



CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

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May 8, 2012

The Honorable Charles F. Bolden, Jr., Administrator
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
300 E Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20546

MOFFETT FEDERAL AIRFIELD & HANGAR ONE

Dear Administrator Bolden,

I understand, based on your April 6, 2012, letter to Congresswoman Eshoo, NASA has determined Hangar One and Moffett Federal Airfield "no longer have a mission need and are therefore excess to the Agency." On behalf of the Mountain View City Council, I am writing to express concern about this determination and its potential effect on the future of this vitally important federal facility.

Any plan to excess these properties to another federal agency (while not as disruptive as surplusing the properties from the Federal Government altogether), is of significant concern to the local communities and will likely meet the strongest of local opposition. You suggest, for the excessing of these properties, that "a process under GSA's expertise and array of authorities will best address the interests of the community, NASA, and the Federal Government at large." However, excessing the properties to the General Services Administration (GSA) would put control over the disposition of the hangar and airfield into the hands of an agency that may not understand the near-, mid-, or long-term importance of NASA-Ames and the other military, governmental, private, and non-profit entities that have partnered over the years at the site and hope to continue to enhance such partnerships. This path of action could create delays and uncertainty, if not outright road blocks, to the continuation of the history of innovation at NASA Ames and Moffett Federal Airfield that is the hallmark of this region and has supported and propelled our great nation's security, technology, and sustainability into the future. Below are several counterpoints to the comments in your letter to Congresswoman Eshoo.

Concerning the airfield:

- Defense contractors critical to national security and NASA's mission rely on the federally secured and limited use airfield for shipment of spacecraft and components to launch sites. Excessing the airfield could jeopardize this security.
- Under your leadership and authority, in 2009 the 129th Air National Guard Rescue Wing entered into a 50-year lease with NASA for use of the airfield for their rescue operations and collaborations with NASA. Such partnerships have included airlift for the Houghton Mars Project, the Leonid Multi-Instrument Aircraft Campaign, support of manned space flights, and, in the future, employment of airborne sensors to measure the effects of global climate change in remote locations.
- Numerous other partnerships at NASA-Ames are focused on furthering our nation's understanding and progress in space and aeronautics and NASA's flexible control of the airfield is essential for these partnerships. All of these partners contribute financially to the maintenance of the airfield, minimizing any financial impacts to NASA's budget.

Concerning Hangar One:

- For many years the City of Mountain View has advocated the position that not only should Hangar One be cleaned up and restored with new siding, but that re-siding of the hangar occur as efficiently and effectively as possible immediately following siding removal so that its skeleton does not sit exposed to the elements, deteriorating and corroding to the point of no return.
- There is currently a private/public partnership proposal for restoration of the hangar that would avoid significant taxpayer costs while restoring the hangar for beneficial public and private use. NASA should act immediately to authorize this proposal and not continue to bog it down in Federal inter-agency negotiations. Time is of the essence in this matter and it is unlikely that a process under the GSA could proceed quickly enough to capitalize on the current private/public partnership proposal.
- If NASA should choose to not use its Enhanced Use Lease authority for Hangar One, it should use its Historic Preservation Act authority to lease Hangar One to a qualified tenant.

I urge you to reconsider any plan to excess the hangar and airfield and to continue NASA's Enhanced Use Lease authorities for these properties. Additionally, I ask that you act expeditiously on the current options to preserve Hangar One, as well as to directly involve the cities of Mountain View and Sunnyvale and local community stakeholders in discussions regarding the hangar and airfield. Your leadership is

needed now more than ever in making the best decisions to ensure that Moffett Federal Airfield continues operation as a secure Federal facility under NASA's stewardship.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,



R. Michael Kasper, Jr.

Mayor

cc: Representative Anna Eshoo
Senator Feinstein
Senator Boxer
Mr. David Agnew, Director for Intergovernmental Affairs, The White House
Office
Mr. S. Pete Worden, NASA Ames Center Director
Mr. Anthony P. Spitaleri, Mayor, City of Sunnyvale
Mr. Gary Luebbers, Sunnyvale City Manager

City Council, CM, DCM
