

Attorney General's Office
California Dept. of Justice
P.O. BOX 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550
Attn: Public Inquiry Unit

We are distressed and dismayed over the closure of the Southwest Museum, Los Angeles' first museum, founded in 1907. Two times the office of Attorney General has declined to intervene in the 2003 merger assumption by Autry National Center. **We are requesting a third, more comprehensive look at the merger agreement** for these three reasons:

- 1) The numerous breeches of donor restrictions accompanying the multitude of donations to the extensive Southwest Museum collections.
- 2) The merger promised to continue operating Southwest Museum as a separate institution. In 2006 the museum closed and has been serving as a warehouse, not as a public destination.
- 3) Autry misrepresented its financial strength in merger documents showing an asset of the one hundred million dollars which was only a promise from Jackie Autry's will to be realized in the future. This is a serious breach of generally accepted accounting principles.

Autry's recent announcement of acquisition of a larger building in Burbank sufficient to house two libraries, research and all museum storage is further proof of Autry's plans to abandon the use of the spectacular museum campus in historic Arroyo Seco section of Northeast Los Angeles.

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