

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, California 94035



November 13, 2017

Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
Department of Parks & Recreation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816

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Mark A. Beason
State Historian II
Office of Historic Preservation
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Subject: Initiation of Section 106 consultation for the Clark Road Guard Station Project at NASA Ames Research Center ("NASA ARC"), Santa Clara County, CA.

Dear Ms. Polanco,

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is studying whether to upgrade the existing security checkpoint at Clark Road, which is a primary point of entry into NASA ARC and the potential Expanded NAS Sunnyvale Historic District. This potential upgrade project is referred to as the Clark Road Guard Station Project (the "Undertaking").

Per the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended, and its regulations found at 36 CFR Part 800, NASA is the lead agency and requests consultation under Section 106 for the proposed Undertaking.

Currently, the secured entrance checkpoint along Clark Road consists of a temporary guard station and supporting security and safety infrastructure, including fencing, gates, bollards, and signage. This temporary guard station is operational; however, a more long-term

solution is under consideration. The Undertaking involves three alternatives for such a long-term guard station solution, pending a later determination of the exact security needs for NASA ARC. These alternatives include the following:

- Alternative 1 – maintaining the temporary guard station as the permanent security solution,
- Alternative 2 – removing the temporary guard station and most of the associated security infrastructure,
- Alternative 3 – removing the temporary guard station and constructing a new permanent guard station and vehicle inspection station.

All three alternatives are being explored as part of the Section 106 review process.

Of the three options, Alternative 3, would also involve below-ground interventions, including the construction of new utility lines, a storm water drain, and footings for the aforementioned structures. These interventions will have a varied width of 12” to 24” and a depth of 40” to about 84”; the exact depth of disturbance will vary depending on a feature’s location and the exact implement being constructed.

Given that Alternative 3 involves work occurring below grade, the Section 106 assessment will include an archaeological investigation that will assist in the determination of whether the Undertaking would affect properties that are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. An archaeological investigation involving core sampling is currently underway in areas of the Undertaking that have been identified in previous studies as archaeologically sensitive. This archaeological investigation is being conducted by WSA and reviewed by Page & Turnbull, NASA’s Facilities Historic Preservation Officer, and NASA’s cultural resource consultants. Qualified archaeologists are on site during the coring process and are accompanied by an Ohlone Native American monitor. A report with findings of the archaeological investigation will be incorporated into an Archaeological Testing Report and forwarded to the SHPO for review in subsequent Section 106 correspondence.

At this time, we request acknowledgement of the initiation of the Section 106 consultation process. Documentation related to details of the Undertaking, the Archaeological Testing Report, and a Section 106 Technical Report with supporting Appendices will be forthcoming.

Sincerely,



Keith H. Venter,
Facilities Historic Preservation Officer



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CC:

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