



HALS

Historic American Landscape Survey
Northern California Chapter
444 17th Street, Oakland, CA 94612
Telephone: 510/465-1284

September 8, 2006

Gloria Sciara
City of Santa Clara - Planning Division
1500 Civic Center Drive
Santa Clara, CA 95050

RE: **Bay Area Research and Extension Center (BAREC)**

Dear Ms. Sciara:

I write on behalf of the Northern California Chapter of the Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS), a new national program established to raise awareness of America's cultural and historic landscapes. HALS is run jointly by the National Park Service and the American Society of Landscape Architects.

At our most recent quarterly meeting, we heard a presentation on BAREC. Among other things, we learned that the site has a long history of serving feeble children (1860 – 1920) and Civil War veteran's families (1920 – 1950), as well as doing agricultural research since the 1920s. Bob Raabe, Doug Hamilton, Harry Butterfield, Rob Thayer, Ali Harivandi and other leaders in agricultural research conducted many significant research projects at this site.

Clearly, BAREC provides a unique history focused on California's agriculture – a key component of our state's economic base. Much of the research done at this facility has directly impacted the work of California landscape architects and projects they have designed. Its history as a valued resource is important, and its future has the potential to continue this tradition.

Our membership recognizes the BAREC site as a significant landscape worthy of recognition at the local and state levels, and for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. We have submitted the site to HALS as a "Threatened Landscape" in hopes of bringing attention to the site at a national level.

We urge you to carefully review the important historic qualities of this very unique site and to conduct a CEQA review that thoroughly considers all relevant information.

Sincerely,

Christine G. Pattillo, ASLA, President, PGAdesign^{inc}
Co-Chair Northern California Chapter HALS