



IN REPLY REFER TO:
L7615(YOSE-PM)

United States Department of the Interior NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yosemite National Park
P. O. Box 577
Yosemite, California 95389

Memorandum

To: Randy Fong, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2010-073 Ahwahnee - Improve Porte Cochere Access Walkways and Fence (32594)

The Leadership Team has reviewed the proposed project and completed its environmental assessment documentation, and we have determined that there:

- Will not be any effect on threatened, endangered, or rare species and/or their critical habitat.
- Will not be any effect on historical, cultural, or archeological resources.
- Will not be serious or long-term undesirable environmental or visual effects.

The subject proposed project, therefore, is now cleared for all NEPA and NHPA compliance requirements as presented above. Project plans and specifications are approved and construction and/or project implementation can commence.

For the proposed project actions to be within compliance requirements during construction and/or project implementation, the following mitigations must be adhered to:

- **Ensure that archeological monitoring is conducted during trenching for walkway and fence foundation excavation.**

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 32594.

\\Micheal Gauthier\\ -for
Don L. Neubacher

Enclosure (with attachments)

cc: Statutory Compliance File

*The signed original of this document is on file at
the Environmental Planning and Compliance
Office in Yosemite National Park.*



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 10/06/2010

Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: 2010-073 Ahwahnee - Improve Porte Cochere Access Walkways and Fence

PEPC Project Number: 32594

Project Description: The porte cochere and entry gallery are classic features of The Ahwahnee providing a sense of arrival for visitors to this National Historic Landmark located in Yosemite National Park. The purpose of this project is to replace rotted wooden components along 1) the uncovered wood-plank walkway that runs along the service yard fence to the porte cochere, 2) the service yard fence and, 3) the wood-plank boardwalk in the main entry gallery. Additionally, the foundation of each component identified will be addressed and improved to meet load requirements and to provide appropriate drainage away from the wood members to prevent wood rot. These existing structures have been impacted by extensive wood rot causing structural degradation, uneven walking surfaces and instability in the rails and posts supporting the fence.

Schematic design will be required to ensure structural viability of fence and walkways, opportunities for rehabilitation, and to provide drainage solutions under and adjacent to the walkways and will be the first task in this project. All work performed will replace damaged or rotted wood with in-kind materials to match the existing construction. Delaware North Companies will hire a qualified general contractor (with five years experience specializing in historic preservation) to replace the two wood walkways, the concrete piers/foundations of the walkways, and the fence screening the main entrance of The Ahwahnee from the service yard area. Drainage solutions will be explored to divert or collect and distribute water away from wooden members of the new walkways. All work will occur in previously disturbed areas.

Construction - The anticipated scope of construction work is as follows:

- Remove all wood components and foundations of existing walkways and fence.
- Install drainage systems as required by design drawings.
- Install permanent concrete footings to support walkways and fence (some ground disturbance is anticipated).
- Install new walkway deck and fencing as required by design drawings.

This project is scheduled for construction during the three week closure of the hotel in February and March of 2011. Consultation with the park historical architect, historic preservation officer, and archaeology is on-going and will continue for the duration of the project planning and implementation.

Project Location:

Mariposa County, CA

Mitigations:

- **Ensure that archeological monitoring is conducted during trenching for walkway and fence foundation excavation.**

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.4 Routine maintenance and repairs to cultural resource sites, structures, utilities and grounds under an approved Historic Structures Preservation Guide or Cyclic Maintenance Guide; or if the action would not adversely affect the cultural resource.

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 or conditions in Section 3-6 apply, and the action is fully described in Section 3-4 of DO-12.

Park Superintendent \\Micheal Gauthier\\ -for
\\Don L. Neubacher\\

Date 11-5-10

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 10/06/2010

ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: **09/29/2010**

Updated May 2007 - per 2004 Departmental Manual revisions and proposed Director's Order 12 changes

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
Project Title: 2010-073 Ahwahnee - Improve Porte Cochere Access Walkways and Fence
PEPC Project Number: 32594
Project Type: Capital Improvement (CI)
Project Location: County, State: Mariposa and Tuolumne Counties, California
Project Leader: Randy Fong

Preliminary drawings attached? Yes

Is project a hot topic (controversial or sensitive issues that should be brought to attention of Regional Director)? No

