

State Historical Resources Commission

RESOLUTION No. 2010-10

RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION

Dreyfuss & Blackford Architects

WHEREAS, Albert Dreyfuss, a war veteran discharged in California, established an architectural practice in Sacramento in 1950, and Leonard Blackford, a recent graduate of Berkeley's architecture school, joined him in 1953, following a short stint in the Office of the State Architect; and,

WHEREAS, Dreyfuss & Blackford Architects were hired to design a headquarters that would accommodate the Sacramento Municipal Utilities District's four hundred employees and provide capacity for additional growth in functions and personnel, a commission that immediately established their local and regional reputation; and,

WHEREAS, the 1959 SMUD Headquarters building, strongly influenced by the work of Mies van der Rohe and the International sub-style of Modernism, embodies all of the major characteristics of the International Style while expressing an individualized vision and a high level of artistry, particularly in its treatment of the glass wall façades and in the incorporation of a major artwork by Wayne Thiebaud into the fabric of the building; and,

WHEREAS, this landmark project immediately inspired international interest and earned multiple design awards, and in January 2010 was listed on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as one of the best examples of the Modernist International Style in the City of Sacramento; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that official recognition on behalf of the State Historical Resources Commission is given to Dreyfuss & Blackford Architects for their significant role in establishing the Modern Style as a notable part of Sacramento's architectural heritage, and congratulations extended on the occasion of the firm's 60th anniversary and continuing commitment to sustainable design; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be recorded in the minutes of the State Historical Resources Commission and a suitable copy presented to Dreyfuss & Blackford Architects.

November 5, 2010

STATE HISTORICAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Julianne Polanco
Chairperson

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
Executive Secretary

