

Murray, Dillan

From: Dr. E.C. Krupp [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 6:52 PM
To: Murray, Dillan
Subject: Comments for Ventura County Cultural Heritage Board Meeting, Monday, 29 June 2020, 1:15 p.m., PDT

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As a professional astronomer actively involved since 1979 with the discovery and authorized, systematic study of the astronomical aspects of the Burro Flats Painted Cave Site Complex and as an agent of public astronomy who has explained and celebrated America's space achievement for more than four decades, I urge Ventura County's Cultural Heritage Board to support the nomination of the entire Burro Flats Cultural District to the National Register of Historic Places.

I strongly oppose restricting the recommendation to require the nomination "not interfere or otherwise impede remediation efforts."

Doing so endorses disturbing and altering a large portion of the site and assures the destruction of the historic and remarkable Coca test stands.

These test stands are part of an unprecedented and singular achievement in America's history of space exploration—the first manned landing on the moon. In combination with the rock art site, they unusually comprise a place where our modern world heritage in space converges with a prehistoric reach for the sky. We owe the future this story.

The combination of the Burro Flats Painted Cave Complex and the Coca test stands is exceptional and found nowhere else on earth. There will never be another first time to the moon, and its pairing with indigenous astronomical heritage will never be duplicated. It is unprecedented cultural heritage and a remarkable part of the history of indigenous California, the history of space exploration, the history of NASA, American history, and the history of the world.

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