



October 5, 2026

The Honorable Kevin Mullin
U.S. House of Representatives
1404 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Mullin,

Thank you for your letter of August 19, 2026 regarding the planned closure of the National Archives and Records Administration's facility in San Bruno, CA. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) appreciates your attention to this important topic. I have briefed the Archivist of the United States on your inquiry and am writing as the NARA official who is overseeing the facility closures in my role as Chief Operating Officer.

Since 1950, our facilities existed largely to ingest textual records from all three branches of the Federal government. Over time, the government records and access has become increasingly digital and online. NARA began adapting to this evolving environment as early as a decade ago with the closure of archival facilities in Alaska and Massachusetts as well as down-sizing archival facilities in Pennsylvania and Texas. With the issuance of [OMB memoranda M-19-21](#) and [M-23-07](#), which squarely impacts our Federal Records Centers Program, our pace of change has accelerated with five closures completed since 2022.

These closures address the growing volume of underutilized space resulting from the federal government's transition to electronic recordkeeping. Pursuant to [OMB Memorandum M-23-07](#), NARA ceased accepting analog record transfers into the FRC Program on June 30, 2024. As the FRC Program operates on a reimbursable basis, the decline in paper record storage necessitates a reduction in NARA's real property footprint.

The San Bruno facility is owned by the General Services Administration and NARA currently occupies the facility for our National Archives at San Francisco and San Bruno Federal Records Center records and staff. The facility is one of the oldest and most expensive in our portfolio and its storage footprint is underutilized. Once the facility is vacated, NARA expects to save in excess of \$4.7 million annually. Vacating the facility will also lead to annual ancillary savings in personnel and operating costs for NARA and cost avoidance for repairs and systems replacement outlays by GSA. NARA's facilities in Southern California are not sized to absorb the San Francisco operations.

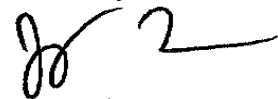
Regarding your concerns about access to immigration records, NARA currently plans to relocate the immigration records from the San Francisco facility to our Kansas City operations. NARA operates five facilities in the Kansas City area, which has the largest concentration of immigration holdings and is well versed in handling immigration-related reference. We operate a research room in Kansas City and also handle off-site written reference requests, which as cited in your letter is currently four times higher than on-site reference for the San Francisco holdings. In addition, we have a long-standing relationship with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS), which has consolidated their own holdings at their USCIS National Records Center in the Kansas City metropolitan area.

Based on past experiences with record moves, we are confident that the two to three year move timeline is adequate and will ensure protection of the records during physical moves. This timeline was principally selected to allow NARA to continue to meet daily workload requirements for our Federal agency customers and researchers while absorbing added move related activities at San Francisco as well as the receiving locations. While our attention is heightened anytime a record is not in its assigned storage location, we have very strong and tested move procedures. This is evidenced by the fact that NARA has, without incident, closed five other locations since 2022. While we value all records entrusted to us, the recent closures have involved moving records and artifacts for former President Obama, veterans claim folders, and Immigration A-files.

At this time, we are unable to answer your inquiries regarding the staff assigned to our San Francisco location. The majority of staff are bargaining unit employees, and as is required, NARA has engaged in impact and implementation bargaining with American Federation of Government Employees Council 260. We do not yet have a signed Memorandum of Understanding and to comment would undermine the integrity of bargaining. When NARA announced the pending closure to staff in June 2026, NARA managers committed to on-site engagement with the staff once bargaining was completed. We fully intend to fulfill that commitment to our staff.

As was previously shared with Congress in June 2026 and at subsequent engagements with Congressional offices and committees, this decision has not been made lightly, but it is necessary in order for NARA to maintain its core mission and adapt to the changing landscape of digital records. We appreciate your inquiry and continued support of NARA and its mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Trainer", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jay Trainer

Chief Operating Officer

National Archives and Records Administration

cc:

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto
The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
The Honorable Mazie Hirono
The Honorable Alex Padilla
The Honorable Jacky Rosen
The Honorable Adam B. Schiff

The Honorable Mark E. Amodei
The Honorable Ami Bera, M.D.
The Honorable Julia Brownley
The Honorable Ed Case
The Honorable Judy Chu
The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
The Honorable Laura Friedman
The Honorable John Garamendi
The Honorable Jesús G. "Chuy" García
The Honorable Jimmy Gomez
The Honorable Steven Horsford
The Honorable Jared Huffman
The Honorable Ro Khanna
The Honorable Susie Lee
The Honorable Sam T. Liccardo
The Honorable Doris Matsui
The Honorable Grace Meng
The Honorable Dave Min
The Honorable Jimmy Panetta
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Honorable Mike Quigley
The Honorable Brad Sherman
The Honorable Lateefah Simon
The Honorable Mark Takano
The Honorable Shri Thanedar
The Honorable Mike Thompson
The Honorable Dina Titus
The Honorable Jill Tokuda
The Honorable Norma J. Torres
The Honorable Maxine Waters