National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Ames Research Center Moffett Field, CA 94035-1000



September 15, 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 Bay View Power Project

Dear Ms. Polanco:

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Ames Research Center (ARC) requests consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (54 United States Code §306108), as amended, for the Bay View Power Project (project or undertaking) at the ARC at Moffett Field, Santa Clara County, California (Attachment A, Figure 1). The project will upgrade electrical infrastructure to the Bay View Campus. NASA ARC previously consulted with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in 2016 on the Construction of the Bay View Campus (OHP reference NASA_2016_0808_001), which involved the development of the office complex and sports facilities adjacent to the APE, including roads and utilities constructed in the APE for the development of the campus. NASA ARC has determined that this project constitutes an undertaking under Section 106 that will result in No Historic Properties Affected pursuant 36 CFR 800.4(d).

Description of the Undertaking

The project will reroute power to the Bay View Campus from a new Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) connection point near the existing PG&E substation to the Central Utility Plant (CUP) (Attachment B).

Key project elements include:



Area of Potential Effects

The APE (Attachment A, Figure 2) was defined to address both direct and indirect potential effects on historic properties.

The project does not propose any permanent aboveground features, so potential indirect effects on built environment resources are not anticipated. Therefore, the APE is defined as the limits of construction for the undertaking.

Affected Historic Properties

The project area consisted of agricultural or open fields from the nineteenth through the twentieth century, until NASA ARC expanded to the northeast in the 1980s and aligned the portion of Bay View Drive that extends north from Hunsaker Road. The current configuration of roads in the project area was built as part of the Bay View campus development in the late 2010s and early 2020s. The area was graded, filled as necessary, and paved.

NASA ARC previously consulted with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in 2016 on the Construction of the Bay View Campus (OHP reference NASA_2016_0808_001), which involved the construction of the office complex and sports facilities bordering the APE to the north and west. An archaeological survey conducted for that project (*Cultural Resources Assessment Report, Moffett Federal Airfield – Bay View Campus, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara County, California*, prepared by WSA, Inc. dated June 2016) overlapped with the current APE. The 2016 pedestrian survey identified no archaeological sites; no inadvertent discoveries were reported during the construction of the Bay View Campus.

A comprehensive investigation of previous archaeological studies at ARC was completed in 2017 and updated in 2025 (*NASA Ames Research Center Archaeological Resources Study* prepared by AECOM in 2017). This investigation involved a desktop study of archival resources and a geoarchaeological assessment of the entire ARC site and included an assessment of archaeological sensitivity and the potential for buried archaeological resources. The study concluded there is low potential for more deeply buried prehistoric archaeological resources across ARC. In a letter dated June 22, 2017, the SHPO found the study results acceptable as a baseline for future investigation and treatment of archaeological resources at ARC and as a reference for professionally qualified staff for future undertakings (NASA_2015_0928_001).

A review of the 2017 investigation indicates that a small segment of the proposed work at the southern terminus extends into an area of heightened historic-period archaeological sensitivity (Attachment A; Figure 3). This area is associated with the nineteenth century O. Crittenden farmstead, though no archaeological resources have been previously encountered in this area. It is known that the amount of prior disturbance in this area is high, so the potential for previously unidentified but intact historic-period resources is low.

Effects Assessment

The depth of excavation is approximately 5 to 7 feet deep within two newly trenched areas. Ground disturbance will be limited to an area disturbed by previous grading associated with the previous Construction of Bay View Campus project road and utilities construction. NASA ARC's finding of No Adverse Effects for that undertaking received concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on November 3, 2016. No archaeological resources have been identified in the APE. However, a portion of the APE overlaps an area considered to have Heightened Historic-era Archaeological Sensitivity related to the nineteenth century O. Crittenden farmstead. No potential effects on archaeological resources are anticipated, but as a precaution to ensure that any unanticipated archaeological resources are appropriately identified and treated, ground-disturbing activities in the area of Heightened Historic-era Archaeological Sensitivity will be monitored. Any inadvertent discoveries will be treated in accordance with Standard Operating Procedures in the NASA ARC Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (AECOM 2014).

Finding of Effect

The APE does not contain any known historic properties. Based on the assessment conducted by qualified cultural resources professionals, NASA ARC has made a finding that the undertaking will result in No Historic Properties Affected.

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 Historic Properties Affected for this undertaking pursuant 36 CFR 800.4(d). Please provide a response within 30 days of receipt of this letter.

Please feel free to contact me at maria.k.meiser@nasa.gov or (650) 390-5450.

Sincerely,

Trina Meiser

Cultural Resources Manager

Enclosure Attachment A Attachment B

cc:

ARC/Historic Preservation Office

The following content was redacted from this public posting:

Attachments A and B