

no cover letter

FNP *
MAY 17 1966

The below letter has been placed upon the Council Agenda for Monday, May 16th.
The Council convenes at 8:00 P.M. at the City Hall. PLEASE BE THERE!

What is happening at PUNTO del PINOLE, resulted from a curious annexation law which, however innocent in concept, appears diabolical in application . . . inasmuch as it seemingly permits a single absentee magnate (or a single transient speculator) wholly without roots in a community, to impose his will upon the whole people of that community. Whatever captious legal opinions may be ventured, as an archivist, the writer knows of no historical constitutional government which ever contemplated such a derogation of common-law rights. As PUNTO del PINOLE is historically linked to the City of Pinole and is within sight, sound, and smog-emission probability of Pinole, the Point is certainly the business of Pinole's City Government. In a larger sense, the destruction of PUNTO del PINOLE is everyone's business!

Opponents of efforts to save PUNTO del PINOLE may adduce such catch-phrases as "payroll" and "tax base". To prepare for such arguments, I suggest a visit to a certain local community in which the ecology of a steel-mill town may be studied at first hand. Further, as homeowners' county taxes are skyrocketing and county services dwindling, you may shrewdly evaluate accretion of past "tax bases".

PUNTO del PINOLE, one of the too few surviving links to California's wonderful yesteryears, deserves to become a Federal, State or Regional Park. It is the paramount site for the new State College. Must it become a hideous, noxious ruin?

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FRIDAY
MAY SIXTH
1 9 6 6

The Honorables, The Mayor and Council
City of Pinole, California

Sirs and Madam:

It has just been announced that the out-of-state corporation which is in the process of removing its galvanizing sheds from the City of South San Francisco to historic PUNTO del PINOLE (Point Pinole), now contemplates extensive filling and grading which will, of course, utterly destroy the Point's natural contour. While there have been some vague hints that the plant's management has discovered a method of eliminating the hideous air-sewage (smog) incidental to a metal cleaning and zinc plating operation, there remains a possibility that the residual forestation (Australian Eucalyptus) and any surviving indigenous trees may be killed.

What is being disfigured and destroyed is the Bay Area's most significant Historical landmark. For some time, it has been known that Don Gaspar de Portola's world famous 1769 Expedition, instead of discovering the Golden Gate and visiting the site of what is now the City of San Francisco, actually made the expedition's discoveries from Punto del Pinole. The appended photocopies of the official "American Guide Series - San Francisco and Bay Area Cities", published under the auspices of the State Department of Education in 1933, revised 1947, states this fact. The History of Pinole which I wrote for one of the Fiestas also mentions this; I having arrived at the same conclusion through independent research. Your new Historical Commission could substantiate the foregoing through the archives of the Bancroft Library.

In the hope that your distinguished body will spearhead a crusade to save Punto del Pinole, enlisting educational institutions and societies purporting to desire the preservation of California's heritage, I am directing a copy of this letter to the Regional Park District, who, I am sure, can find an isolated box canyon for such a prime bombing target as a galvanizing plant-complex and trade land with the mill owners.

THE MATTER RESTS WITH YOU.

John Healy
JOHN HEALY

cc: William Penn Mott, Director
Regional Park District

YOUNG 5-18
 UTLEY 5-18
 Austin 5/24

L58-RH

MAY 25 1966

Mr. John Healy
 577 Fourteenth Street
 Oakland, California 94612

Dear Mr. Healy:

President Johnson has asked us to respond to your recent communication concerning the preservation of Punto del Pinole (Point Pinole), California, now threatened by commercial development.

The National Park Service is sympathetic to the preservation of the Point Pinole site and hopes that this objective may be achieved by State or community action. The Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments, which advises the Secretary of the Interior on questions of national historical significance, has considered the importance of the Portala Expedition of 1769 and related sites and has not found these events or sites to be of national significance within the meaning of the Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666). We regret, therefore, that we would have no basis to intervene in the present developments at Point Pinole.

Your interest in writing to the President on this matter is appreciated, and we hope that the site may be saved through the efforts of the citizens of Point Pinole.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) JACKSON E. PRICE

Acting Director

cc:
 Regional Director, Western Region w/c of inc.
 RH w/c of inc.
 RH - Mr. Young
 SLH

RWYoung:so 5/24/66

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