



SUSAN CURTIS
Assistant Planning Director

July 28, 2023

Glenn Shephard
County of Ventura
Watershed Protection District
800 S Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009



SUBJECT: Notification of Proposed Downgrade of Ventura County Landmark to Point of Interest

Location: 786 and 788 West Matilija Canyon Road, Ventura County
Common Name: Ventura County Landmark #25 - Matilija Hot Springs
Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs): 010-0-180-420, 010-0-180-430, 010-0-180-440, 010-0-180-450, and 010-0-180-510

Dear Property Owner:

The property referenced above is currently designated as a Ventura County Landmark. Please be advised that Ventura County Planning Division staff identified this Landmark as potentially eligible to be downgraded to a Ventura County Point of Interest. Please review this notice for important information on the County of Ventura's proposed action regarding this designation.

Pursuant to Section 1368 of Ventura County Cultural Heritage Ordinance No. 4604, a Ventura County Landmark may be downgraded where there is evidence that the property has been defaced, demolished, added to, altered, or moved, or damaged by natural disaster, including but not limited to, earthquake, fire, or flood, and the Cultural Heritage Board determines that the site's integrity has been impacted, through no fault or neglect of the property owner, to the extent that it no longer meets the criteria for a Cultural Heritage Site. For your reference, Section 1367 of the Cultural Heritage Ordinance establishes that Points of Interest satisfy one of the following criteria:

- (1) The site of a building, structure or object that no longer exists, but was associated with historic events, important persons, or embodied a distinctive character or architectural style; or
- (2) A site that has historical significance, but has been altered to the extent that the integrity of the original workmanship, materials, or style has been substantially compromised; or
- (3) The site of a historic event which has no distinguishable characteristics other than that a historic event occurred at that site, and the site is not of sufficient historical significance to justify the establishment of a Landmark.

County of Ventura
October 9, 2023
Cultural Heritage Board Meeting
Item 6b
Exhibit 2 – Property Owner Notification
Letter

The subject Landmark is described as follows:

- J.W. Wilcox built this campsite/resort in 1871, naming it Matilija for a Chumash Indian village. In 1873 cabins and a hotel were added. Destroyed by floods in 1884, they were rebuilt in 1885, and a bath house and other accommodations added. There are 22 hot and cold springs at this spa which was once a popular campsite for bear hunters in the 1880s. The buildings were destroyed in the December 2017 Thomas Fire and subsequently demolished.

The County of Ventura's proposed action regarding this designation is intended to align the property with the criteria for a Point of Interest. While your consent is not required for the Cultural Heritage Board's future anticipated action regarding this designation, it is helpful in fully informing the Cultural Heritage Board. Removal or downgrade actions shall take place following a public hearing preceded by a 15-day notice to the property owner. At this time, a hearing on this item has not yet been scheduled.

Please complete the section on the following page and return this form to the Planning Division by electronic mail or U.S. mail within 15 days. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (805) 654-5042 or by email at Dillan.Murray@ventura.org.

Sincerely,



Dillan Murray, Associate Planner
Planning Programs Section
Ventura County Planning Division

July 28, 2023

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Proposed Downgrade of a Ventura County Landmark to a Ventura County Point of Interest Consent/Rejection:

I am the owner/authorized representative of the owner(s) of the property described below.

I/We: DO DO NOT

Consent to the downgrade of the subject property from a Ventura County Landmark to a Ventura County Point of Interest:

Property Address: 786 and 788 W. Matilija Cyn Rd Date: 8/18/2023

Assessor Parcel Number: 010-0-180-420, 010-0-180-430; 440, 450, 510

Name: Glenn Shephard Signature: 

Mailing Address: 800 S. Victoria Ave. Ventura, CA 93009

**Email: glenn.shephard@ventura.org **Phone: 805-654-2040

**Your contact information is requested so that we may provide you with ongoing information and communication related to this specific item only.