B. RESOURCE EFFECTS TO CONSIDER:

Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Geologic resources – soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc.		Negligible			The fence includes 135 linear feet, 2300 square feet for the uncovered walkway and 1100 square feet for the covered walkway.
2. From geohazards	No				
3. Air quality		Negligible			Temporary air emissions are included in the project.
4. Soundscapes		Negligible			Temporary construction noises will be heard during the project.
5. Water quality or quantity	No				
6. Streamflow characteristics	No				
7. Marine or estuarine resources	No				

Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
8. Floodplains or wetlands	No				
9. Land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use	No				
10. Rare or unusual vegetation – old growth timber, riparian, alpine	No				
11. Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat	No				
12. Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites	No				Yosemite National Park is a World Heritage Site.
13. Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat	No				
14. Unique or important fish or fish habitat	No				
15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)	No				
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.	No				
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources		Negligible			During construction the porte cochere will be closed to visitors. Visitor experience will be enhanced by the new walkway and fence.
18. Archeological resources	No				Stipulate no adverse effect, with archeological monitoring during trenching for walkway and fence foundation excavation.
19. Prehistoric/historic structure		Negligible			Ahwahnee Hotel National Historic Landmark.
20. Cultural landscapes		Negligible			Yosemite Valley Historic District.
21. Ethnographic resources		Negligible			Yosemite Valley American Indian Traditional Cultural Property.
22. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections)	No				

Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
23. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure	No				
24. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.	No				
25. Energy resources	No				
26. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies	No				
27. Resource, including energy, conservation potential, sustainability	No				
28. Urban quality, gateway communities, etc.	No				
29. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity	No				
30. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?	No				

C. MANDATORY CRITERIA

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?		No		
B. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?		No		Mitigated; the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect."
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?		No		
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		No		

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		No		
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		No		
G. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?		No		
H. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		No		
I. Violate a federal law, or a state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		No		
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		No		
K. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?		No		
L. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?		No		

D. OTHER INFORMATION

Are personnel preparing this form familiar with the site? Yes

Did personnel conduct a site visit? No

Is the project in an approved plan such as a General Management Plan or an Implementation Plan with an accompanying NEPA document? No

Are there any interested or affected agencies or parties? No

Has consultation with all affected agencies or tribes been completed? No

Are there any connected, cumulative, or similar actions as part of the proposed action? (e.g., other development projects in area or identified in GMP, adequate/available utilities to accomplish project)? No

E. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM SIGNATORIES

<u>Interdisciplinary Team</u>	<u>Field of Expertise</u>
Don L. Neubacher	Superintendent
Kathleen Morse	Chief of Planning
Mark Butler	Chief of Project Management
Katariina Tuovinen	Chief of Administration Management
Ed Walls	Chief of Facilities Management
Niki Nicholas	Chief of Resources Management & Science
Marty Nielson	Chief of Business and Revenue Management
Tom Medema	Chief of Interpretation and Education
Charles Cuvelier	Chief of Visitor and Resource Protection
Randy Fong	Project Leader
Elexis Mayer	Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager
Jeannette Simons	NHPA Specialist
Renea Kennec	NEPA Specialist

F. SUPERVISORY SIGNATORY

Based on the environmental impact information contained in the statutory compliance file and in this environmental screening form, environmental documentation for this stage of the subject project is complete.

