

National Aeronautics and Space Administration



Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, California 94035

December 13, 2019

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: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation for the Hangar 3 Demolition Project at Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, Santa Clara County, California

Dear Ms. Polanco:

In support of its responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Ames Research Center (NASA ARC) requests initiation of Section 106 consultation regarding the Hangar 3 Demolition Project (project or undertaking) located at Moffett Field, Santa Clara County, California (see attached Figures 1 and 2). Built in 1943, Hangar 3 is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as a contributor to the U.S. Naval Air Station Sunnyvale, California Historic District (NAS Sunnyvale Historic District). The Hangar 3 structure is structurally deficient and is closed to occupancy. NASA ARC is concurrently reviewing the proposed project and alternatives under the National Environmental Policy Act.

In 2015, NASA ARC previously consulted with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on the Remediation and Rehabilitation of Hangars 2 and 3, Core and Shell Project, for which the SHPO concurred with NASA ARC's Finding of No Adverse Effect on August 27, 2015 (Ref. NASA_2015_0605_001). The core and shell project is intended to rehabilitate elements of Hangar 3, including abatement of hazardous materials; strengthening of structural systems; remediation; fire and life safety upgrades; systems upgrades; and accessibility upgrades. In preparation for the core and shell project, additional structural deficiencies were identified, including structural truss failure due to timber and hardware deterioration that could lead to the

potential collapse of the roof. The severe extent of these damages required stabilization of multiple truss members with a temporary shoring assembly to prevent collapse. Engineering and design analysis were subsequently conducted to inform the full scope of necessary structural repairs. Due to the numerous severely damaged arched trusses and the damage progression to undamaged trusses that continued to occur during repair, the work was halted due to its cost-prohibitive scope. Temporary shoring support elements remain in place and are only a short-term solution to prevent additional structural failures.

According to recent structural engineering monitoring, Hangar 3 is unsafe and very vulnerable to further damage or partial collapse—for example, from earthquake and/or high wind loading—while left in its current state. Based on the opinions of the project structural engineer, necessary repairs to return Hangar 3 to occupancy would be extensive, undefinable, and cost-prohibitive. Therefore, NASA ARC is planning to demolish Hangar 3, which would constitute an undertaking under Section 106 of the NHPA that would result in an adverse effect.

Cultural resources specialists who meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards (48 Federal Register 44738) are currently preparing a technical study with additional information pertinent to Section 106 review, including the Area of Potential Effects, that will inform NASA ARC's determination of adverse effect and develop and propose potential mitigation measures. NASA ARC will submit the technical study to the SHPO for review and comment.

NASA ARC is developing a list of consulting parties who may be invited to participate in the Section 106 review process for this undertaking. Potential consulting parties include:

- The Moffett Field Historical Society
- The City of Sunnyvale, California – Planning Department and/or Heritage Preservation Commission
- The City of Mountainview, California – Planning Department
- Sunnyvale Historical Society
- Mountainview Historical Association
- History San Jose
- Silicon Valley Historical Association
- California Preservation Foundation
- National Trust for Historic Preservation, San Francisco Office

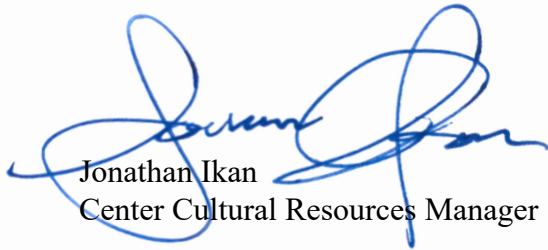
NASA ARC is also making this initiation request available to the public via the NASA ARC Historic Preservation Office website (<https://historicproperties.arc.nasa.gov/>).

In summary, Hangar 3 currently is closed to occupancy. Structural investigations indicate that the structure is not sustainable. NASA ARC requests (1) initiation of Section 106 consultation with the SHPO for this undertaking, which would involve the demolition of Hangar 3; and (2) SHPO comments on the potential consulting parties that NASA ARC is developing. NASA ARC will provide a technical study to the SHPO for review in support of NASA ARC's determination of adverse effect for this undertaking.

In addition, NASA ARC would like to schedule a meeting with the SHPO in January 2020 (in Sacramento for the convenience of Office of Historic Preservation staff, if preferred) to discuss the project and mitigation to resolve adverse effects in a timely manner. We propose January 27, 28, or 29, if your schedule allows.

