic, parking, habitat and visual beauty that go far beyond preserving a meadow. I applaud the Botanic Gardens Vital Mission Plan for working rationally and diligently to respect these concerns. I sincerely hope that the HLAC will, in return, work in the spirit of past visionaries like Ludington and De Forest and let the Garden move forward with well conceived plans to improve access, especially for handicapped access.

Sincerely,



Alastair Winn
715 Mission Canyon Road

Cc: Michael Allen, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

2008 FEB 13 PM 12:39

John Franklin

1074 Cheltenham Rd., Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Res: 805 682 4245 Work: 805 966 4151 email: franklin@sbtower.com

#5

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
123 E. Anapamu St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

For the review of Chairman and Supervisors:

15 Feb 2008

Comments concerning the terrace project at Santa Barbara Botanic Garden:

The terracing project at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden (SBBG) is another example of the Garden embarking on yet another project to change the character of the SBBG from a scenic, quiet place of seclusion that is open to the public, to a continuing "Disneyfication" of the Garden which caters to special, private events. Since 1926 the Garden has been open to the public as a place for quiet contemplation and enjoyment. Current management paved the walkways, fenced portions of the Garden, installed and locked gates to keep the neighbors out, as well as spent millions of dollars on a number of ill fated projects that have not been compatible with the neighborhood.

In the November-December issue of the SBBG publication "Ironwood" it is stated that the SBBG obtained a "Substantial Conformity Decision from the County Planning and Development and legally proceeded with construction." The statement goes on to claim the county "reversed itself and issued a stop work order" due to "substantial public controversy". What the statement doesn't include is that if the SBBG had been upfront about the current controversy concerning the changes taking place at the SBBG, the permit would not have been issued in the first place, and construction on the terrace project would not have been allowed and would not have been partially completed. The meadow area would still be in its original condition. Visitors would not have to take a detour to traverse the central portion of the Garden. This appeal hearing would not be taking place had the SBBG been truthful in its communications with the County concerning the project. Currently the project is an unsightly mess in the middle of the most frequented portion of the SBBG. It is now necessary for visitors to detour around the project to go to through the Garden's upper area. Stated also in this issue of the "Ironwood", the "Vital Mission Plan" is referred to as a "bare-bones master plan". I question that this is an accurate description of the proposed development. It is far larger than a "bare-bones" plan. It is an effort to change the character of the SBBG, restrict use by neighbors, and take away from the Mission Canyon area a real jewel that has served the community since its founding in 1926. Please don't allow this change to take place. The installation of the new water pipe extension, installation of fire hydrants, installation of fence and gates, the paving of the trails, the current terracing project and other changes are just incremental changes that are moving the SBBG toward its eventual goal of making major changes in the character and operation of the SBBG.

In the January-February issue of the "Ironwood" publication by the SBBG, it is stated, among other things, that the perimeter fence was "necessary to protect valuable and rare plant collections and sensitive exhibits". The installation of the fence, without any permits, and the installation and locking of gates has been very controversial. Despite their claim of thefts and vandalism, the SBBG, after many requests, has been either unwilling or unable to come up with any evidence that this action was necessary. The fencing and gates have been constructed under the guise that (1) their insurance company requested the action, (2) the fire department requested the action, (2) valuable plants were being stolen and reports had been made to the sheriff's office, and (4) there was vandalism occurring in the Garden. None of these claims could be confirmed by the involved agencies, and the SBBG could

or would not provide documentation. They have not responded to the suggestion that they put their valuable plants in an area that is secure, and leave the rest of the SBBG open to casual visitors as it has been since its founding in 1926. It would be interesting to have the SBBG provide statistics for vandalism and theft since the fence has been installed and the gates have been locked. The SBBG also might return the gates to their previous open state and see if there is any vandalism or theft. This would confirm whether or not completely fencing the SBBG is necessary. Since 1950, I have enjoyed walking through the SBBG on Christmas, New Years, and in the morning and evening hours. Because of the actions of the SBBG, and their fencing projects, I have been deprived of this privilege. There has been no response by the SBBG to my inquiries.

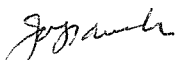
It is stated that the proposed lights will be operated by a switch so they can be turned on only when needed. Since the SBBG has seen fit with their fencing and gate closures, to only be open to visitors during the daylight hours (9-5) one might question the need for lights, unless it is for proposed "private parties" scheduled during the evening hours.

