



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: Move Trailer from Baker to Kelso RV Site
Project ID: 09-MOJA-050/PEPC 27764

Project Description:

Mojave National Preserve management team has approved a proposal to move a trailer at Baker to the Kelso RV site, for housing. This trailer has been scheduled for replacement with permanent housing at Kessler Springs Ranch. Funding for the housing project is not expected in FY10, and likely not before FY12. In the meantime, Mojave continues to suffer from insufficient housing availability for its field staff and volunteers. The Maintenance Division will install water, sewer and electrical hookups at the Kelso RV site in advance of the trailer relocation. New hookups will tie into existing utilities. The park will contract to have the Baker trailer disconnected from existing utilities, hauled and set up at the new site at Kelso RV. The hauler will have appropriate 'oversize load' signage and pilot cars front and rear. The trailer will remain at the Kelso RV site until the Kessler Springs housing is constructed.

Project Locations:

Location

County:	San Bernardino	State:	CA
District:	Kelso	Section:	off Kelso-Cima Road
Geo. Marker:		Other:	RV Site

Mitigation(s):

No mitigations listed.

Describe the category used to exclude action from further NEPA analysis and indicate the number of the category (see Section 3-4 of DO-12):

C.18 Construction of minor structures, including small improved parking lots, in previously disturbed or developed areas.

The Kelso RV site was acquired for administrative purposes (Larry Whalon, personal communication, 09/08/2009). The mobile home that came with the property was removed after being assessed as condemned for human habitation. Park management later decided to install four recreational vehicle (RV) pads for volunteers, seasonal employees, and/or concession employees. Housing shortages continue to present a problem for park operations, both within and adjacent to Mojave National Preserve.

The Baker compound is used both for a maintenance yard and employee housing. The four permanent housing units replaced trailers (i.e., mobile homes) that were inherited from the Bureau of Land Management. One trailer remains; it is scheduled for replacement with permanent housing at Kessler Springs Ranch. Funding for this housing is unavailable at present and is not anticipated for two or more years. Park management wants to relocate the remaining trailer at Baker to the Kelso RV site for use by volunteers, seasonal employees, or concession employees. The trailer can remain at Kelso only until permanent housing is constructed at Kessler Springs Ranch or elsewhere in the Preserve under the National Park Service's Trailer Replacement Program. At that time, the trailer must be permanently removed from Mojave National Preserve.

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The Kelso RV site is a heavily disturbed property. The location of the proposed pad does not contain known cultural resources. The Maintenance Division prematurely cleared the location, connected underground utility lines and compacted approximately four (4) inches of gravel into the ground. (The environmental compliance specialist discovered this in August 2009.) Maintenance also left a pile of excess gravel in the middle of the Kelso RV site. Once the Baker trailer is removed permanently from the Preserve, the pad will be used as another RV pad. With the installation of the Baker trailer, the septic system at the Kelso RV Site will be at maximum usage. The Kelso RV Site will not accommodate any further expansion of RV pads.

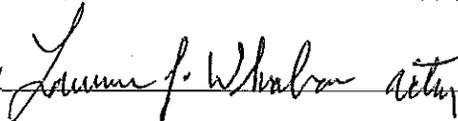
In early FY10 (October 2009), the Maintenance Division will remove the gravel pile, relocate the railroad container to the Baker compound, and locate a dumpster at the Kelso RV site to clean up the area. Maintenance will also landscape the Kelso RV Site to create a visual/audio barrier where needed. Mojave National Preserve staff will develop an Emergency Response Plan for residents of the RV site. Visitor Protection Division will likely oversee this plan, with assistance from the HazMat specialist.

Once the trailer has been removed, the footprint of the trailer pad will be reduced in size to accommodate one smaller recreational vehicle. Excess materials will be removed from the site, and the disturbed area will be allowed to revegetate. The Kelso RV Site will hold a maximum of five RV units at any one time.

The abovelisted categorical exclusion allows for minor structures to be constructed in previously disturbed or developed areas. This document categorically excludes from further NEPA review the installation of a trailer pad at the Kelso RV Site, and the relocation of the remaining trailer at the Baker compound to the Kelso RV Site. It does not allow for any other disturbance to the Kelso RV Site, such as dumping of gravel, cinders, or other items. It does not allow for any other development to the Kelso RV Site without more comprehensive analysis under NEPA. No disturbance apart from the construction of a trailer pad and placement of the Baker trailer at the Kelso RV site may be done. Under these conditions, no significant adverse impacts to the natural and cultural resources of Mojave National Preserve are expected to occur; neither is impairment anticipated from this project.

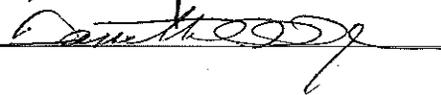
On the basis of the environmental impact information in the statutory compliance file, with which I am familiar, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No exceptional circumstances (e.g. all boxes in the ESF are marked "no") or conditions in Section 3-6 apply, and the action is fully described in Section 3-4 of DO-12.

Park Superintendent / Date: DENNIS SCHRAMM



NPS Contact Person:

DANETTE WOOL



Title:

Environmental Compliance Specialist

Telephone number:

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