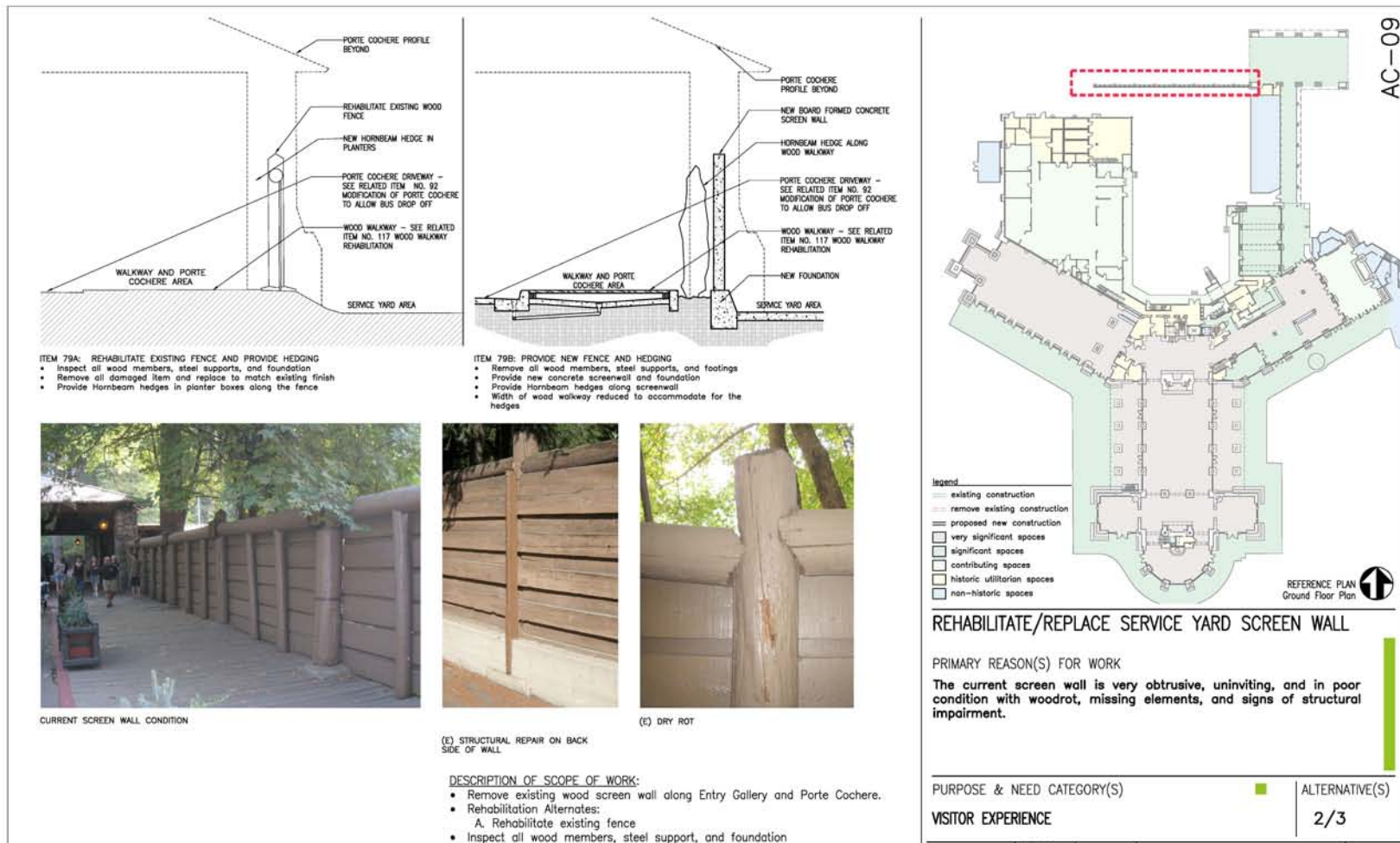
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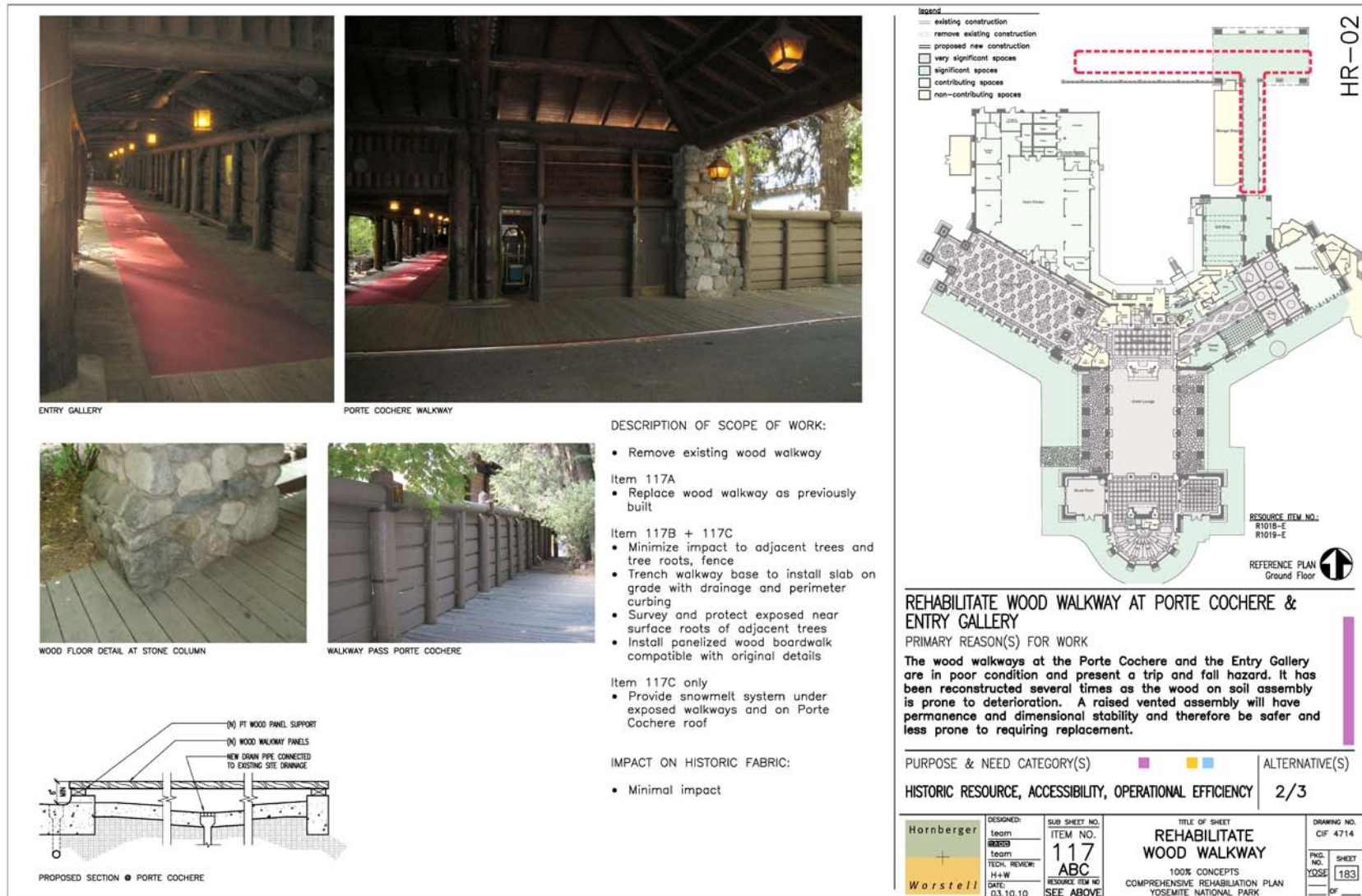
Compliance Specialists	Date
<u>//Renea Kennec//</u> Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec	<u>10-29-10</u>
<u>//Elexis Mayer//</u> Compliance Program Manager – Elexis Mayer	<u>10-29-10</u>
<u>//Mark A Butler//</u> Chief, Project Management – Mark Butler	<u>11-3-10</u>

