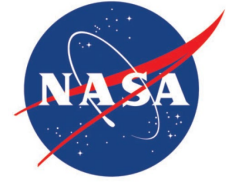


National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, CA 94035-1000



February 21, 2025

Ms. Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
Department of Parks & Recreation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 85816

Attn: Mr. Mark A. Beason

Subject: Section 106 Consultation for the NASA Entryway Signage Project

Dear Ms. Polanco:

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Ames Research Center (ARC) requests initiation of consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (54 United States Code §306108), as amended, for the NASA Entryway Signage Project (project or undertaking) at the ARC at Moffett Field, Santa Clara County, California (see enclosure; Attachment A, Figures 1 and 2). NASA ARC has determined that this project constitutes an undertaking under Section 106.

NASA ARC retained AECOM Technical Services, Inc. to conduct a cultural resources study for this project. The study was conducted by cultural resources professionals who meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards (36 CFR Part 61; 48 Federal Register 44738). Enclosed is the study report with descriptions of the undertaking, the Area of Potential Effects (APE), identification efforts, and the affected historic properties, and concludes with an assessment of potential effects resulting from the undertaking, as summarized below.

Description of the Undertaking

The project is located at the entrance to ARC, on the southeast corner of the intersection of Clark Road and RT Jones Road. The project involves the installation of a sign in a planting strip on the west side of the sidewalk in front of Building 26. NASA ARC will fabricate a steel and sheet metal sign illustrating the NASA logo mounted on a podium with an interior time capsule. The sign will be 15.25-feet high by 12.5-feet wide. The sign will be attached to a concrete foundation that is wider and longer than the podium with zinc-plated bolts and washers and illuminated at night by floodlights attached to the foundation. The staging area would be limited to the paved parking lot immediately to the southwest.

Area of Potential Effects

The APE (see enclosure; Attachment A, Figure 3) was defined to address both direct and indirect potential effects on historic properties, including areas that may be affected by both temporary and permanent construction activities. The APE overlaps the Naval Air Station (NAS) Sunnyvale Historic District and accounts for potential indirect effects on the district as a whole but does not include the entire district boundary due to the project's relative scale to the district. Minimal below-grade activities for this project consist of an electrical tie-in to existing electrical utility lines for the signage floodlights. The area where this will occur has been modified several times since the road was first constructed in 1933, most recently with the intersection improvements in 2017 that realigned the road, removed paving from the proposed project site, and created the sidewalk and adjacent landscaping with imported soils. Because there are only imported soils at the location of ground disturbance, archaeological resources are not considered in this study. Therefore, the APE was defined as the limits of staging and construction for the undertaking with a 250-foot buffer to address potential visual intrusions related to the sign.

Affected Historic Properties

The APE overlaps with the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District and includes its contributing features Building 26 and the viewshed from the main gate along Clark Road towards Shenandoah Plaza and Hangar 1 in the distance. These historic properties are described in the attachment.

Effects Assessment

The Criteria of Adverse Effect were applied to assess the undertaking's potential effects on the historic properties in the APE, including the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District and its contributing features Building 26 and the viewshed from the main gate along Clark Road towards Shenandoah Plaza and Hangar 1.

The project will not change the character of the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District. The setting immediately adjacent to Building 26 and the main entrance has been modified several times since it was first constructed in 1933, most recently with the intersection improvements completed in 2017 that installed cantilevered traffic signal poles, sidewalks, roadway planting islands, relocated the Clark Road Gate House and installed a large ARC sign next to the gate posts. While the new sign will be within the setting of Building 26, the main gate, and the viewshed along Clark Road towards Shenandoah Plaza, the sign will be visible before the main gate, will not obstruct views of the historic properties, and will not diminish any aspect of integrity of these historic properties. Therefore, the setting will be minimally modified by the placement of the new sign at the periphery of the district. No visual, atmospheric, or audible elements will be introduced by this project that would diminish the integrity of the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District or its contributor Building 26.

Minimal ground disturbance will be limited to an area disturbed by previous grading, trenching, and boring associated with the previous Main Gate Realignment Project and associated road widening at the road intersection between 2016 and 2017. NASA ARC's finding of No Adverse Effects for that undertaking received concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on June 4, 2013. The extant planting strip where the sign will be installed consists of imported soils; therefore, no potential effects on archaeological resources are anticipated.

Finding of Effect

The project will not alter any of the characteristics of historic properties that qualify them for NRHP inclusion and will not result in adverse effects. 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 State Historic Preservation Officer'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 feel free to contact me at maria.k.meiser@nasa.gov or (650) 390-5450.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trina Meiser', is centered on the page.

Trina Meiser
Cultural Resources Manager

Enclosure

Section 106 Technical Memorandum for the NASA Entryway Signage Project, prepared by AECOM, dated February 5, 2025

cc:

ARC/Historic Preservation Office