



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

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November 4, 2019

In reply, refer to: NASA_2019_0918_001

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

Subject: Moffett Federal Airfield Natural Gas Separation Project, NASA Ames Research Center, Santa Clara County, CA

Dear Mr. Ikan:

The California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) has received the September 18, 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 memorandum prepared by Stantec and dated September 18, 2019, that provides the Section 106 analysis, project maps, photographs, and plans.

The proposed undertaking, as described, involves modifications to separate natural gas utility systems serving the portions of Moffett Federal Airfield leased by Planetary Ventures from those serving NASA and California Air National Guard. NASA will construct approximately 1,200 linear feet of new natural gas alignments to connect with existing PV connections and separate the Moffett Field Golf Clubhouse (Building 934) and DFSP Office (Building 545) from the natural gas system. Both buildings would convert to propane and new above ground propane storage tanks would be installed. Ground disturbance would range from two to seven feet deep.

NASA defined a discontinuous Area of Potential Effect (APE) for this undertaking that includes the proposed routes of the new natural gas alignments and a buffer of 20 feet on each side, the locations of proposed new propane storage tanks, the locations where existing lines would be cut and capped, and the alignment of new fuel lines to Buildings 934 and 545. Depending upon the location and scope of work, the vertical APE extends between two and seven feet deep.

The APE occurs within the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District, which was listed in the National Register in 1994 and resurveyed with an expanded period of significance and additional contributing resources in 2013. The only district contributor located within the immediate project area is MF 1002 – Parking Apron. Building 545 was constructed in 1973 and has not been identified as a contributor to the historic district. Building 934 was constructed in 1959 with additions in 1968 and has not been identified as a contributor to the historic district.

Through previous survey in 2017, NASA characterized archaeological sensitivity throughout NASA Ames Research Center. Project locations for this undertaking are located in areas ranging from low archaeological sensitivity to heightened Prehistoric-era and Historic-era archaeological sensitivity, however no known archaeological sites are located within the APE.

NASA consulted Tribal consultation with five groups and individuals identified by the Native American Heritage Commission as interested in undertakings at Moffett Federal Airfield. None of these parties is a federally-recognized Tribe. Some of these parties noted the sensitivity of the APE for potential cultural resources and one stated that an archaeological monitor should be present during work in sensitive areas.

NASA finds that excavation would have no adverse effect on MF 1002 as the paved surface will be repaired in-kind to match existing conditions. Additionally, because no archaeological sites are known to exist within the APE, NASA finds archaeological resources will not be adversely affected. However, NASA intends to have an archaeological monitor present during ground disturbing activities in areas with heightened archaeological sensitivity. Based upon this analysis, NASA proposes a Finding of No Adverse Effect. 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 appears to be sufficient to take 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.
- The SHPO also agrees with the recommendation of archaeological monitoring in areas with heightened archaeological sensitivity.
- 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.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer