

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



September 20, 2013

Reply to Attn of:

Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity

Jeffrey N. Rudolph
President and CEO
California Science Center
700 Exposition Park Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90037

Dear Mr. Rudolph,

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has completed a compliance review of the California Science Center (the Center), run under the auspices of the California Science Center Foundation (the Foundation), a recipient of NASA financial assistance. This limited scope review was conducted pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), NASA's Title VI implementing regulations at 14 C.F.R. Part 1250, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in programs receiving Federal financial assistance through NASA, and NASA's Policy Guidance on the Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination as It Affects Persons With Limited English Proficiency (68 Fed. Reg. 70039). Copies of the regulations and policy guidance are enclosed.

The review was conducted to determine whether the Foundation and the Center were in compliance with NASA's Title VI regulations and policy guidance; specifically, to ensure that the Center was taking adequate steps to ensure meaningful access to its programs and services to persons with limited English proficiency (LEP). Please also find enclosed a copy of NASA's report of the compliance review.

Based on its compliance review, NASA finds that the Foundation and the Center are in full compliance with the requirement to take adequate steps to ensure meaningful access to LEP individuals, as clarified in the NASA Title VI LEP Guidance and recent U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) guidance. The Foundation and Center have long provided language assistance to their service community as part of their routine operations. In addition, since becoming informed of its obligations to conduct a Four Factor Analysis and develop a written LEP Plan at the outset of this review, the Centers's efforts have met, and in many cases, exceed LEP obligations.

More specifically, the Center has undertaken a thorough Four Factor Analysis, appropriately utilizing NASA's LEP Guidance. The Center also has developed a Language Access Plan that conforms largely with NASA and DOJ Title VI-LEP regulations and policy, with one notable exception – the use of a machine translation,

Google Translate. This is a practice discouraged by DOJ. NASA recommends that the Center have its use of Google Translate reviewed by a qualified language professional. Nonetheless, in many ways, the Center's commitment to LEP, as demonstrated through its Plan and the programs and initiatives the Center is pursuing under the Plan, is a model for similar organizations with LEP responsibilities. NASA plans to disseminate these promising practices to our other museum and science center grant recipients to assist them in meeting LEP requirements.

NASA stands ready to provide further technical assistance to the Foundation and the Center as it continues to meet its LEP obligations under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. For additional civil rights technical assistance, you may also wish to visit our MissionSTEM website at <http://missionstem.nasa.gov/>. The MissionSTEM Web site is designed to assist NASA grant recipients in meeting their compliance obligations under NASA's equal opportunity laws and regulations. To this end, the site provides a host of information and resources on compliance requirements as well as promising practices of our grant recipients.

We will contact the Center in six months from the date of the issuance of this report to request a follow-up on NASA's recommendations to enhance the Center's existing compliance.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, it may be necessary to release the report and related records on request. If NASA receives such a request, it will seek to protect, to the extent provided by law, personal information which, if released, could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact Mr. Robert Cosgrove, External Programs Compliance Manager, Program Planning and Evaluation Division, Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity, on 202-358-0446 or at robert.cosgrove@nasa.gov.

Sincerely,



Brenda R. Manuel
Associate Administrator for
Diversity and Equal Opportunity

Enclosures