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Preserving America's Heritage

October 6, 2008

Honorable Michael D. Griffin, Ph.D.
Administrator
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
2 Independence Square
300 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20546

Dear Administrator Griffin:

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), I am writing to convey to you a copy of the final comments of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) on the Navy's proposed Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) removal action at Installation Restoration Program Site 29 (Hangar 1) at the former Naval Air Station Moffett Field, California.

I appointed a panel of ACHP members to consider this case and on September 17, 2008 they met with representatives of the Navy, NASA, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the California State Historic Preservation Officer, and the San Francisco Bay Region of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, and visited Hangar 1. That evening the panel members conducted a public meeting and received comments from concerned public officials, organizations, and individuals. I would like to thank members of the NASA team, Mr. Lewis Braxton III, Mr. Keith Venter, Mr. Tom Anderson, Ms. Ann Clarke, Mr. Roger Ashbaugh, Ms. Jennifer Chan, and Ms. Tina Norwood, for their valuable assistance in providing information to the panel members and making these meetings and the site visit successful. The comments and recommendations contained in the attached letter to the Secretary of the Navy are based on consideration by ACHP of the facts in this case and the review and deliberations of this member panel.

We recognize the Navy's responsibilities under CERCLA to protect human health and the environment and address the contamination of Hangar 1. We fully support the Navy's work to do so; however, we also emphasize the suitability of Hangar 1 for a wide variety of potential reuses. We understand NASA has begun to gather information towards identifying an appropriate reuse of the building and has expressed its commitment to seek private partners to collaborate and assist in the restoration effort. We strongly support and commend these efforts.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 803 • Washington, DC 20004
Phone: 202-606-8503 • Fax: 202-606-8647 • achp@achp.gov • www.achp.gov

Section 110(a)(2)(B) of the NHPA requires federal agencies to establish a preservation program to ensure that historic properties under their jurisdiction or control "are managed and maintained in a way that...gives special consideration to the preservation of such [historic and architectural] values in the case of properties designated as having National significance." Further, Executive Order 13287, *Preserve America*, directs federal property managing agencies to encourage "the protection, enhancement, and contemporary use of the historic properties...by promoting intergovernmental cooperation and partnerships" for their preservation. In light of the national significance of Hangar 1, we encourage NASA to work closely with the Navy to meet the purpose and intent of both Section 110 and Executive Order 13287 and help ensure the long-term preservation of this unique historic resource.

We again commend NASA for its ongoing efforts to reach out to other partners, both public and private who may become funders and/or end-users of Hangar 1. In its comments, the ACHP recommended that the Navy establish a partnership with NASA to develop a single coordinated delivery schedule to re-skin Hangar 1 and find a viable reuse for the building. We understand NASA has certain outstanding questions it hopes the Navy will address in order to more fully evaluate feasible reuse options for Hangar 1. Such a partnership could provide for greater efficiency and effective information sharing, and help minimize the time where the frame is left without siding or roof.

We look forward to the Navy's response to our comments, and to working with both the Navy and NASA to achieve the preservation of Hangar 1.

Sincerely,

John L. Nau, III
Chairman

Enclosure

cc:

Secretary of the Navy David C. Winter
EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson
California State Historic Preservation Officer
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region