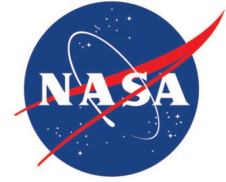


National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, CA 94035-1000



March 26, 2026

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 on Finding of Adverse Effect for the Building N-226 Wind Tunnel Demolition Project (NASA_2025_0926_001)

Dear Ms. Polanco:

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Ames Research Center (ARC) is continuing consultation on the Building N-226 Wind Tunnel Demolition Project (project or undertaking) at ARC, Moffett Field, Santa Clara County, California (Attachment A, Figures 1 and 2), under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 United States Code §306108), and the *Programmatic Agreement Among the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers Regarding the Management of NASA Centers* (NASA-wide Programmatic Agreement [NPA]). Executed in October 2025, the NPA implements an alternate project review process for Section 106 undertakings, pursuant to 36 Code of Federal Regulations 800.14(b). The project will demolish the exterior wind tunnel structure of Building N-226, the former 6- by 6-Foot Supersonic Wind Tunnel, which is a Category 1 Asset (i.e., individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places [NRHP]) under the NPA. Partial demolition of this historic property is not excluded from Section 106 consultation under the NPA and meets the criteria of adverse effect (36 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] §800.5[a][1]).

Project Description

Building N-226, the former 6- by 6-Foot Supersonic Wind Tunnel, was constructed in 1945-48 and decommissioned in 1988. Since it was decommissioned in 1988, leaking oil has been observed several times from the non-operational wind tunnel motor, piping from under the south end of the compressor section, cooling tubes from a transformer, and from other wind tunnel equipment that is not easily accessible or identifiable. The ground around these leaking

components appears to be oily and wet. Inside the building, gaskets and seals on non-operational equipment are failing, leaking spent oil on the floor, and causing an environmental hazard (BB&E 2021). Preliminary physical sampling and analytical assessments have also been conducted to assist in characterizing the chemical composition of the leaks in question. The growing concerns and impacts of the longstanding environmental hazard and recently issued regulatory violations have prompted remedial action. The scope of necessary physical removal of contaminated materials and soil remediation cannot be fully assessed until the structure is removed and further survey and testing can be conducted.

The project will demolish the exterior wind tunnel structure attached to Building N-226. The metal structure has deteriorated over time from disuse and deferred maintenance. The main building will remain; the south wing offices and other portions of the building have been rehabilitated and will remain in continued use. The project will sever the wind tunnel shafts that connect to the main building at three locations on the north, west, and south sides. The resultant openings in exterior walls of the main building will be filled with reinforced concrete and appropriately sealed with compatible materials to maintain their profiles, e.g., a smooth concrete coating or metal plate within the profile of the openings. No interior changes are included in this project.

The area along the western portion of the lot was previously occupied by associated pressure spheres, cooling towers, and a water storage tank, which were demolished circa 2009. The project will clear the area beneath the exterior wind tunnel structure to grade, similar to the existing condition of the western portion of the lot; soil disturbance to remove aboveground elements will be limited as much as possible. The ground with holes will be filled and compacted with approved soils to its surface level and then will be laid out (or topped) with assorted gravels. Future soil remediation will be assessed after the removal of the structure and addressed in a separate undertaking.

Area of Potential Effects

Pursuant to NPA Stipulation VI.A, the APE is the footprint of Building N-226 and the associated Area of Disturbance (AOD), which is defined as the area, both horizontally and vertically, within which the project activities may disturb earth, including staging areas. Construction activities for this project primarily consist of demolition of the exterior wind tunnel metal structure and the closure of openings in the concrete walls of the remaining Building N-226. Limited ground disturbance will occur in previously disturbed or fill areas, and potential impacts to archaeological resources are not anticipated. The staging area for the demolition project has yet to be identified but will be limited to paved areas adjacent to the building. Therefore, the APE/AOD is defined as the limits of Building N-226 with a 50-foot buffer to address construction activities in its immediate surrounds (Attachment A, Figure 3).

Affected Historic Properties

Building N-226, the former 6- by 6-Foot Supersonic Wind Tunnel, is individually eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A and C (Category 1 Asset) and is a contributing resource to the NRHP-listed Ames Wind Tunnel Historic District (National Register Information System #100000470) and the NRHP-eligible National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics Historic District. For a detailed description and the NRHP evaluation, see Attachment B, DPR forms. In

previous consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, NASA ARC defined the APE to address potential effects on historic districts in the APE under standard Section 106 procedures. Building N-226 is not located in a Heritage Zone as defined under the NPA, so potential indirect effects on historic districts and other historic properties are not otherwise considered.

Programmatic Exclusions

All ground disturbance activities will substantially conform to the original building footprint and occur within previously disturbed soils. The exposed soil in the APE surrounding Building N-226 was previously surveyed, and no known archaeological sites or historic properties of religious or cultural significance to Indian Tribes are recorded or known in the APE. Therefore, ground disturbance activities related to the project qualify for exclusion under Programmatic Exclusion C (Ground Disturbance Exclusions) pursuant to NPA Appendix F and do not require further consultation. Potential impacts to archaeological resources are not anticipated; inadvertent discoveries will be treated according to NPA Stipulation XV (Inadvertent Discoveries).

Effects Assessment

The project will partially demolish a Category 1 Asset, which is not excluded from further consultation under the NPA. NASA ARC reviewed the project under NPA Stipulation VI.D (Determination of Effects for Non-Excluded Projects). Partial demolition of the historic property meets the criteria of adverse effect (36 CFR §800.5[a][1]); therefore, NASA ARC has determined the project will result in an adverse effect on Building N-226 and intends to proceed with NPA Stipulation VI.D.4 (Adverse Effects).

Alternatives Considered

The purpose and need for this project is in response to the Office of Management and Budget's 2015 *National Strategy for the Efficient Use of Real Property* and its companion policy *Reduce the Footprint*, which requires Federal agencies to aggressively dispose of surplus properties, make more efficient use of the Government's assets, and reduce the total square footage of its domestic office and warehouse inventory relative to an established baseline. To meet the real property directives, NASA is applying a strategy for an agency-wide, mission-driven, and affordable real property portfolio based on an evaluation of mission relevance, future need, sustainment costs, and condition of each of its real property assets to consider alternatives for building dispositions, whether to sustain, invest, outgrant, or divest them. Building N-226 has been identified as real property to modify through partial demolition due to the obsolete nature of the wind tunnel structure and its related mission and the excessive expense associated with its maintenance. The wind tunnel has not functioned since 1988, and its technology is outdated. No viable alternatives for rehabilitation or reuse of the wind tunnel structure were identified through the real property evaluation process.

After the 6- by 6-Foot Supersonic Wind Tunnel was decommissioned, the area of the main building containing the interior wind tunnel test section and control room was converted in 1991 with minimal alterations into an educational center for elementary school students, the Ames Aerospace Encounter/Ames Exploration Encounter. The limited-access program ultimately closed in 2023 due to financial and staffing constraints, and the 2021 opening of the NASA

Ames Visitor Center and collaborative educational programs at the Chabot Space & Science Center in Oakland. The Ames Exploration Encounter in Building N-226 left interior wind tunnel sections in place and extended the life of the wind tunnel for many years, but NASA ARC's public educational program has been permanently moved to the Chabot Space & Science Center.

The facility has not served a research purpose since 1988, and the excessive expense associated with its maintenance as it deteriorates does not serve NASA's mission or any other identified use. The main building will remain in place, and offices and workspaces in the building will remain occupied. Currently, there are no plans to remove the interior wind tunnel sections. The profiles of the existing openings in exterior walls of the main building will be maintained around the infill materials to represent the former attachments of the exterior wind tunnel structure.

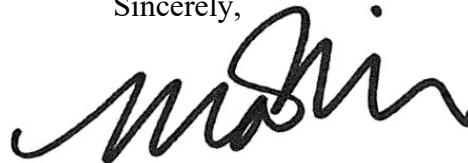
Treatment Measures

NASA ARC will complete the mitigation measures listed in NPA Stipulation VIII.B.1 (Recordation of Category 1 Assets). These measures include digital photography of exterior views and interior views (if feasible) in conformance with the most recent NRHP photography policies and technical requirements prior to on-site work. These project-specific mitigation measures will supplement the Programmatic Mitigation created under the NPA that features a public website and interactive virtual tour highlighting NASA's historic properties, to which information about Building N-226 will be added.

Consultation Efforts

NASA ARC prepared this consultation letter to inform the State Historic Preservation Officer and its consulting parties, as appropriate, of its finding of adverse effect and its actions under the NPA. Consulting parties will receive a copy of this consultation letter for review. Please review this letter and provide comments in writing within 30 days. NASA ARC is open to recommendations for additional ways to avoid or minimize adverse effects. Please contact me at maria.k.meiser@nasa.gov or (650) 390-5450 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trina Meiser', written in a cursive style.