Please contact me at jonathan.d.ikan@nasa.gov or at (650) 604-6859 with your comments or questions, and to let us know of your availability for an in-person meeting in January.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Ikan
Center Cultural Resources Manager



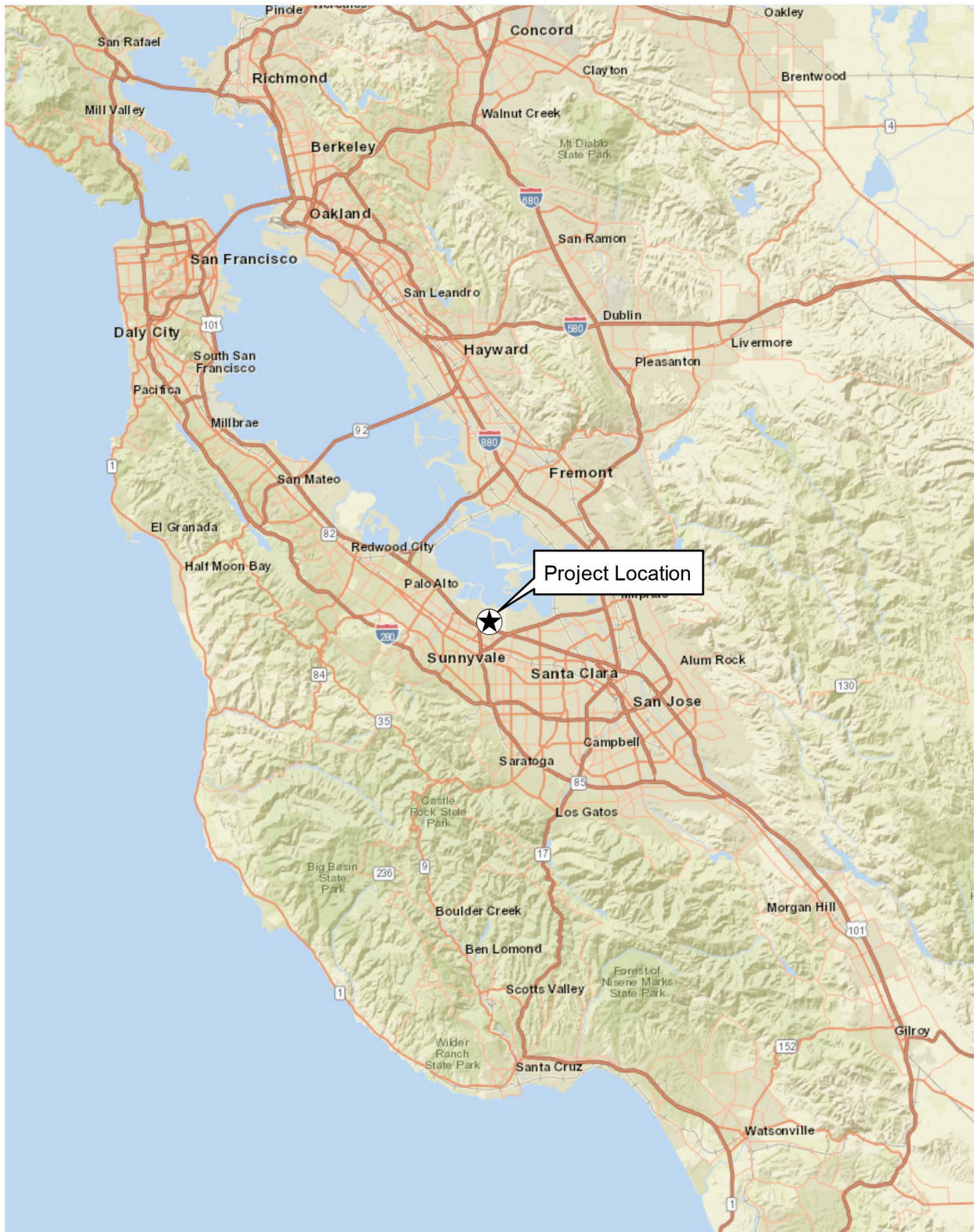
cc:

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

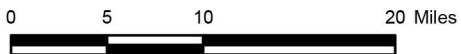
Enclosures

Figure 1. Regional Project Location Map

FIGURE 1: Regional Project Location Map



Source: ESRI, AECOM, NASA



Scale: 1 = 633,600; 1 inch = 10 mile(s)