

MacNab, Ken

Subject: FW: Napa Franklin Station Post Office

E-mail from Reid Nelson at ACHP to USPS Federal Preservation Officer Daniel Delahaye.

Subject: Napa Franklin Station Post Office

Date: Fri, Aug 21, 2015 12:03 PM

Daniel,

On July 24, 2015 the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) joined the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and other consulting parties in ongoing consultation with the United States Postal Service (USPS) regarding the proposed demolition of the Franklin Station Post Office in Napa, California. The ACHP's interest in joining this consultation is to assist the parties in identifying opportunities for resolving adverse effects to historic properties resulting from the demolition, sale, and/or disposal of this property.

We understand that the USPS recently discussed the undertaking with Congressman Mike Thompson's office and, as a result, may be considering changing the undertaking to include the proposed sale, rather than the demolition, of the Napa Franklin Station Post Office. We understand this new approach may be possible in part because of recent expressions of interest among local real-estate developers to purchase the property in its current form and redevelop it. It is encouraging to learn that the USPS is considering changing its undertaking to the sale of the property, which would demonstrate the USPS's responsiveness to the concerns raised by the California SHPO, consulting parties, State and local officials and the public about the initial undertaking to demolish the property. We urge USPS to make this adjustment, as consultation on such a revised undertaking would allow for the consideration of a wider range of alternatives which might avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects to the historic properties within the area of potential effect of the undertaking.

In addition, we understand that the USPS is considering a new location for the retail services previously located at the Napa Franklin Station Post Office prior to the Napa Valley earthquake in 2014. With the proposed sale and redevelopment of the property potentially as the revised undertaking, there may be opportunities to discuss with developers of the property a way for the USPS to lease space in a redeveloped building as opposed to the USPS establishing a retail service center in another location. Recognizing the potential benefit to the community in both retaining the Franklin Station Post Office and locating vital USPS retail services back in their original location, the ACHP and SHPO would like to discuss with you how the sale and redevelopment, as well as the USPS leasing a portion of the rehabilitated building, might be considered in future consultations. We understand that USPS recently denied a request by the City to postpone a public meeting scheduled for August 26 regarding the location of retail services, but remain hopeful that Section 106 consultation could still include consideration of this approach.

Please let us know of your availability to discuss with our staff and representatives of the SHPO how such an approach might be considered in future consultation. Najah Duvall-Gabriel will assist our offices in arranging for such a teleconference, please feel free to coordinate with her at (202) 517-0210 or via email at ngabriel@achp.gov to set up the call. We look forward to our continued consultation with USPS on this matter.

Reid J. Nelson
Director
Office of Federal Agency Programs

