

Saving and Preserving Arts and Cultural Environments  
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Telephone: 213/463-1629



January 15, 1996

James Lee Witt  
Director – FEMA  
500 C Street, SW 8th Floor  
Washington D.C. 20412

Dear Mr. Lee Witt:

Re: FEMA - 1008-DR. P.A. 111 - 90506 Sub Grantee Preserve Bottle Village Committee  
and Gallegly Bill HR 175 before the House Transportation Infrastructure Committee

As a professional of over thirty years in the study of folk art environments I want to applaud FEMA for granting restoration funds to the Preserve Bottle Village Committee.

The "Village," is one of ten sites given the honor of being declared a California State Historic Landmark. It is also a Ventura Count as well as a City of Simi Valley Landmark.

Of 700 + sites in the United States, it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, an honor given only to 8 other U.S. environments. This is a special place.

Tressa Prisbrey's life work has appeared in at least 80 books, catalogs, magazine articles. It is the subject of numerous films, and lectures. A definitive book on the field of non-academic art, "Raw Creation," (1996) is a world overview of the subject and "Bottle Village" is one of the few major sites highlighted.

After the two year restoration process the site will again be open to the public and will again become a cultural destination in Southern California.

Representative Gallegly should not be considered as the arbiter what is important in American Art. HR 175 is censorship based upon personal taste.

Please do what you can to let the restoration start so the site can be enjoyed by the public.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Seymour Rosen Director SPACES

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