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August 20, 2007

Hampton Tucker, Chief
Historic Preservation Grants Division
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street NW (org 2256)
Washington, DC 20005

Re: Valley of the Moon Natural History Association

Dear Mr. Tucker:

I am writing in support of an application submitted by the Valley of the Moon Natural History Association to restore and refurbish the historic lake at Jack London State Park in Glen Ellen, California. The grant would issue through the Save America's Treasures program.

Criteria are that monies from this grant be for the preservation and/or conservation of nationally significant intellectual and cultural artifacts and nationally significant historic structures and sites. Nothing could fit these criteria better than the famous Beauty Ranch that was home to one of our nation's most celebrated authors.

Jack London lived at Beauty Ranch—now Jack London State Park—from 1910 until his death in 1916. Historic photos show London and his wife swimming and boating on the 4-acre lake, which was created in 1913.

The dam at the foot of Sonoma Mountain is now cracked and leaking and the lake is clogged with sediment and marshy plants. The grant applicant, the Valley of the Moon Natural History Association, proposes to repair the dam, dredge the lake and repair downstream riparian areas.

Jack London State Historic Park is both a state and national historic site. As part of the California State Park System, the lake has been authorized for restoration for many years, but funds have not been allocated. Without the active involvement of the community and financial support from the federal government, this national treasure is in danger of being lost.

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This is a very worthwhile project and I encourage your consideration of the application submitted by the Valley of the Moon Natural History Association.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress

MT:cd
cc: Valley of the Moon Natural History Association
Bill Lynch, Sonoma Index Tribune