

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

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January 25, 2017

In reply, reference to: NASA\_2016\_1227\_001

Keith Venter  
Historic Preservation Officer  
Facilities Engineering Branch  
NASA Ames Research Center  
Mail Stop 213-8  
Moffett Field, CA 94035

Subject: Electrical – Telecommunications Infrastructure Project, Moffett Federal Airfield,  
NASA Ames Research Center, Santa Clara County, CA

Dear Mr. Venter:

Thank you for your February 6, 2017, letter continuing consultation regarding an undertaking at NASA Ames Research Center (ARC). NASA is consulting with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in order to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (54 U.S.C. §306108), as amended, and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR Part 800. Along with your letter, NASA submitted a report entitled "MFA Electrical-Telecommunications Infrastructure Project, Section 106 Technical Report" prepared by Page & Turnbull and dated February 2017.

The proposed undertaking, as previously described, involves upgrading approximately 15,000 linear feet of existing electrical and telecommunications pathways to serve the properties leased by Planetary Ventures (PV) at Moffett Federal Airfield and the Bay View Site. Existing conduits and pathways will be used where possible, but new construction of below-grade pathways will be required. A combination of horizontal drilling to a maximum depth of 15 feet and open trench construction to a maximum depth of 8 feet will be used.

NASA defined an Area of Potential Effect (APE) for this undertaking that encompasses all of the lands at NASA ARC and extends to a depth ranging between three and 15 feet deep depending upon the work proposed.

NASA conducted an Information Center search that included the APE and revealed 11 previously recorded archaeological sites within a quarter-mile of the ground disturbance area. However, surveys since discovery of those sites in 1912 have been unable to re-locate them. A pedestrian field survey in November 2016 did not result in the identification of any cultural materials or potential for site remnants. NASA conducted archaeological coring at 24 locations along the proposed utility alignment in December 2016. No cultural materials were

identified in any of the core samples, 24 of which extended to a depth of 20 feet and one of which reached impassible resistance at 11.5 feet.

The APE includes the expanded NAS Sunnyvale Historic District, NASA Ames Wind Tunnel National Register Historic District, and four individually-eligible or listed properties. Properties that may be directly affected by the undertaking include:

- Boiler Plant Facility / Heat Plant (Building 10): Installation of new utilities will enter the building through existing conduits, but may require a new below-grade opening through the floor slab to accommodate the switchgear;
- UHF / VHF Transmission Building (Building 454): New utilities will terminate at this building using existing underground conduits;
- Runway 23L / 14R (MF 1000): The Moffett Federal Airfield (MFA) – Bay View alignment of new utilities intersects the runway;
- Instrument Runway 32R / 14 L (MF 1001): The Moffett Federal Airfield (MFA) – Bay View alignment of new utilities intersects the runway;
- Aircraft Parking Apron (MF 1002): The Moffett Federal Airfield (MFA) – Bay View alignment of new utilities intersects the parking apron and will be used as a staging area; and
- Contributing Landscape Features of the NASA Ames Wind Tunnel Historic District are within the project footprint.

As described and supported by the technical report, NASA proposed a Finding of No Adverse Effect for this undertaking. After reviewing the information submitted, the SHPO offers the following comments.

- The APE appears to be sufficient to take effects of the undertaking into account.
- Identification and evaluation efforts appear to be sufficient.
- Based upon the information submitted, the SHPO has no objection to the proposed Finding of No Adverse Effect for this undertaking.
  - However, the SHPO recommends archaeological monitoring in locations of the project alignment that are near previously identified archaeological sites, as feasible.
  - The SHPO also recommends that NASA consider open trenching in lieu of

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directional boring where feasible where entry and exit pits will be placed to increase the potential effectiveness of archaeological monitoring.

- Please be advised that under certain circumstances, such as unanticipated discovery or a change in project description, NASA may have additional future responsibilities for this undertaking under 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for considering historic properties in your project planning efforts. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mark Beason, State Historian, at (916) 445-4047 or [mark.beason@parks.ca.gov](mailto:mark.beason@parks.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Julianne Polanco  
State Historic Preservation Officer