



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: Replace Water Tanks at Mid Hills Campground

Project Number: 11-moja-026/PEPC 36408

Project Description:

This project involves replacing two steel tanks at Mid Hills campground with two tanks specifically designed for potable water storage. The tanks will serve as the primary storage for drinking water at the campground and are considered a public water system. The existing tanks will be replaced with two 4,200-gallon stainless steel potable water tanks. The tanks will either be stainless steel welded, or galvanized, bolted tanks, approximately 10' high x 9' wide each.

A John Deere loader with forks will be used to both remove the old tanks and install the new tanks. The exterior of the new tanks will be painted to blend it with the surrounding landscape. Work will be performed outside of peak visitation season (after June 1, 2011). This work is considered a deferred maintenance health and safety project.

The two existing tanks were damaged from the wildland fire that occurred in 2005. Additionally, the existing galvanized water tanks are not certified for potable water storage. The 2006 and 2007 Environmental Health Surveys conducted by the State have documented this tank replacement project as a priority. This project will satisfy Public Health requirements for providing safe drinking water to the public. Approximately 15,000 visitors camp at Mid Hills campground and use the water for drinking and dishwashing purposes each year.

Project Locations:

Location

County:	San Bernardino	State:	CA
District:	Mid Hills	Section:	
Geo. Marker:		Other:	

Mitigation(s):

- No mitigations identified.

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.8 Replacement in kind of minor structures and facilities with little or no change in location, capacity or appearance.

Mojave National Preserve staff has completed an interdisciplinary review of the proposed action. Reviewers were supportive of the project, to replace the water tanks at the Mid Hills campground, and had no objections. No potentially significant impacts to the cultural or natural resources of the Preserve were identified. This project, therefore, is categorically excluded from further review under NEPA. Impairment is not expected to result from implementation of the 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.

Superintendent: Lawrence J. Whalen *with* Date: 6/20/11

NPS Contact: [Signature] Date: 06/16/2011