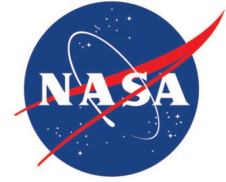


National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, CA 94035-1000



February 25, 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-239A
Demolition Project

Dear Ms. Polanco:

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Ames Research Center (ARC) requests consultation on the Building N-239A 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 Nationwide 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 Building N-239A, the Life Sciences Laboratory High Bay, which is established as a Category 1 Asset (i.e., individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places [NRHP]) under the NPA.

Pursuant to NPA Stipulation VI (Project Review), NASA ARC determined that the project constitutes an undertaking that has the potential to affect historic properties; screened the Project for programmatic exclusions; delineated an Area of Potential Effects (APE); identified affected historic properties in the APE; assessed effects; and considered project alternatives. Demolition of the historic property meets the criteria of adverse effect (36 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] §800.5[a][1]); therefore, NASA ARC has determined the project will result in an adverse effect on Building N-239A. The following information provides more detail in support of this finding for your review; Attachment A contains figures, and Attachment B contains information about the affected historic property.

Project Description

The project will demolish Building N-239A, the Life Sciences Laboratory High Bay, which was constructed in 1963. The scope of work for the demolition project will:

- Disconnect and cap existing water, fire suppression, air, vacuum, gas & sanitary sewer and storm drain lines entering the building.
- Remove and legally dispose of any hazardous materials inside or on the exterior of the building.
- Disconnect and remove the existing transformer feeding N-239A.
- Remove and dispose of the N-239A building and all its contents, including all remaining furniture, fixtures and equipment.
- Remove the existing concrete walks, ramps and stairs leading to the building entrances.
- Remove the existing concrete building foundations, elevator pit and equipment pit.
- Existing trees shall remain. Existing landscaping that interferes with the demolition activities shall be removed.
- Regrade the building site and fill all depressions with compacted Class 2 base rock.
- Install asphalt pavement in area where building was removed.

Area of Potential Effects

Pursuant NPA Stipulation VI.A, the APE is defined as the footprint of Building N-239A and 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. Demolition activities and ground disturbance for this project, including removal of existing foundations, concrete walks, ramps and stairs at the entrances, will occur within the original footprint of the building and in previously disturbed areas. The staging area for the demolition project has yet to be identified but will be limited to existing paved areas adjacent to the building. Therefore, the APE is defined as the limits of Building N-239A with a 50-foot buffer to address construction activities in its immediate surrounds (Attachment A, Figure 3).

Affected Historic Properties

Built in 1966, Building N-239A, the Life Sciences Laboratory High Bay, is individually eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A and B. It is a two-story, approximately 55 feet wide by 360 feet long (18 bays long), utilitarian, concrete building. Built in the Gemini/Apollo era, the building's interior high bay open space allowed for larger research equipment, including biological simulators and multiple centrifuges designed for animal and plant research that have supported a wide range of NASA missions, including a 50-foot centrifuge and the man-carrying rotation device or centrifuge that investigated human reactions to angular accelerations and velocities. Building N-239A is eligible for the for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A, for its association with the NASA period of development and growth of the Ames campus significant as the location for biological simulators including multiple centrifuges designed for animal and plant research that have supported a wide range of NASA missions. Building N-239A is also eligible under Criterion B, significant for its association with the work of physiologist Jiro Oyama, who pioneered the field of gravitational biology using centrifuges to alter gravitational environments of plant and animal test subjects as well as bacteria and other living organisms. Notable equipment inside Building N-239A includes the 24-foot-diameter Chronic Hyper-

Gravity Centrifuge; the 8-foot-diameter International Space Station Test-Bed Centrifuge; the 10-foot Low Vibration Rotational Device; and remaining parts of Oyama's original 50-foot centrifuge. The period of significance has been identified as 1966 to 1990, spanning the date of construction to 1990 when other facilities constructed at NASA ARC broadened the scope of the life sciences division. Although the centrifuges and other research equipment have been frequently modified over the years, the building itself has not been significantly altered. For the NRHP evaluation, see Attachment B, DPR forms.

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-239A was previously surveyed in 2024, 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 consultation under the NPA. 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 demolish a Category 1 Asset, which is not excluded from further consultation under the NPA. NASA ARC reviewed the demolition under Stipulation VI.D (Determination of Effects for Non-Excluded Projects). 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-239A.

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-239A has been identified as real property to divest through demolition due to the obsolete nature of the building and its related mission and the excessive expense associated with its maintenance. No viable alternatives for rehabilitation or reuse of the building were identified through the real property evaluation process.

To preserve significant features of Building N-239A, NASA ARC will remove, store, and retain centrifuges and research equipment that contribute to the building's significance for future use by NASA, or formally excess the centrifuge equipment for reutilization by an appropriate recipient through NASA ARC's disposal management program prior to demolition.

Finding of Effect

NASA ARC has made a finding of adverse effect and intends to proceed with NPA Stipulation VI.D.4 (Adverse Effects).

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-239A 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. NASA ARC is also making this finding available to the public via the NASA ARC Historic Preservation Office website (<https://historicproperties.arc.nasa.gov/section106.html>). 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.



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

The following content was redacted from this public posting:

Attachment A – Figures
Attachment B – DPR forms