Trina Meiser
Cultural Resources Manager

Enclosure

Attachment A – Figures

Attachment B – DPR forms

cc:

ARC/Historic Preservation Office

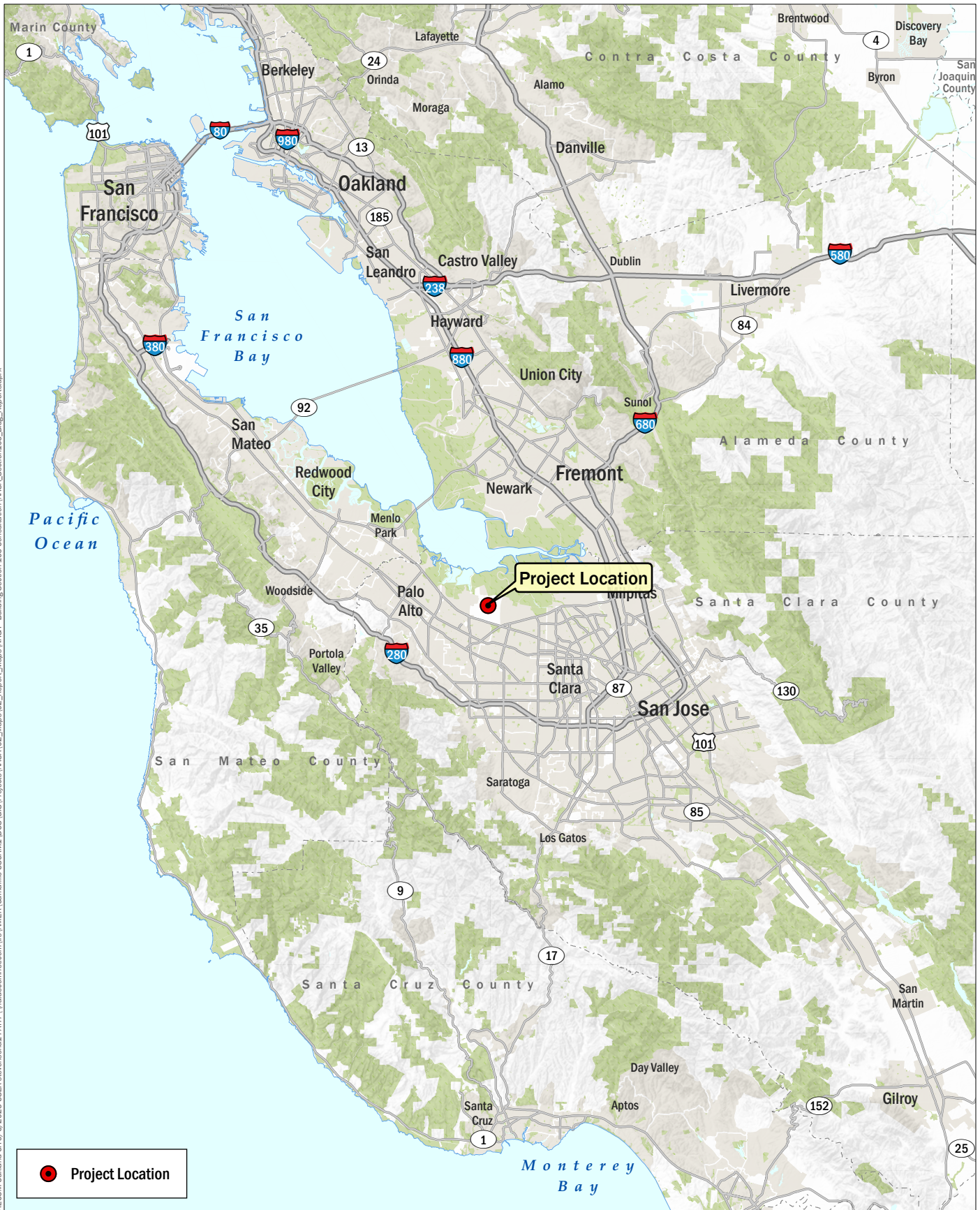
City of Mountain View

Moffett Field Museum

Mountain View Historical Association

Santa Clara County Department of Planning and Development

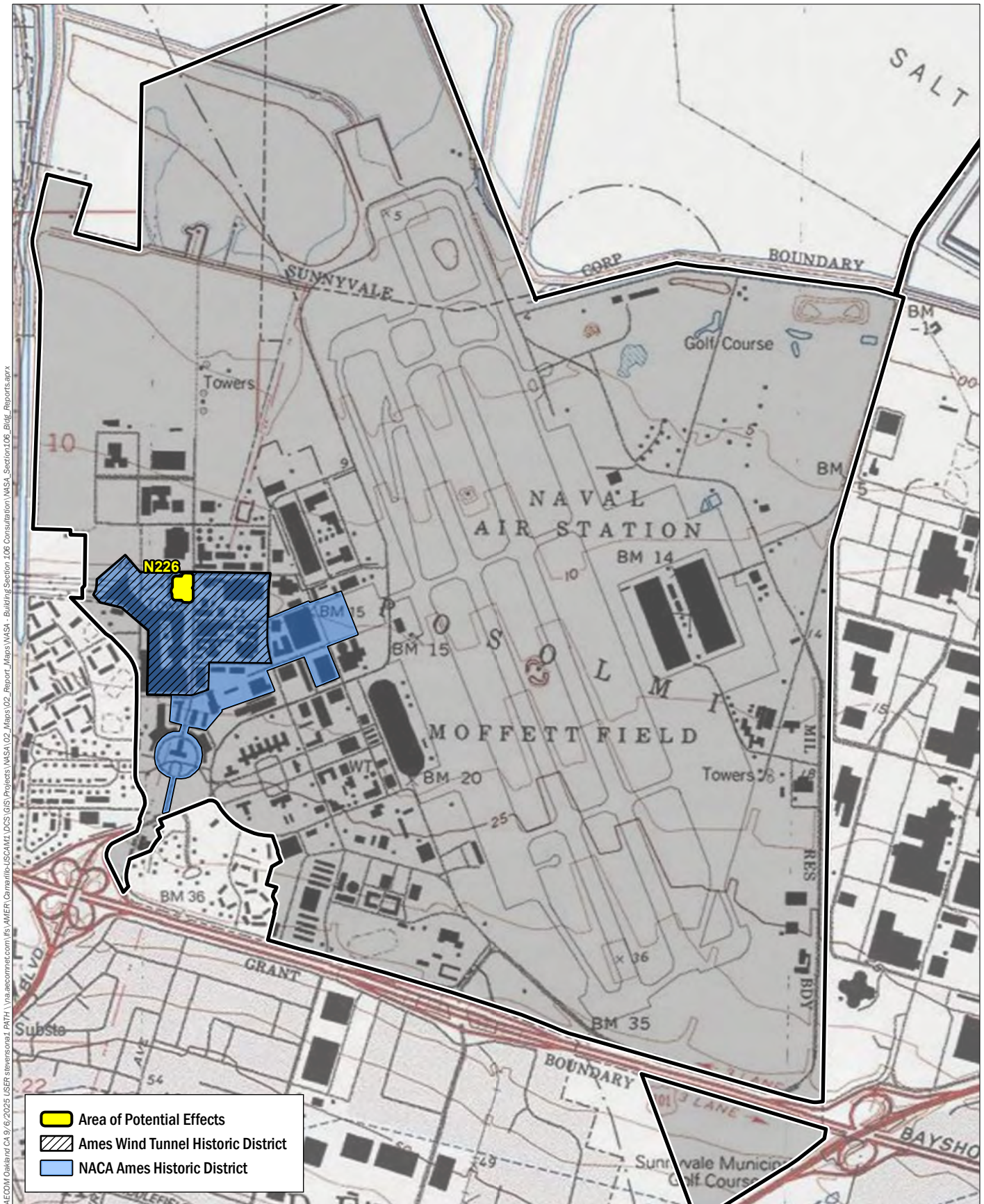
Attachment A
Figures



A:\ECON\Oakland CA 9/16/2025 USER stevensona1.PATH \VIA\AECOM\Comwin\B-LSCAM1_DCS\GIS\Projects\NASA\02_Report_Maps\NASA - Building Section 106 Consultation\NASA_Section106_Bridge_Reports.aprx



FIGURE 1
Project Location



AECOM, Oakland CA 9/16/2025 USER: stevenson.s.l.PATH: I:\v\AMER_Camr\lib-LSCAM1_DCS\GIS\Projects\NASA_02_Maps\02_Report_Maps\NASA_Building\Section_106_Consultation\NASA_Section106_Bridge_Reports.aprx

AECOM

NASA Ames Research Center
 6- by 6-Foot Supersonic Wind Tunnel at
 Building N-226 Demolition Project
 PROJECT: 60762487

FIGURE 2
Project Vicinity Map

The following content was redacted from this public posting:

Attachment B – DPR forms