Approved:

Superintendent	Date
<u>\\Don L. Neubacher\\</u> <u>\\Micheal Gauthier\\ -for</u> Don L. Neubacher	<u>11-5-10</u>

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HR-02



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 10/14/2010

ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. Park: Yosemite National Park

2. Project Description:

- a. Project Name: 2010-073 Ahwahnee - Improve Porte Cochere Access Walkways and Fence
- b. Date: October 14, 2010
- c. PEPC Project ID Number: 32594

3. Has the area of potential effects been surveyed to identify cultural resources?

 No

 X Yes, Source or reference: Yosemite Archeological District; Yosemite Valley Historic District; Ahwahnee Hotel National Historic Landmark.

 X Check here if no known cultural resources will be affected. (If this is because area has been disturbed, please explain or attach additional information to show the disturbance was so extensive as to preclude intact cultural deposits.)

4. Potentially Affected Resources:

Archeological resources affected?

Name and number(s): Yosemite Valley Archeological District

NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

Historical structures/resources affected?

Name and number(s): Ahwahnee Hotel National Historical Landmark

NR status: 7 - A designated National Historic Landmark

Cultural landscapes affected?

Name and number(s): Yosemite Valley Historic District

NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

Ethnographic resources affected?

Name and number(s): Yosemite Valley American Indian Traditional Cultural
Property NR status: 8 - Within a Register-eligible district

5. The proposed action will:

- No Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure
Yes Replace historic features/elements in kind
Yes Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure
No Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)
No Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape
No Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible
No Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible
No Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources
No Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources
No Involve a real property transaction (exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures)
_____ Other (please specify)

6. Measures to prevent or minimize loss or impairment of historic/prehistoric properties:
Ensure that archeological monitoring is conducted during trenching for walkway and fence foundation excavation.

7. Supporting Study Data:

(Attach if feasible; if action is in a plan, EA or EIS, give name and project or page number.)

8. Attachments:

☐ Maps ☐ Archeological survey, if applicable ☐ Drawings ☐ Specifications ☐ Photographs
☐ Scope of Work ☐ Site plan ☐ List of Materials ☐ Samples ☐ Other:

Prepared by: Renea Kennec Date: October 14, 2010 Title: Environmental Protection
Specialist Telephone: 209-379-1038

B. REVIEWS BY CULTURAL RESOURCE SPECIALISTS

The park NHPA coordinator requested review by the park's cultural resource specialist/advisors as indicated by check-off boxes or as follows:

☒ Archeologist
Name: Scott Jackson
Date: 10/06/2010
Comments:

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance ☐
Assessment of Effect: No Historic Properties Affected ☒ No Adverse Effect
Adverse Effect Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:
Archeological monitoring during trenching for walkway and fence foundation excavation.

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

☒ [X] Historical Architect

Name: Gabrielle Harlan

Date: 10/06/2010

Comments:

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance ☐ []

Assessment of Effect: No Historic Properties Affected ☒ X No Adverse Effect
 Adverse Effect ☒ X Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Review and approval of final plans by Park Historical Architect will be required.

Doc Method: Streamlined Review (PE)

Exclusion ID's: 1. Preservation Maintenance and Repair of Historic Properties

☒ [X] Historical Landscape Architect

Name: David Humphrey

Date: 09/30/2010

Comments:

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance ☐ []

Assessment of Effect: No Historic Properties Affected ☒ X No Adverse Effect
 Adverse Effect Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

No Reviews From: Curator, Historian, 106 Advisor, Other Advisor, Anthropologist

C. PARK SECTION NHPA COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Assessment of Effect:

_____ No Historic Properties Affected ____X____ No Adverse Effect _____ Adverse Effect

2. Compliance requirements:

☐ A. STANDARD 36 CFR PART 800 CONSULTATION

Further consultation under 36 CFR Part 800 is needed.

☐ B. STREAMLINED REVIEW UNDER THE 2008 SERVICEWIDE PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT (PA)

The above action meets all conditions for a streamlined review under section III of the 2008 Servicewide PA for Section 106 compliance.

APPLICABLE STREAMLINED REVIEW Criteria
(Specify 1-16 of the list of streamlined review criteria.)

☐ C. PLAN-RELATED UNDERTAKING

Consultation and review of the proposed undertaking were completed in the context of a plan review process, in accordance with the 2008 Servicewide PA and 36 CFR Part 800.

Specify plan/EA/EIS: _____

☒ D. UNDERTAKING RELATED TO ANOTHER AGREEMENT

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under another document such as a statewide agreement established in accord with 36 CFR 800.7 or counterpart regulations.

Specify: 2008 Programmatic Agreement

☐ E. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS SATISFIED BY USE OF NEPA

Documentation is required for the preparation of an EA/FONSI or an EIS/ROD has been developed and used so as also to meet the requirements of 36 CFR 800.3 through 800.6

☐ F. No Potential to Cause Effects [800.3(a)(1)]

☐ G. STIPULATIONS/CONDITIONS

Following are listed any stipulations or conditions necessary to ensure that the assessment of effect above is consistent with 36 CFR Part 800 criteria of effect or to avoid or reduce potential adverse effects.

Recommended by Park Historic Preservation Officer:

Signature of Historic Preservation Officer: \\Jeanette Simmons\\

Date: 10-18-10

*The signed original of this document is on file at
the Environmental Planning and Compliance
Office in Yosemite National Park.*

D. SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL

The proposed work conforms to the NPS Management Policies and Cultural Resource Management Guideline, and I have reviewed and approve the recommendations, stipulations, or conditions noted in Section C of this form.

Signature of Superintendent \\Micheal Gauthier\\ -for
\\Don L. Neubacher\\

Date: 11-5-10

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