National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, California 94035

November 1, 2022

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 Minor Projects at Moffett Federal Airfield, Hangar 2/Hangar 3 Precinct, Santa Clara County, CA

Dear Ms. Polanco,

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Ames Research Center (ARC) requests Section 106 consultation on Minor Projects at Moffett Federal Airfield (MFA), Hangar 2/Hangar 3 Precinct (project or undertaking) at NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, Santa Clara County, California. Planetary Ventures (PV) is proposing a limited set of improvements at the Eastside Airfield area of MFA. The undertaking would consist of three small utility projects in the vicinity of Hangars 2 and 3. The project requires permit approval from NASA ARC. Therefore, NASA ARC has determined that the project constitutes an undertaking under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Environmental Science Associates (ESA) prepared the Cultural Resources Inventory and Evaluation Report for the project. The report provides detailed descriptions of the undertaking and the Area of Potential Effects (APE), identifies the historic properties in the APE, and provides an analysis of the undertaking's potential effects on historic properties under the Criteria of Adverse Effects per 36 CFR Section 800.5(a)(1). The report is attached for your review.

Description of the Undertaking
The undertaking consists of three small utility projects in the vicinity of Hangars 2 and 3 within MFA (Map 3). Each is described below.

Project 1 – Hangar 2 [redacted] Communications Conduit

[redacted] Following completion of HDD boring and conduit installation, the hole would be backfilled and repaved to match existing grade and surface.

Project 2 – Hangar 2 [redacted] Conduit

Project 2 would be [redacted] consisting of four new HDPE conduits [redacted] Following completion of HDD boring and conduit installation, the hole would be backfilled and repaved to match existing grade and surface. If dewatering is required at the manholes, water would be tested and would be pumped into the sanitary sewer if quality is acceptable, or off-hauled for safe disposal.

Project 3 – California Air National Guard (CAANG) Airside Switch

Project 3 would install new switchgear [redacted] outside) [redacted] Following completion of HDD boring and utility installation, excavations would be backfilled and repaved to match existing grade and surface. [redacted] While the project would occur within the boundaries of the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District, no physical alterations to any contributing historic properties are proposed as part of this project.

Area of Potential Effects

The APE is defined to address both direct and indirect impacts on potential historic properties and encompasses areas that may be affected by both temporary and permanent construction activities (see Map 3 in the report). The APE is located within the NRHP-listed U.S. Naval Air Station Sunnyvale, California (NAS Sunnyvale) Historic District and accounts for potential indirect effects on the district as a whole. The APE does not include the entire boundary of the district due to the project's limited scale. The APE includes all areas of proposed ground-disturbing activity. This includes the entirety of the three project footprints and 50-foot buffer around those footprints to account for staging and construction access. The APE consists of approximately 2.3 acres. Depth of ground disturbance may change as the undertaking is developed, but the majority of trenching will occur to a depth of 3 feet and would not exceed 6 feet. [redacted]

Affected Historic Properties

The APE has been previously surveyed and evaluated to identify historic properties. No known archaeological resources are in the project footprint; in addition, the APE is in an area of low archaeological sensitivity. The APE contains several contributors to the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District, including Hangars 2 and 3 (also individually eligible), Building 55, and East MF1002 (Aircraft Parking Apron).

Effects Assessment

The Criteria of Adverse Effect were applied to assess the Undertaking's potential effects on the historic properties in the APE. Only Project 1 would involve any physical alteration to one of the contributors to the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District. The physical alterations to Hangar 2 involved in Project 1 are extremely minor in the overall scale of Hangar 2 and the larger NAS Sunnyvale Historic District. The creation of the entry point into Hangar 2 is necessary to maintain the use of the building. The project

activities discussed above for the three minor projects would not diminish the integrity of any of the significant characteristics of Hangar 2, Hangar 3, Building 55, East MF1002, or the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District. Furthermore, no archaeological resources are known to exist in the APE. This area is extensively disturbed and previously surveyed with no evidence of cultural materials or sites. If any materials are discovered during construction, all work will cease and the NASA ARC Inadvertent Discovery Policy, Standard Operating Procedure 8 in the ICRMP, will be followed.

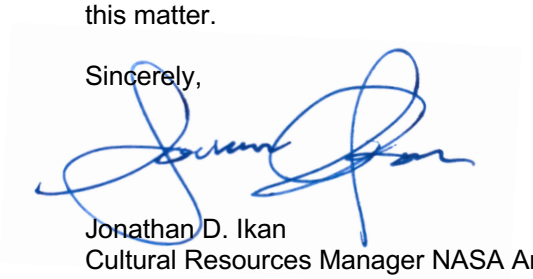
Finding of Effect
Based on the assessment conducted by qualified cultural resources professionals, NASA ARC has made a finding that the undertaking will result in No Adverse Effect.

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 SHPO'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 (650) 604-6859 if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



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Cc:

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Legal Department/Legal Matters
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Attachment: *Minor Projects at Moffett Federal Airfield, Hangar 2/Hangar 3 Precinct, Cultural Resources Inventory and Evaluation Report*. Prepared by ESA, dated August 2022.