

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, California 94035



December 4, 2024

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

Attn: Mark A. Beason

Subject: Section 106 Consultation for the Facility Security Level Upgrades Project, NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, Santa Clara County, California

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 Facility Security Level Upgrades Project (project or undertaking) at the NASA Ames Research Park at NASA ARC, Moffett Field, Santa Clara County, California. NASA ARC has determined that this project constitutes an undertaking under Section 106.

In support of its responsibilities under Section 106, NASA ARC retained AECOM Technical Services, Inc. to conduct a technical review 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 for your review is a Section 106 Technical Memorandum, dated September 19, 2024, which includes detailed 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, summarized below.

Description of the Undertaking

The project is located within the NASA Ames Research Park at ARC, Moffett Field, Santa Clara County, California (see attached, Appendix A; Figures 1 and 2). The project involves the installation of security fencing along the perimeter of Block 15 and exterior security improvements to Building 16. Block 15 is bordered by S. Akron Road to the north, McCord Avenue to the west, and Westcoat Road to the south. The project is located within the boundary of the U.S. Naval Air Station Sunnyvale, California (NAS Sunnyvale) Historic District, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

This project involves security improvements for existing facilities to meet minimum Federal Security protection requirements [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Building 16. Security improvements to Building 16 [REDACTED]

Site work. Additional project work includes the installation of several new Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) curb ramps near Buildings 15 and 16 including new associated striping; an ABA ramp and a handrail on the north elevation of Building 15; and installation of a new sidewalk and associated striping from McCord Avenue to Building 16.

The staging area for the project is on the west side of McCord Avenue on a paved parking lot area between Buildings T36-A and 566.

Area of Potential Effects

The APE is located within the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District and accounts for potential indirect effects on the district as a whole but does not include the entire boundary of the district due to the project's scale relative to the size of the district. The APE encompasses areas that may be affected by both temporary and permanent construction activities (see attached, Appendix A; Figure 3). Project activities will occur on the exterior of Building 16. Below-grade activities are limited to the perimeter of Block 15 for the installation of fencing, and the perimeter and interior

of Block 15 for excavation for utility lines and grading for new ABA ramps. These areas are included in the APE for direct impacts, with a vertical APE of approximately 7' maximum depth for fence post footings, gate pedestal footings, and to access utilities in limited areas where excavation would occur. Visual impacts resulting from the installation of new fencing and bollards around Block 15 pose limited changes to the setting of the overall historic district and adjacent contributors; therefore, the APE includes Block 15 and a buffer that encompasses the first tier of immediately adjacent buildings to address potential visual intrusions related to the installation of the fencing.

Affected Historic Properties

The APE is within the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District. Historic properties in the APE include Buildings 6, 10, 15, 16, and 17, because they are contributors to the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District. 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 Buildings 6, 10, 15, 16, and 17.

There are no known archaeological sites in the APE, and the APE is in an area with a low potential for buried precontact sites. The southernmost portion of the proposed work is within an area identified as having potential sensitivity for historic-era archaeological resources, defined by a rural farm containing potential outbuildings (AECOM 2017). Given that the identified historic-era sensitivity is based on a buffer added to late 19th century agricultural developments depicted on low-accuracy historic-era maps, that only a small southern portion of the APE intersects this buffer, that there is a high level of prior disturbance within the APE, and that proposed ground disturbance is relatively limited, it appears that the proposed project has a low potential to disturb previously undocumented archaeological resources. Should the project uncover previously unknown subsurface archaeological resources, contractors will immediately halt construction, secure the site, and notify NASA of the unanticipated discovery. NASA will follow the standard operating procedure for unanticipated discoveries as outlined in the Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP) for ARC (AECOM 2014). Through implementation of mitigation measures outlined in the standard operating procedure for unanticipated discoveries, the undertaking would have no adverse effect on archaeological historic properties.

The APE is located within the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District and contains district contributors, Buildings 6, 10, 15, 16, and 17. Project activities will occur on the exterior of Building 16 and within Block 15. Building 10 is within the project site. Built in 1932-33 adjacent to Shenandoah Plaza to the west, Buildings 10, 15, 16, and 17 are significant for their Spanish Colonial Revival-style architectural features in relation to the district. Overall, the proposed alterations, including installation of a new fence and ABA-compliant features, would have minimal impacts on Buildings 15 and 16, and to the setting of Buildings 6, 10, 15, 16, and 17. The alterations would not detract from any historic characteristics or character-defining features of the contributing buildings or the district, or compromise the properties' integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association.

The project will not alter any of the characteristics of the historic properties that qualify them for NRHP inclusion and will not result in adverse effects. Therefore, the proposed undertaking would have no adverse effects on historic properties per 36 CFR § 800.5(b).

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.

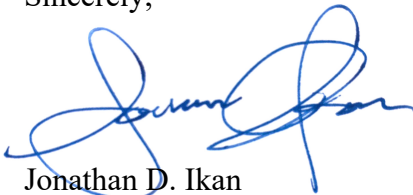
Consultation Efforts

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

Sincerely,



Jonathan D. Ikan
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Cc:

Dr. Rebecca Klein, NASA Deputy FPO Environmental Management Division NASA
Headquarters
300 E Street, SW Washington, DC 20546-0001

Enclosure: *Section 106 Technical Memorandum for the Facility Security Level Upgrades Project*, NASA Ames.