

National Aeronautics and Space Administration



Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, California 94035

February 1, 2023

Ms. Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
Department of Parks & Recreation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816

Attn: Mr. Mark Beason

Subject: Section 106 Consultation for FY20-21 Maintenance Projects at 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, and its implementing regulations (36 C.F.R. Part 800) for the Fiscal Year 2020-21 (FY20-21) Maintenance Projects (project or undertaking) at the NASA Ames Research Park at NASA ARC, Moffett Field, Santa Clara County, California. NASA ARC is the lead Federal agency pursuant to 36 C.F.R. §800.2(a)(2) and has determined that this project constitutes an undertaking under Section 106.

NASA ARC retained AECOM Technical Services, Inc. to conduct a technical 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). Enclosed for your review is a Section 106 Technical Memorandum, dated January 24, 2023, which includes 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 would involve maintenance repairs, replacements, and upgrades to improve the functionality of nine facilities, including replacement and/or minor upgrades to interior and exterior materials, such as roofing, and equipment, such as ventilation and cooling units. The project was deferred until the present due to budgetary constraints.

Area of Potential Effects

The APE is defined to address both direct and indirect impacts on historic properties. The APE encompasses areas that may be affected by both temporary and permanent construction activities. The project occurs in the NASA Ames Wind Tunnel Historic District and the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District. However, indirect visual, audible, and/or atmospheric effects resulting from the project pose very limited potential to impact other contributors to the districts. Potential effects on the entire districts are considered, but the APE for this project is discontinuous and limited to the boundary of each facility and immediate areas that may be affected by the project (see Appendix A; Figure 3). Ground disturbing activities, with the potential to affect archaeological resources, are limited to two hydrant valve repairs that are included in the project. The vertical APE is limited to previously disturbed soils and fill associated with the original installation of those utilities, up to 3' below grade.

Affected Historic Properties

The project would affect nine historic buildings/facilities at the NASA Ames Campus, the NASA Research Park, and Moffett Federal Airfield. The Ames Campus includes the Unitary Plan Wind Tunnel (UPWT), which is a National Historic Landmark (NHL); the Arc Jet Complex, the Flight Guidance and Simulation Laboratory, and the NASA Ames Wind Tunnel Historic District, which are listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The NASA Research Park and Moffett Federal Airfield comprise the NRHP-listed Naval Air Station Sunnyvale, California Historic District (NAS Sunnyvale Historic District), which includes the Shenandoah Plaza and Moffett Federal Airfield. The project involves modifications to Building N227 (UPWT); Buildings N234, N238, and the 60-megawatt (MW) Power Supply Substation (Arc Jet Complex); Building N243 (Flight Guidance and Simulation Laboratory); and Buildings 10 (Heat Plant), 16 (Public Works), 20 (Bachelor Officer Quarters), and 23 (Dispensary) adjacent to Shenandoah Plaza; and Building 158 (Flight Operations Building and Tower) at Moffett Federal Airfield.

Effects Assessment

No known archaeological sites were identified in the APE, and the APE is in an area of low archaeological sensitivity. Ground disturbance for the undertaking would be limited and it appears the area has been previously heavily disturbed. Due to the proposed scope and lack of archaeological sensitivity, no archaeological historic properties would be affected by the undertaking. If any archaeological resources are discovered, construction will be halted. With implementation of NASA ARC's established standard operating procedure for unanticipated discoveries, the undertaking would have no adverse effect on unknown archaeological historic properties.

Nine historic properties in the APE would be directly or indirectly affected by project activities. These interior and exterior maintenance and equipment upgrades would be minor and would not detract from any historic characteristics of the buildings or the districts, or compromise the properties' integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association. Therefore, the undertaking would have no adverse effect on the historic properties.

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 contact me at jonathan.d.ikan@nasa.gov or at (650) 604-6859 with your comments or questions.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Ikan
Center Cultural Resources Manager



Ames Research Center, MS 213-8
Moffett Field, California 94035

cc:

HQ/EMD/Dr. Rebecca Klein, Ph.D., RPA

Enclosures

Technical Memorandum on the FY20-21 Maintenance Project, prepared by AECOM, dated January 24, 2023