The last paragraph of the "Third Revised Meadow Project" states that because the SBBG does not currently have funds available to complete the proposed changes to the project, that the changes be delayed until the funds can be raised. With the unwillingness of the SBBG to make available financial details of their operation, one has to question if this may be another delaying tactic on the part of the SBBG. There were funds available to perform the work done to date, as well to finance other improvements and the legal and consulting services required for their past and present ill conceived projects. When the Terracing project commenced, it can be assumed funds were available to complete the project.. This money could be used to perform the modifications requested without delay so the SBBG will not continue to be in a stage of partial completion which detracts from the visitor's enjoyment of the SBBG.

The third proposal from the SBBG is an improvement over past proposals and improves on an unfortunate situation for which the SBBG has only itself to blame for undertaking a project without the necessary permits from the County, but also without the support of a number of neighbors, members and local citizens.

The most grievous problem the SBBG has with its past proposals is its continued inability or unwillingness to communicate truthfully with neighbors and interested parties concerning their current and future plans. An example of truthfulness is the modification the SBBG has made to the map it gives to visitors which now does not show the rear entrances which are on Tunnel Road. This modification to a previously accurate map means inaccurate information is being given to visitors as to access points to the Garden. A community meeting conducted by a paid public relations firm does not constitute communications with members, neighbors, and interested parties. The SBBG should conduct a meeting with the public that is hosted by SBBG decision making personnel who are able to answer reasonable questions by members of the public. Without a willingness to participate in sincere and truthful dialog with members and interested parties the SBBG should be stopped from continuing its unilateral changing of an entity that has been a jewel in the Mission Canyon area since 1926.

Sincerely,



John P. Franklin



Meadow Terrace Exhibit represents nothing more than a “change” to an existing “public area”. As such, it is exempt under the Resolution for the same reasons cited by County Counsel in its April 5, 2005 legal opinion, which found the Garden’s trail paving project to be exempt.

In addition, the following summary of the Garden’s position is provided in support of this appeal:

- The conversion of a natural landscaped area to a paved landscape area does not result in a substantial deviation from the historic landscape design concept and is not prohibited under Resolution No. 2003-059. The opinion of County Counsel dated April 5, 2005 makes it clear that a paving project such as this is permitted under the Resolution.
- The overall size of the project (approximately 4,200 square feet) does not result in a substantial deviation from the historic landscape design concept. The Resolution includes no limitations on the size of exempt projects. In addition, the Meadow Terrace Exhibit is exceedingly small in relation to the overall Botanic Garden property and in relation to the trail paving project which was previously held to be exempt.
- The project does not involve an intensification of use of the area and will not result in a substantial deviation from the historic use of the Meadow. The Meadow area in general, and the location of the Meadow Terrace Exhibit in particular, have been used as public areas for decades and the paving of the exhibit area will not result in intensification of use. In any case, an intensification of use (i) is not prohibited under the Resolution and (ii) has no relation to the historic landscape design concept.
- The project will not adversely affect a defining feature of the Garden. The project does not restrict views of the Meadow and improves accessibility to this area of the Garden by upgrading an existing public area. As such, the project complies with all applicable standards, including the standards set forth in the Resolution.
- The project does not introduce piecemeal elements that threaten the historic character of the Garden. The project simply upgrades an existing public area and is consistent with the historic landscape design concept.

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
September 20, 2007
Page 4

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Resolution No. 2003-059 is the guiding document with respect to activities and projects at the Botanic Garden. In order for the Resolution to serve its purpose, it is important to honor the present language and to respect what the Resolution does and does not restrict. Any attempt to create a different process or to impose new restrictions that are not set forth in the Resolution would violate the intent and would undermine all the effort that lead to the establishment of the Resolution.

In the final analysis, if the HLAC is permitted to misinterpret and expand the scope of the Resolution, the Botanic Garden must seek to have the Resolution rescinded or substantially modified. It is essential for the Garden's Trustees and management to retain the authority for making decisions regarding projects involving the "change, maintenance, repair, relocation, replacement, or updating of plant communities, temporary or permanent displays, exhibits, trails, public areas, interpretive materials or existing structures," including those that involve the construction or installation of new structures, features, or facilities. The Garden's authority and responsibility in that regard simply cannot be delegated to the HLAC.

It should also be noted that, if the HLAC's actions on September 10, 2007 are permitted to stand, it will have a chilling effect on the designation of other properties as historic landmarks in the future. This is true because property owners will be reluctant to allow a landmark designation where a precedent has been established for the HLAC to be overzealous in asserting its jurisdiction and imposing restrictions on such landmarked properties.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of this appeal.

