January 23, 2020

In reply, refer to: NASA_2019_1216_001

Mr. Jonathan Ikan
Center Cultural Resources Manager
NASA Ames Research Center
Mail Stop 213-8
Moffett Field, CA 94035

Subject: Hangar 3 Demolition Project, Moffett Federal Airfield, NASA Ames Research Center, Santa Clara County, CA

Dear Mr. Ikan:

The California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) has received the December 13, 2019, letter initiating consultation regarding an undertaking at NASA Ames Research Center (ARC). NASA is consulting with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in order to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (54 U.S.C. §306108), as amended, and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR Part 800. Along with the letter, NASA submitted a map showing the location of ARC.

In the letter, NASA states that structural engineering studies have led the agency to the conclusion that Hangar 3 is structurally deficient, unsafe, and vulnerable to damage or partial collapse. In analyzing project alternatives, NASA finds that repairs to return the building to occupancy would be “extensive, undefinable, and cost-prohibitive,” and, therefore, proposes to demolish the building. NASA is preparing a technical study and other information for future Section 106 consultation submittals. At this time, NASA has prepared a list of potential consulting parties, suggests a consultation meeting, and requests SHPO comments.

After reviewing the information submitted, the SHPO offers the following comments.

- This project qualifies as an undertaking with the potential to affect historic properties.
- The SHPO has no suggestions for parties to add to the list of potential consulting parties.
- The SHPO recommends that NASA utilize a structural engineer with experience assessing historic buildings while preparing the technical report.
Because the SHPO and NASA are currently working to schedule a meeting to discuss other undertakings at ARC, the SHPO recommends including Hangar 3 on the agenda for that meeting.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these comments, please contact Mark Beason, State Historian, at (916) 445-4047 or mark.beason@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer