

National Aeronautics and Space Administration



Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, California 94035

August 12, 2020

Ms. 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 Northbound U.S. 101 Off-Ramp at Moffett Boulevard,
Santa Clara County, California

Dear Ms. Polanco:

In support of its responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Ames Research Center (NASA ARC) requests Section 106 consultation on the proposed widening of the Northbound U.S. Highway 101 Off-Ramp at Moffett Boulevard (project or undertaking) in Santa Clara County, California. NASA ARC is sponsoring the proposed project and determined that this project constitutes an undertaking under the NHPA. Project activities will include restriping the existing lanes for one left/right turn lane and one right turn lane; construction of additional right turn pocket with maintenance vehicle pullout; traffic signalization wiring; and reconstruction of the existing sidewalk. All proposed work will occur within the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) right-of-way and as such, Caltrans will provide project oversight under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); however, NASA ARC is responsible for Section 106 compliance.

Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc., conducted a technical study for the project. No previously recorded pre-contact archaeological sites have been found within the Area of Potential Effects (APE); however, several pre-contact archaeological sites have been identified within one-quarter mile of the project area, as well as additional sites in the general vicinity that included human interments. While the entire APE has high sensitivity for buried archaeological

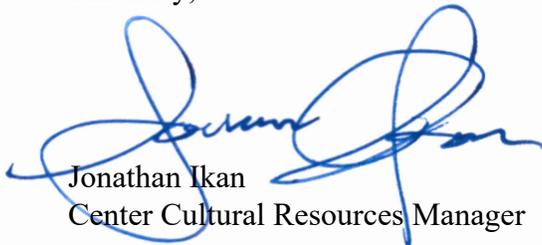
sites, the majority of the impacts are near-surface and are not sufficient to reach buried soils and therefore are unlikely to encounter previously unrecorded sites. Further, the project area exhibits extensive modifications to the ground surface during historical and modern times. Several discrete sign and utility pole relocations will have deeper impacts, however, and have the potential to affect previously unrecorded resources.

Based on the attached technical study conducted by cultural resources specialists who meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards, NASA ARC concludes that the APE is highly disturbed and that the project is unlikely to impact archaeological resources. However, due to the presence of mound sites in the area, archaeological monitoring will be implemented as an avoidance and minimization effort, and protocols for inadvertent discoveries will be followed according to both Caltrans and NASA ARC policies. With the avoidance and minimization protocol, the undertaking would result in no adverse effects on historic properties.

NASA ARC requests the State Historic Preservation Officer's concurrence on NASA's finding of No Adverse Effect related to this project, pursuant to 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 800.5(b). NASA ARC requests the SHPO's 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 at (650) 604-6859 with your comments or questions.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Ikan
Center Cultural Resources Manager



Ames Research Center
Ames Research Center, MS 213-8
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cc:
HQ/EMD/Rebecca Klein, Ph.D., RPA

Enclosures

Archaeological Survey Report for the Northbound 101 Off-Ramp at Moffett Boulevard Project, Santa Clara County, California, prepared by Angela M. Younie, Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc., dated September 2019 (confidential)