Respectfully Submitted,



Richard G. Battles of
Mullen & Henzell L.L.P.
Attorneys for Santa Barbara
Botanic Garden

RGB:cml
Enclosures

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**Take Care, Daniel R. Ledbetter
5643 Berkeley Road
Goleta, CA 93117
967-8763**

2008 FEB 15 AM 11: 43

February 14, 2008

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu,
Santa Barbara, CA 93101



RE: Please deny the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden's Meadow Terrace Project. Please deny paving of trails. Uphold County Historic Landmarks Decision denying Project.

Dear Mr. Carbajal,

My name is Paulina Conn., author of the document nominating the SBBG for County Historic Landmark status. Please enforce Resolution 2003-059. The Landmark is only 23 of the Garden's 85 acre total.

The Meadow Terrace Project should be denied for all the reasons stated in County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission's findings. The paving of trails should also be denied. All terrain should be restored to the original surfaces and topography. Dirt trails and minimal man made intrusions are character defining features of the historic landscape design concept.

The first eight criteria in Resolution 2003-059 from County Code Chapter 18A-3 are just as important to protect and preserve as is the historic landscape design and historic use of the SBBG. All changes have the potential for conflicting with and deviating substantially from these eight criteria as well as the landscape design and use.

Every Supervisorial District in Santa Barbara County played an important part in the creation of the SBBG.

5th District: Frank J. McCoy of the Santa Maria Inn fame was on the Board of Trustees. He brought native CA plant seeds back to Santa Maria and beautified the vacant lots.

4th District: The first herbarium was created by Ralph Hoffman of the Natural History Museum with many of his plants coming from around Lompoc and Rancho San Julian. Later on Thomas Dibblee of Rancho San Julian created the geologic maps that have taught us all so much about the SBBG area geology. Lompoc is still a marvelous reservoir of native California plant habitat.

3rd District: Mrs. Colin Campbell was on the Board of Trustees. She valued draught tolerant plants because the Campbell's Ranch in Isla Vista (now Devereux) had water shortages. Frederic Clements, the botanist who started the SBBG studied the sea shore plants at Coal Oil Point and the Campbell Ranch.

1st District: The SBBG is in this district and many of the Garden's founders, benefactors, and landscape architects lived in the First District. Lockwood de Forest, Ervanna Bowen Bissell, and Caroline Hazard all lived in Mission Canyon. Anna Dorinda Blaksley Bliss and Beatrix Farrand lived in Montecito. Frederic Clements chose the Mission Canyon site, which was close to the Museum of Natural History for its varied habitat that would be conducive to an experimental garden.

Those who founded the Garden were embarking on a grand experiment. They were saving a gorgeous natural area from urbanization, creating the first display garden devoted exclusively to native CA plants and based on the principles of plant ecology, water conservation, reverence for nature, research on native California plants, study of local geology and archeology. They paid tribute to the Canalino Indians (Chumash) who had worked, hunted, gathered, and lived at this site by naming the major trail at the western edge of the Meadow and down to the dam the Indian Trail. Homeowners learned through the displays about landscaping with native California plants. It was the creation of genius.

Some Reasons why wrong decisions might have been made by County Planning and Development:

County P&D was misled by SBBG administration and agents through the use of misleading language.

1. The Meadow Terrace Project was stated as an “exhibit” area instead of the “event” area that it really is. (see CHLAC minutes of SBBG Board of Trustee comments at SBBG site visit of August 22, 2007)
2. The project was called “restoration” when it was new construction. There had been oak trees in this spot. The SBBG knew the project deviated substantially from the historic landscape design. There had been no formal sandstone walls, either retaining or free-standing, in the Garden. There had been no lights or electricity in the display areas. (The electric in the Arroyo, installed in 2005, was done so without first getting the required permit).
3. The SBBG has, historically, been a valued and trusted entity. P & D would not expect misleading information to be presented during the planning process.

Some reasons why CHLAC Commissions denial of Meadow Terrace Project should be upheld.

1. Overturning the CHLAC’s decision puts all the County’s historic landmarks in jeopardy. This landmark is a community resource. It is not a NIMBY issue as the Garden wants us all to believe. (see letters from national scholars, landscape historians and architects, and preservationists to CHLAC in 2002 through 2008).
2. The *historic landscape design concept* created by early Garden landscape architects Beatrix Farrand and Lockwood de Forest requires an open central meadow, ringed by vegetation, with the mountains above. Structures were intentionally kept out of the landscape.
3. The Meadow Terrace Project’s walls and lights improperly introduce structures and manmade features into the otherwise natural Meadow landscape. There were never any formal sandstone walls or lights anywhere in the display Garden. Take a walk and see.
4. These 23 acres are a significant Chumash, Mission Period, geologic, and natural site that are also protected and preserved under Resolution 2003-059 and by the historic, naturalistic, landscape design concept of Lockwood de Forest and the display of native California plants exclusively. The Meadow Terrace Project degrades the value of all of these resources.

5. This is a memorial garden to Henry Blaksley Bliss, who loved nature, and was the father and grandfather of the two foremost benefactors who made the Garden possible, Anna Dorinda Blasley Bliss (Casa Dorinda fame) and her daughter, Mildred (Dumbarton Oaks, Wash. D.C fame). They are mentioned in Resolution 2003-059. The Terrace is an affront to their legacy.

6. Current descendents of those who were involved in the Garden's design are decrying the Meadow Terrace Project, paving of trails, obtrusive fencing, and other insensitive changes that the current administration is creating for the first time in the Garden's history..

A. Kellam de Forest, son of Lockwood de Forest has said over and over again that the introduction of pavers and the Terrace are not consistent with his father's design concept.

B. William Pritchett, great nephew of Eva who endowed the Pritchett Trail in memory of her husband Henery, has written in a letter to the CHLAC and in a letter to the editor of the *Montecito Journal* (both in 2004) that he doesn't want the legacy of his family ruined with pavement., etc.

The historic SBBG is a 21st century garden created in 1926! We should not allow the SBBG's misguided, temporary, leadership and their agents to take our community's resource backwards in time to becoming a paved over, commercialized, urban place when we have the tools to prevent that from happening.

Landmark status does not prevent appropriate research and education. It has the potential to enhance it. The SBBG was a scholar's display garden from the very beginning. (see *Santa Barbara Gardener Magazine* by Lockwood and Elizabeth de Forest 1925- 1942)

Landmark status does not diminish fundraising potential. It can enhance it if the proper attitude and desire is there. (see letter by Charles Birnbaum, head of the Cultureal Landscape Foundation, Washington D.C)

Thank you so much for saving our community's heritage with Santa Barbara County Landmark #24, The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden Mission Dam and Aqueduct, Resolution 2003-059.

Sincerely,



Paulina Conn
(805) 682-5183



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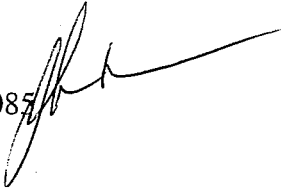


COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM

2/19

TO: Clerk of the Board

FROM: John Baker, Director 568-2085 

DATE: January 14, 2008

RE: Continuance of Santa Barbara Botanic Garden Meadow Terrace Appeal

We are requesting a continuance of the appeal by the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden of the Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission's September 10, 2007 action on the Garden's Meadow Terrace project. The appeal was most recently scheduled for the hearing of January 22, 2008. However, following a decision by the HLAC on December 10, 2007, denying a revised Meadow Terrace project on similar grounds as their initial action, the Garden filed a second appeal to the Board of Supervisors. In order to present both appeals to the Board of Supervisors concurrently, we are requesting a continuance to February 19, 2008. This will also serve to provide additional time for the Garden and HLAC to potentially reach a compromise.

Re: Botanic Garden: To the County Board of Supervisors

The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden is unique among botanic gardens. Rather than being a show place for rare and exotic plants from different parts of the world, plants that require special care in an artificial environment, our garden fulfills the highest potential in the healthy flowering of plants native to this area. The landscaping is both refined and subtle enough to preserve a wonderful natural feeling of being in the wild. When walking on the trails, a visitor feels a part of his surroundings, of being at peace in a native environment. All this has been achieved, not just by keeping plants indigenous to the area, but by keeping the trails and open areas as natural as possible. As soon as these soft trails are replaced by inter-locking pavers, a spiritual *separation* takes place between the visitor and the plants he walks among.

Paving:

In the Ironwood Newsletter, Mr. Schneider states that pavers will reduce erosion. True. But, over the many years of the garden's life, erosion has been successfully controlled by regular maintenance of the trails. Gravel, shale, or tanbark are sufficient stabilizers that do not conflict with the natural beauty of the canyon. Schneider states that hard-scaping will increase accessibility. While I concede that wheel-chairs and canes may function more easily on bricks. I take issue with the idea that the beauty of the garden must be compromised for the sake of a minority. They already have access to all the open, level areas. They should forego the steep descent to the creek at the bottom of the canyon.

Fencing:

Here again Mr. Schneider proposes *separation*—a “keep out” exclusive policy toward the natural world. Why? Is he preparing for special non-native exhibits of valuable, rare plants that would be at odds with the original intent of a native garden? The animals in the area have always freely passed through. If a deer occasionally nibbled at the ironwood or ceonothus, no harm is done. But, as soon as tender rose petals, or antherium buds or other delicacies appear, one needs armed security! Fences are a prelude to the establishment of plant collections that were never intended and should not be a part of this unique, native garden. Fire prevention? The best remedy for this hazard is to keep the area clear of dry underbrush, the oaks pruned and perhaps a so called “fire break” around the perimeter of the garden.

Oak Trees

Finally, Mr. Schneider states that “For each oak tree removal, the applicant shall plant 10 one gallon size coast live oak saplings....” One gallon is infinitely small especially when one considers how long it takes an oak tree to develop. A minimum of 25 to 30 years, and even at that age, the tree is not mature. It will be many years before the replacements add anything to the beauty of the environment.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CLERK OF THE
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Bonadeo, Member
Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

2018 JAN -4 AM 9:46

2/19

5

From: Alfredo Bonadeo <barbnalfre@cox.net>
Subject: **Paving the garden**
Date: August 6, 2007 8:50:01 PM PDT
To: Eschneider@sbbg.org



Dear Mr. Schneider,

Thanks for your letter of July 31. If I were to believe the reasons you set forth for paving the pathways, improving access and stopping mud and silt from damaging plants, I have to conclude that other pathways, like the long one that runs south from the dam along Mission creek, will soon be paved. This is a very inviting and enjoyable stretch, and I surmise that you will want to make it, too, more accessible. I am unable to believe the above reasons as I notice a big paving job going on right now in the area where a big, old and sick oak tree was taken down a few month ago. It seems to me what is happening in this area refutes your criteria for paving, since the area is nearly level and accessible by anyone, and the least in need of paving. In its natural state this area looked wonderful; paved, will be an eyesore. Once again, let me urge you to suspend paving a garden whose resplendent beauty rests on its natural setting, of which the paths in their pristine state are key components. Sincerely, Alfredo Bonadeo.

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

2008 JAN -4 AM 9:46

DONALD M. McINTYRE

#5

CALLE NOGUERA AT EAST CALLE LAURELES
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93105

POST OFFICE DRAWER 30320
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93130
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

(805) 687-7651

February 13, 2008

Clerk of the Board
Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
Administration Building
105 East Anapamu Street, Room 407
Santa Barbara, California 93101



Re.: Meadow Terrace Project
Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

Gentlemen:

I strongly support the Botanic Garden's proposed Meadow Terrace Project, in order to create additional level ground work, with modest sandstone walls of approximately 18 inches in height, for disabled person access to view plants in a display area.

The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden's plant displays are an ever changing delight to all who view them in the community. The Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission is attempting to exercise jurisdiction, in the narrowest negative sense of the term, to regulate a minor native exhibit project, over which they lack a right to restrict its development.

The arbitrary decision of the Advisory Commission to curtail the Meadow Terrace Project violates the Botanic Garden's legal rights, as clearly defined in the Garden's Landmark Resolution for expansion of exhibits. The document, ratified by the Board of Supervisors in 2003, ". . . was approved with language allowing the Garden to continue to change and evolve as a traditional garden."

The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden's request for the

Allen, Michael (COB)

From: Kim DeVenne [kdevenne@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 2:51 PM
To: Allen, Michael (COB)
Subject: support of Botanic Garden

#5

Dear Mr. Allen,

I am writing you in support of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. I grew up going to the Botanic Garden, and now I take my children (and dog) to enjoy this local treasure. While I certainly believe in the preservation of the designated historic structures, I don't believe the Garden should be micro-managed by the HLAC. The Botanic Garden agreed to become designated a historic landmark with the assurance it could continue to operate as a botanic garden - which by necessity must be allowed to change and evolve.

Please clarify the HLAC's jurisdiction and authority over minor improvements to the Garden's property. Surely all the time, energy and money spent fighting all of these agencies would be much better utilized in direct work on the Garden itself.

Thank you.

Kim DeVenne

LATE
DIST

2008 FEB 14 PM 3:00
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

2-11-08

Charlene T Snow
1036 A Calle Sastre
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

#5



To the Executive Staff of the Santa
Barbara "Botanic Garden":

It is hard for me to comprehend
why anyone would object to your
plan to improve the Garden;
especially since it would help
disabled persons to enjoy the
Garden as much as the rest of
us more fortunate people do.

Even if this were not your main
reason for the improvement,
you offer Santa Barbara a unique
and excellent chance for enjoyment
as well as education!

Sincerely,

Charlene Snow