

National Aeronautics and Space Administration



Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, California 94035

February 6, 2023

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

Attn: Mr. Mark Beason

Subject: Section 106 Consultation for Lighter-Than-Air (LTA) Office Replacement Project
at Moffett Federal Airfield, Santa Clara County, CA

Dear Ms. Polanco,

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Ames Research Center (ARC) requests Section 106 consultation on the LTA Office Replacement Project (project or undertaking) at Moffett Federal Airfield (MFA), NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, Santa Clara County, California. Planetary Ventures (PV) is proposing a limited set of improvements at the Eastside Airfield area of MFA. The undertaking would consist of removing the existing modular office trailers between Hangars 2 and 3 and replacing them with new trailers on the west side of Hangar 2. The project requires permit approval from NASA ARC. Therefore, NASA ARC has determined that the project constitutes an undertaking under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

AECOM conducted a cultural resources assessment for the project (see attached). The memorandum provides a detailed description of the undertaking and the Area of Potential Effects (APE), identifies the historic properties in the APE, and provides an analysis of the undertaking's potential effects on historic properties under the Criteria of Adverse Effects per 36 CFR Section 800.5(a)(1). The memorandum is attached for your review.

Description of the Undertaking

The undertaking will occur in the vicinity of Hangar 2 within MFA (see Figures 1 and 2, attached). The project will relocate 10 trailers to the west of Hangar 2, create a fenced storage area, and install necessary utility connections for water, sewer, and electricity, and the resurfacing of asphalt. The 10 trailers will include eight modular trailers arranged in two separate 48-by-60-foot groups for office use by LTA staff, a small restroom modular building between 500 and 1,000 square feet located immediately adjacent to the two groups of trailers, and a small printing modular building between 500 and 1,000 square feet immediately adjacent to the two groups of office trailers. An electrified research and design (R&D) equipment storage area will be relocated to the south side of Hangar 2. The area is approximately 10,000 square feet and surrounded by a 6-foot-tall fence anchored to the existing concrete. Necessary utility connections for water, sewer, and electricity will include installation of meters and trenching and/or horizontal directional drilling for new connections to existing utility lines. The project will resurface asphalt within the limits of work on the west side of Hangar 2 and replace asphalt in certain locations where asphalt is severely deteriorated. An estimated 3.4 acres of existing asphalt would be reconditioned.

Area of Potential Effects

The APE is defined to address both direct and indirect impacts on potential historic properties and encompasses areas that may be affected by both temporary and permanent construction activities (see Figure 3, attached). The APE is located within the NRHP-listed U.S. Naval Air Station Sunnyvale, California (NAS Sunnyvale) Historic District and accounts for potential indirect effects on the district as a whole. The APE does not include the entire boundary of the district due to the project's limited scale. The APE is delineated as the limits of staging and construction and the extent of potential visual impacts resulting from permanent aboveground project improvements.

The APE includes all areas of proposed ground-disturbing activity. Ground disturbance for the undertaking is limited to trenching for utilities related to the new office trailers. The maximum cumulative linear extent of new utility line excavation is approximately 50 feet. The vertical APE includes the extent of ground disturbance to a depth of no more than 6.5 feet below existing surface; however, this is likely less for most utility connections. All other work would occur on or within the existing surface asphalt prism.

Affected Historic Properties

The project is primarily located in an area of low sensitivity for archaeological resources. However, the southern extent of the APE, including the new electrified R&D equipment storage area, is in an area considered to have a heightened sensitivity for near-surface prehistoric and historic-era archaeological resources. The APE contains individually eligible historic properties and several contributors to the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District, including Hangars 1, 2, and 3, Building 158.

Effects Assessment

The Criteria of Adverse Effect were applied to assess the Undertaking's potential effects on the historic properties in the APE. No archaeological resources are known to exist in the APE. This area is extensively disturbed and previously surveyed with no evidence of cultural materials or sites. If any materials are discovered during construction, all work will cease and the NASA ARC Inadvertent Discovery Policy, Standard Operating Procedure 8 in the ICRMP, will be followed. No architectural historic properties identified in the APE would be physically impacted by this project. The new trailers for the LTA offices are intended to be temporary. The trailers would not be physically connected to Hangar 2 and would be set back 70 feet. In accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, the new construction would not destroy historic materials, features, or the spatial relationships that characterize the property, and would be differentiated but compatible and reversible. No visual, audible, or atmospheric elements would be introduced by this project that would diminish the integrity of the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District or its contributors, specifically Hangars 1, 2, and 3, Building 158, or the airfield, within the APE.

Finding of Effect

Based on the assessment conducted by qualified cultural resources professionals, NASA ARC has made a finding that the undertaking will result in No Adverse Effect.

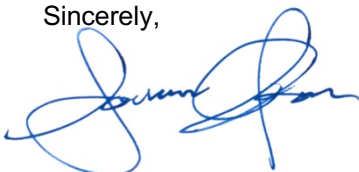
Consultation Efforts

NASA ARC has not identified additional consulting parties for this Section 106 review but is making these findings available to the public via the NASA ARC Historic Preservation Office website (<https://historicproperties.arc.nasa.gov/section106.html>).

NASA ARC requests the SHPO's concurrence on NASA's finding of No Adverse Effect for this undertaking pursuant to 36 CFR 800.5(b). Please provide a response within 30 days of receipt of this letter, as specified in 36 CFR 800.5(c).

Please contact me at Jonathan.D.Ikan@nasa.gov or (650) 604-6859 if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



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Cc:

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Attachment: Memorandum, Section 106 Consultation on Lighter-Than-Air (LTA) Office Replacement Project, NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, Santa Clara County, California. Prepared by AECOM, dated December 2022.