



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: SUP-Special Event: Kelso Flyer Train
Project Number: 10-moja-051/PEPC 33218

Project Description:

The Barstow Area Chamber of Commerce, representing the Barstow-to-Kelso Railroad Committee (a partner of Mojave National Preserve), has applied for a special use permit for a special event. The Kelso Flyer, a one-time excursion by train from Los Angeles to Barstow to Kelso, will travel from Barstow to Kelso and back on Sunday October 17, 2010. Up to 300 passengers may be accommodated on six rail cars pulled by an Amtrak engine. There will be one car dedicated to VIPs, two sleeper cars, two coaches, and one bar car for refreshments.

Passengers will arrive at Kelso Depot at 10:30 pm. Once all passengers have disembarked, the gate will be locked. Passengers will be divided into three groups. Each group will, in turn, be provided lunches by the Kelso Beanery concession, take guided tours led by NPS staff, and see the park film and self-guided exhibits on each floor of Kelso Depot. The gate will be reopened so that visitors may embark on the Kelso Flyer in time to depart at approximately 12:30 pm for Barstow and Los Angeles.

Mojave National Preserve staff will be on each rail car to answer questions and talk generally about Mojave National Preserve. Visitor Protection (at least one emergency medical technician), Interpretation and Maintenance staff will be on duty at Kelso Depot during the event.

Project Location:

Location

County:	San Bernardino	State:	CA
District:	Kelso Depot	Section:	
Geo. Marker:		Other:	

Mitigation(s):

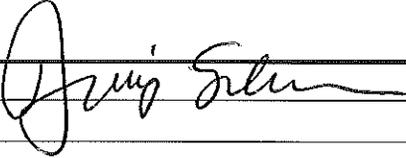
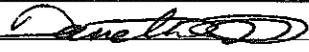
- No mitigations identified

Mojave National Preserve staff has completed an interdisciplinary review of the proposed special event. The Superintendent and Chief of Interpretation regularly attend meetings of the Barstow-to-Kelso Railroad Committee, one of the Preserve's park partners. They developed a schedule for rail passengers on the Kelso Flyer during their sojourn to the Kelso Depot. Passengers will be divided into groups (three was recommended) that will alternate between picking up lunches, attending ranger-guided tours, and following the self-guided exhibits inside the Kelso Depot. This schedule was designed to avoid or minimize impacts to other Kelso Depot visitors and to the resources of the Kelso Depot. Impairment to the natural and cultural resources of Mojave National Preserve is not expected to occur. A special use permit may be issued to the Barstow Chamber of Commerce for this special event.

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):

D.4 Issuance of permits for demonstrations, gathering, ceremonies, concerts, arts and crafts shows, etc., entailing only short-term or readily mitigable environmental disturbance.

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/ Date:	DENNIS SCHRAMM/ 10/4/10 
NPS Contact Person:	DANETTE WOO/ 
Title:	Environmental Compliance Specialist
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