

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



August 26, 2015

Reply to Attn of:

General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the Exoplanets 20/20 Reception hosted by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and California Institute of Technology (CalTech), on October 20, 2015

On October 20, 2015, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and the California Institute of Technology (CalTech), a nonprofit organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, will host a reception at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, Washington, DC at 6:30 p.m. The event is to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the first discovery of an extrasolar planet orbiting a main sequence star.

Approximately 384 people are expected to attend. The estimated cost of the event, which includes all food and beverages, is \$20.00 per person. JPL is in control of the planning of the event. The event will be attended by members of Congress and Congressional staff, representatives from the aerospace industry and academia, state and local officials, personnel from NASA and other Federal agencies, and members of the media. I find that the event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g).

I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the event because it will further Agency programs and operations. Attendance at the reception will allow NASA representatives to exchange views and ideas with others in attendance. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the JPL – including NASA employees who are in non-career positions for which they are required to sign an ethics pledge under Executive Order 13490 – may accept an invitation from the JPL for themselves and a guest for free attendance to the event.

Moreover, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the JPL, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.205(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam F. Greenstone".

Adam F. Greenstone