August 21, 2020

VIA Email

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 Hazard Remediation (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 July 14, 2020, letter and supporting documents continuing consultation regarding an undertaking at NASA Ames Research Center (ARC). NASA is consulting with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) 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.

As previously described, NASA’s 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 identified a discontiguous Area of Potential Effects for the undertaking encompassing all of Moffett Federal Airfield, a portion of the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District, and some buildings east of NASA’s fence line. Historic properties within the APE include most of the boundary of NAS Sunnyvale Historic District (including Moffett Federal Airfield, Hangars 1, 2, and 3, Building 55, and East Moffett Field Aircraft Parking Apron) and Lockheed Missiles & Space Campus (east of NASA ARC), being treated as eligible.

NASA assessed effects of the undertaking and determined that demolition of Hangar 3 constitutes an adverse effect to NAS Sunnyvale Historic District (including Moffett Federal Airfield, Hangars 1, 2, and 3, Building 55, and East Moffett Field Aircraft Parking Apron) and Lockheed Missiles & Space Campus.
Apron). NPS also determined that the undertaking would not adversely affect archaeological resources or the Lockheed Missiles & Space Campus.

In a letter dated June 10, 2020, the SHPO requested further information regarding alternatives considered and qualifications of NASA’s structural engineers. With the recent letter, NASA provided the information to the SHPO’s satisfaction.

The SHPO offers the following further comments on the undertaking.

- The proposed demolition of Hangar 3 and associated actions constitute an undertaking with the potential to affect historic properties.

- APE includes a portion of NAS Sunnyvale Historic District. Because it is a known historic property that the undertaking will affect (adversely), the SHPO recommends that NASA include the entire district in the APE. Otherwise, the APE is sufficient to take direct and indirect effects into account.

- Identification of historic properties is sufficient, including proposal to treat Lockheed Missiles & Space Campus as eligible.

- The SHPO has no objection to the proposed Finding of Adverse Effect to NAS Sunnyvale Historic District for this undertaking.

- The SHPO has no objection to the determination that no archaeological resources would be affected and that Lockheed Missiles & Space Campus would not be adversely affected.

- The SHPO agrees that preparation of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to resolve adverse effects is the next step in consultation and proposes that possible mitigation measures be discussed during the consultation and drafting of the MOA.

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact State Historian Mark Beason, at (916) 445-7047 or mark.beason@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer