



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

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VIA Email

In reply, refer to: NASA_2020_0813_001

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

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

Dear Mr. Ikan:

The California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) has received the August 12, 2020, 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 an Archaeological Survey Report for the Northbound 101 Off-Ramp at Moffett Boulevard Project, Santa Clara County, California, prepared by Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc., and dated September 2019.

The proposed undertaking, as described, involves proposed widening of the Northbound U.S. Highway 101 Off-Ramp at Moffett Boulevard in Santa Clara County, California. Project activities would 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.

NASA identified the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the undertaking as including the northbound intersection and ramp and totaling 0.429 acres. The vertical APE and depth of disturbance is not known, but will include excavation and grading for road, sidewalk, signal controller, and drainage installation, as well as landscaping.

A record search at the Northwest Information Center revealed no known archaeological

sites located within the APE, but several are located within one-quarter mile.

NASA ARC concludes that the APE is heavily disturbed by past agriculture and current and previous alignments of the interchange ramps. However, because of the presence of mound sites in the area, archaeological monitoring will be implemented and protocols for inadvertent discoveries will be followed according to both Caltrans and NASA ARC policies. Based upon this analysis, NASA determined the undertaking would have No Adverse Effect on historic properties.

A search of the Sacred Lands File at the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was negative. No Federally Recognized Tribes are associated with NASA ARC or this undertaking. NAHC provided a list of non-federally recognized Native American representatives. Because of the highly disturbed nature of the current project site and the low sensitivity for prehistoric archaeological resources, NASA ARC has not consulted with the non-federally recognized Native American representatives on 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