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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON OFFICE

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5100 Venado Avenue
Atascadero, California
November 14, 1962

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Dear Mr. Sallinger:

L.S.
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Morro Rock, which was so irresponsibly defaced during the war, is again being blasted apart. Morro Bay has tried to halt the wanton destruction of this venerable California landmark, but this political voice has been found too small. Won't you please put your more weighty shoulder to the wheel and help us to impress Governor Brown with the necessity of saving this public heritage?

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Madeline Wilson

Regional Director, Western U.S. Office
Mr. Bowen
Branch of History, WFO

BRW:plc:snh nob 12/5/62

Note to Region: It will be appreciated if you will Mrs. Wilson after opportunity to determine whether the Service can be of any assistance to her in this situation Morro Rock.

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Mrs. Madeline Wilson
 5100 Venado Avenue
 Atascadero, California

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

Mr. Salinger has referred to us your letter of November 14 for appropriate reply to your discussion of the threat now facing Morro Rock.

Unfortunately, we have no current information as to the situation to which you refer. Accordingly, we think the best thing we can do is to refer your letter to our Western Regional Office at 180 New Montgomery Street, San Francisco 5, California, for their attention. It may be that Regional Director Lawrence Merriam and members of his staff are acquainted with the situation you describe and will be able to offer you some advice and assistance.

Sincerely yours,

(SBD) JACKSON E. PRICE

Assistant Director

cc:

Regional Director, Western, w/c of inc.
 Mr. Bowen
 Branch of History, w/c of inc.

Note to Region: It will be appreciated if you will communicate with Mrs. Wilson after you have had an opportunity to determine whether the Service can be of any assistance to her relative to the situation she describes at Morro Rock.

REAppleman:ncb 12/5/62

684 Leonardo Ave., L58
Morro Bay, Calif.
February 19, 1963.

Stewart L. Udall
Secretary of The Interior, PM
Washington D.C.

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Mr. Secretary Sir:-

In the near future, you perhaps will be hearing from members of the Sierra Club and other Civic Organizations, about making the famous Morro Rock a National Monument.

The fight is on with the Army Engineers Corps. They are building a new breakwater one hundred feet to the landward side of the old breakwater. And are blasting tons of rock off the seaward side of Morro Rock to use as filler between the huge boulders being used to build the new breakwater. Their reason for doing so, it is convenient to get and will save \$235,000. Who ever heard of the Army Engineers trying to be so economical?

When these committees met to protest, the head Engineer told them that they had a legal right to use material from Morro Rock. That in the 1930's during the Roosevelt Administration, Congress voted to let The Army Engineers use material from The Big Rock to build the first breakwater. They now admit that the material from Morro Rock is not a satisfactory filler.

They suggested to the Committee, the only way to save Morro Rock from destruction is to get President Kennedy to sign a bill to make Morro Rock a National Monument. I hope this can be done.

Now I have another complaint to make about a dam being built in Missouri. It affects the future of my home town, Osceola and County. As well as other surrounding counties through which the Osage River flow. Most of all I am interested in in the people of these areas, they propose to inundate. These people will be ousted out of their homes into an already crowded world of homeless people. It means more unemployment, homes hard to get and more hungry people to be fed by the tax-payers. Then we have to think of the future young people. Many of them want to be farmers and to raise food for those who are homeless and hungry. The poor we will have with us always.

If these thousands of acres of good land are destroyed where is the chance for those who want to be farmers, to own good farmland and make a living off the land as God intended they should?

You know about the plans of the Armt Engineers to build a dam across the Osage River at the Kaysinger Bluffs near Warsaw Mo.

The Osage River is one of the most scenic rivers in the State of Missouri. Many miles of it is navigable by motor and row boats. It is a natural recreation area and for years has been enjoyed by folks from all over the country. Fishing, boating, swimming and skating are some of the enjoyments for those who want a real vacation along a tree shaded river and among friendly folks. Building this dam would destroy all all this natural beauty.

These Engineers and other parties backing this proposed dam, claim they are doing it for progress and conservation. These excuses are alright if used if they are used for the right purposes. In this case the dam is not needed. There are two dams already built across the Osage and another one is now under construction on one of its tributaries. This dam will destroy most of the best farms in the counties that will be inundated.

Where will all these dispossessed people go to live? They cant all start fishing, resort around the big lake? Just a few would make good.

I was born and raised near Osceola and spent more than fifty

years of my life in St. Clair County. At one time owning and operating a farm. Have paid taxes in the county, so feel I have a right to express my views.

I know these engineers have to make a living but so do the people they want to drive from their homes. Sounds a bit like some of Kruschev's antics. My only quarrel with the Engineers, if you want to call it that, is I am not in favor of this Kaysinger Dam because it is cheating the youth of these Counties, of their right to live along the Osage River in the future. . Leave the rich farm lands along the river for them. Do not destroy them by building dams.

We always have the money-grabbing people who like to be always pushing such projects. All they want is more money and have no qualms as to how they get it. Many a promising young Engineer has been ruined by getting caught in their net of deceit..

Dams are needed in many places but not across the Osage River.

I have written Major Kenneth Hatch of the Army Engineers Corps Kansas City Mo. Protesting these plans.

Also have written Senator Stuart L. Symington, Mo. D. and hope you get to talk to him. He is in favor of the the dam. So sold on it that he wants to ask for \$850,000 more than President Kennedy asked for in the bill he presented to Congress. A Senator Long is working with Symington. Also I have written to Representative Durward Hall who is from Missouri.

I enjoyed reading the article in the May 1963 issue of the National Geographic Magazine, of your trip to the Canyon Lands of Southern Utah. I will appreciate very much if you will use your influence to get the Engineers to drop their plans to build this dam. Of course if Congress will not vote the money then they cant build it.

1445 Thank you for any courtesies shown my petition.

Respectfully

Mr. Vernie L. Greenwell

God give us men! A time like this demands
 Strong minds, great hearts, true faith and ready hands;
 Men whom the lust of office does not kill;
 Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy;
 Men who possess opinions and a will;
 Men who have honor; men who will not lie.

By- Josiah Gilbert Holland.

San Francisco, Calif.
February 19, 1963

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Mrs. Vernie L. Greenwell
684 Bernardo Avenue
Morro Bay, California

Dear Mrs. Greenwell:

Your letter of February 19 to Secretary Udall expressing your concerns over the projects proposed by the Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army, has been forwarded to us for reply.

The Department of the Interior is normally provided an opportunity to review plans for water development projects proposed by the Corps, especially in relation to the effect such water impoundments may have on fish and wildlife, archeological and recreation values. The Department's views are, therefore, considered before such proposals are approved.

We are advising our Regional Offices involved about the proposals you mention. In doing so, we will also bring the Morro Rock matter to the specific attention of our Regional Director in San Francisco in the event he is not already aware of the Corps of Engineers' activity in southern California. He may want to consult with the California Department of Parks and Recreation because of the existing units of the State Park System already located in the Morro Bay area, and their possible interest in this natural feature.

Thank you for calling these proposals to our attention.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) BEN H. THOMPSON

Ben H. Thompson
Assistant Director

cc: Regional Director, Midwest w/c inc.
Western w/c inc.

RS w/c inc.
RNP w/c inc.

JWHowell:ml 4/4/63 Rewritten, TRSwain:ml 4/16/63

I was born and raised near Osceola and spent more than thirty

Morro Bay CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

P. O. Box 876

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Morro Bay, California

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January 6, 1965

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The Honorable Stuart Udall
Secretary of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Udall:

The Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce is deeply concerned about further use of Morro Rock for quarry purposes.

On this matter, our view, shared by all people in our city, county, state, and the nation, is one of deep resentment at the destruction of an historic landmark, probably first sighted by Cabrillo in 1571, and later officially discovered by Portola in 1769.

It is difficult for us to associate the loss of one of nature's most beautiful landmarks with the saving of \$1.50 per ton of rock. Majestic Morro Rock, covering forty acres, 570 feet high, blasted into small pieces, cannot do for future generations what it will accomplish in its present form.

Further inroads for quarry use will not only mar the great beauty of the Rock, but will certainly affect the economic future of the surrounding area.

Furthermore, the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce strongly opposes our city being held liable for the cost of preserving Morro Rock.

We shall deeply appreciate your opinions and your help in the preservation of Morro Rock. Your assistance should do much to remove the great sense of uncertainty felt by all of our citizens. We do dearly love our "Little Gibraltar" of the Pacific -- beautiful Morro Rock.

Respectfully,

Joseph C. Giannini

Joseph C. Giannini
Harbor Committee Chairman

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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P.O. Box 876

Morro Bay, California

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January 14, 1965

January 6, 1965

The Honorable Stuart Udall
Secretary of the Interior
Washington

Mr. Joseph C. Giannini
Harbor Committee Chairman
Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce
P. O. Box 876
Morro Bay, California

The Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce is deeply concerned about further use of Morro Rock for quarry purposes.

Dear Mr. Giannini:

On this matter, our view, shared by all people in our city, county, and state, is that the destruction of Morro Rock, California, is a tragedy. The National Park Service is the Federal agency charged primarily with the responsibility for historic preservation.

We certainly understand and appreciate your desire to have Morro Rock preserved, but the National Park Service has neither the authority nor the funds to assist in such projects. However, there is a possibility that Federal assistance might be available under the recently enacted Land and Water Conservation Act. To be eligible for assistance under this act, projects should be included in the various State Recreation Plans, to be prepared by appropriate state agencies. It is our understanding that worthwhile historical projects can be included in these state plans. The Federal agency which will cooperate and administer this program is the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

We appreciate your interest in historical preservation and hope the above information will be helpful.

We have the great sense of uncertainty by all of our citizens. We do dearly love our "Little Gibraltar" of the Pacific -- beautiful Morro Rock.

Sincerely yours,

Respectfully,

SIGNED

Charles W. Porter III
Chief Historian

Joseph C. Giannini
Joseph C. Giannini
Harbor Committee Chairman

- cc: Director, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation - w/c inc.
- Regional Director, Western - w/c inc.
- Branch of History - w/c inc.