



**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

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June 3, 2022

VIA Email

In reply, refer to: NASA_2022_0408_001

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

Subject: Manila Avenue Bicycle Path Project, Santa Clara County, California

Dear Mr. Ikan:

The California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) has received the April 8, 2022, letter initiating 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. Along with the letter, NASA submitted project maps and images and links to two reports:

- Archaeological/Historical Consultants. Cultural Resources Inventory Report for Manila Avenue Bicycle Connector Project dated March 2022.
- Native American Notification Log and Correspondence for Manila Avenue Bicycle Path Project.

Google proposes to improve the existing bike and pedestrian path between Ellis Street near the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Bayshore/NASA Station and Enterprise Way at Moffett Park. The project extends through ARC, which requires permit approval from NASA ARC. Therefore, NASA ARC has determined that this project constitutes an undertaking under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

The proposed pathway would be a 12-foot to 16-foot-wide mixed use (bicycle and pedestrian) pathway. The project would install new drainage facilities and landscaping within a portion of undeveloped right-of-way area on the northeast corner of the Manila Avenue/Enterprise Way intersection. Other improvements along Manila Avenue would include curb and gutter improvements; storm drain improvements;

signing and striping improvements, pedestrian lighting improvements, and traffic signal improvements at the intersection of Manila Avenue/Enterprise Way. The majority of the pavement rehabilitation and sidewalk improvements would not disturb more than 6 inches of native soil. Lighting improvements would require up to 6 feet of disturbance below grade, and traffic signal improvements will require disturbance of 7.5 to 12 feet below grade. Other utility work will require disturbance between 2 to 5 feet below grade.

NASA identified the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the undertaking that encompasses the extent of the project footprint and includes all areas of potential ground disturbance. The vertical APE extends 6 inches below grade along the majority of the pathway improvements; 6 feet below grade at lighting improvements; 7.5 - 12 feet at traffic signal improvements; and between 2 and 5 feet below grade for utility work.

The APE is located adjacent to but outside the boundaries of the NAS Sunnyvale National Historic Register District, and no built environment resources are expected to be affected within the APE.

For the cultural resources study, a records search at the Northwest Information Center in April 2019 revealed that the entire project area had been previously surveyed, and two prehistoric sites were previously recorded in the APE: CA-SCL-12/H (P-43-000032) and CA-SCL-20 (P-43-000040).

Site CA-SCL-12/H, "Little Ynigo Mound," consists of midden deposit, human burials, and widely dispersed cultural material. It was first recorded in 1912, and further investigated in 1947, 1987, 1995, and 2008. In 1990 the site was determined eligible for the NRHP through a consensus determination.

Site CA-SCL-20, "Big Ynigo Mound," was a large occupation site and earth mound nearly totally destroyed by the time it was first recorded in 1912, prior to being leveled for the construction of Moffett Field in the 1930s-40s. Efforts to locate the site occurred in 1987, 1991, and 2014 but found no evidence of surficial or buried archaeological deposits, including directly within and adjacent to the current APE. In 1991, fourteen backhoe trenches were dug parallel to and between Manila Road and Macon Road, directly adjacent to the current APE, in the mapped location of CA-SCL-20. No cultural material was identified in any of the trenches. These prior investigations adequately demonstrated that there is no evidence for the presence of CA-SCL-20 south of Moffett Field, and SHPO concurred with findings of no adverse effects to the site for numerous prior undertakings within the US101/Manila Drive/Macon Road corridor.

A pedestrian survey of the APE on April 10, 2019, revealed no evidence of cultural resources. For the cultural resources study, the archaeological consultant conducted hand auger testing in April 2019 and mechanical auger testing in February 2022 to

determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits associated with CASCL-12/H included. No artifacts, midden soils, or other potentially significant archaeological deposits were found and the study concluded that CA-SCL-12/H does not extend into the project APE.

This negative finding is corroborated by prior trenching efforts (AECOM 2018), which took place on the west side of the Manila Ave/Enterprise Way intersection and were submitted to and concurred on by SHPO. It appears likely that the project lies outside of CA-SCL-12/H, and that the western boundary of the site is incorrectly mapped in this specific location. Prior archaeological investigations indicate that the center of the site is around the west side of the southbound SR-237 onramp. An augering program by Caltrans (2009) discovered areas of intact shell midden extending eastward along Manila Avenue from about 50 feet east of Enterprise Way. Augers placed within and adjacent to the current APE, however, revealed no cultural resources. However, midden deposits within CA-SCL-12/H are discontinuous and it is possible that unknown resources are present.

Testing within and near the boundary of the site did not identify cultural resources within the project APE. Although efforts have been undertaken to identify archaeological resources within the APE with negative results, the potential for encountering unanticipated archaeological resources during construction can never be completely ruled out. To minimize potential effects on previously unknown cultural resources, NASA will require that a qualified archaeologist and Native American monitor be present during ground disturbing activity during construction. Prior to ground-disturbing activities, the archaeological and Native American monitors will provide an awareness training to construction crews to alert them to the archaeological sensitivity of the project area and protocol to follow in the event of an inadvertent discovery during construction.

No Federally Recognized Tribes are associated with the geographical boundaries of NASA ARC or this undertaking. In July 2021, a Sacred Lands File search and a list of Native American tribes and representatives with a known interest in the area was requested from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). The NAHC responded on July 28, 2021, indicating that the Sacred Lands File search was negative and providing a list of non-federally recognized Native American representatives who may have additional information regarding cultural resources in the vicinity of the ARC property. The 10 Native American tribes and individuals on the NAHC list were notified by U.S. Postal Service mail and email on March 3, 2022, of the proposed project, the results of the records search and subsurface testing investigations, and the proposed finding of effect. Follow-up calls were made on March 30, 2022. The following responses were received:

- Quirina Geary of the Tamien Nation transmitted a request for consultation under CEQA by email on March 30, 2022.

- Irene Zwierlein of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of San Juan Bautista was reached by phone on March 30, 2022. She recommended that construction crews receive training in recognition of Native American cultural resources. She also recommended that a qualified archaeologist

The recommendations of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of San Juan Bautista, for archaeological and Native American assessment of inadvertent discoveries, is addressed through the minimization measures described above. If an inadvertent discovery of prehistoric archaeological resources is encountered, NASA ARC will consult with the on-site Native American monitor.

Because no known historic properties are located within the APE, NASA proposes a Finding of No Adverse Effect for this undertaking. 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 APE is sufficient to take direct and indirect effects of the undertaking into account.
- Identification and evaluation efforts are sufficient.
- Based upon the information submitted, the SHPO has no objection to the proposed Finding of No Adverse Effect for this undertaking.
- Please be advised that under certain circumstances, such as unanticipated discovery or a change in project description, NASA may have additional future responsibilities for this undertaking under 36 CFR Part 800.

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