



August 21, 2015

The Honorable Jill Techel
Mayor, City of Napa
P.O. Box 660
Napa, California 94559-0660

RE: Napa Franklin Station, 1351 Second Street, Napa, CA

Dear Mayor Techel:

Thank you for your August 19, 2015, letter to Mr. Dean Cameron. As you know, severe earthquake damage to the Napa Franklin Station facility forced the Postal Service to relocate retail services, on an emergency basis, to a temporary site. As required by our regulations, we have scheduled a public meeting for August 26, 2015, to solicit input on identifying a long term site for retail postal services in downtown Napa. Your letter requested that we postpone that meeting. While we appreciate the City's concerns, the Postal Service believes proceeding with the meeting as scheduled will better serve the interests of the Postal Service and the community.

At the public meeting, the Postal Service will explain the tentative decision to relocate retail services, outline the relocation proposal, and identify the area where we anticipate identifying a long-term site. The Postal Service then will invite questions and solicit written input. As you may know, we encourage officials and the community to give input on this important decision.

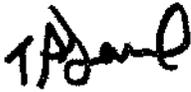
Currently, we are developing plans to sell the 1351 Second Street site. We understand that you would like us to postpone the public meeting until we determine if there is private interest in purchasing the property and leasing it back to the Postal Service. However, if we postpone the public meeting until after we receive bids for buying 1351 Second Street, it will be too late for the Postal Service to address the community's input regarding that particular site. Following the receipt of bids, the Postal Service will be on course to sell the property on the terms and conditions of the winning bid. Accordingly, proceeding with, rather than postponing, the August 26 meeting provides opportunity for broader public input for the Postal Service to consider because, as a practical matter, there is greater opportunity for input regarding the existing site as a potential long term location to be thoughtfully addressed.

Your letter also expressed concerns with the Postal Service initiating three regulatory processes within a short timeframe, all seemingly related to the 1351 Second Street site sale. In fact, the three processes are imposed by three independent regulations with separate legal requirements. We regret any confusion that these regulatory processes create; however, they must be followed. With respect to public input in addition to the August 26 meeting, the Postal Service has and will continue to comply with all requirements for public input under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and under the National Environmental Policy Act. The Postal Service believes complying with these three regulatory requirements separately, instead of combining them, gives proper attention to each regulatory purpose and focuses input on the respective regulatory objectives.

Finally, your letter also suggested the Postal Service publicly disclose damage and cost estimates concerning our 1351 Second Street site for purposes of transparency and facilitating informed public discussion and comment. However, the Postal Service already has publicly disclosed information about the damage and cost estimates, which the Napa Valley Register published July 12, 2015. The disclosed information came from an assessment procured by the Postal Service from a very reputable California engineering firm. Further detailed disclosures from the Postal Service's assessment, however, could inappropriately influence bidding by potential purchasers of the 1351 Second Street site or any contractors that they might hire to evaluate and repair the building should the sale take place. Instead, when the Postal Service markets the 1351 Second Street site, the Postal Service anticipates providing each bidder and the bidder's consultants with an opportunity to make their own respective assessments of the damage and repair costs.

In closing, I emphasize that the purpose of the August 26, 2015, public meeting is to solicit input. It does not foreclose the Postal Service from considering any options that may be made possible through sale of the 1351 Second Street site to a private party.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom A. Samra', written in a cursive style.

Tom A. Samra

cc: Congressman Mike Thompson
Julianne Polanco, California SHPO
Mike Parness, City Manager, City of Napa
Rick Tooker, Community Development Director, City of Napa
Ken MacNab, Planning Manager, City of Napa
Dean Cameron, RES, United States Postal Service