

Appendix D: Cumulative Plans and Projects

This appendix presents a summarized list and subsequent detailed descriptions of past, current, and reasonably foreseeable plans and projects that have been evaluated in conjunction with the impacts of an alternative to determine if they have any additive effects on a particular resource. The cumulative impacts analysis is presented in Chapter 3 of this environmental assessment.

Summary

Past Actions

- The Ahwahnee Hotel Install ADA Compliant Elevator Controls
- The Ahwahnee Interim Rockfall Parking Plan
- Replace Ahwahnee Dormitory Steam Line
- Comprehensive Roof Replacement Project
- Yosemite Valley Shuttle Bus Stop Improvements
- The Ahwahnee Fire and Life Safety Improvements Project
- Provide Secondary Egress from 5th and 6th Floors
- The Ahwahnee Hotel Kitchen, Install FRP Board
- Ahwahnee Rehabilitate Historic Light Fixtures
- The Ahwahnee Hotel Interior Decoration Projects 2010-11
- The Ahwahnee Hotel ADA Restroom Improvements
- The Ahwahnee Hotel Stabilize Kitchen Floor

Current Actions

- Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan
- Parkwide Invasive Plant Management Plan Update
- Scenic Vista Management Plan
- 2009 Fire Management Plan
- East Yosemite Valley Utilities Improvement Plan
- The Ahwahnee Hotel Improve Porte Cochère Access Walkways and Fence

Reasonably Foreseeable Actions

- Concessioner Parking Lot Restoration Project
- Parkwide Rehabilitation of Concessioner Operated Fireplaces
- Correct Grease Trap Design Deficiencies
- The Ahwahnee Dormitory Seismic Upgrades
- The Ahwahnee Hotel Recondition Pool
- The Ahwahnee Hotel Ground Floor Exterior Door Replication Test

Past Actions

Agency Name: National Park Service, Yosemite National Park

Project Name: The Ahwahnee, Install ADA Compliant Elevator Controls

Description: The purpose of this project was to correct ADA deficiencies at The Ahwahnee hotel passenger elevator. The following items were corrected to meet those standards: The current call buttons (interior and exterior) were recessed, too high from the floor and their identification not Braille embossed. The emergency phone was not an auto-dial / visual notification system. The door on emergency phone cabinet required pinching and/or grasping. The elevator did not have audible annunciation and no permanent Braille identification for floors or permanent rooms. The self-leveling mechanism between the elevator floor and hoistway did not work. The transition between the elevator floor and the hoistway had an abrupt rise of more than ½" on the sixth floor.

This project was completed in 2008.

Agency Name: National Park Service, Yosemite National Park

Project Name: The Ahwahnee, Interim Rockfall Parking Plan

Description: In August 2009, a rock fall occurred on the Rhombus wall high above The Ahwahnee hotel causing rock debris to scatter on certain portions of the parking lot. In response, the NPS closed 29 public parking spaces and 12 valet spaces (41 total). This project restored 41 parking spaces in a previously disturbed area near The Ahwahnee. A 40' wide by 155' long existing concrete pad (previously used for years to stage equipment and store materials) located north east of the cottages and vehicle access on an existing gravel road is now used for employee parking. The access road connects the main parking area to the valet parking, with a steel gate controlling entry. The public parking spaces affected by rock fall are now blocked with free-standing buck-and-rail fence preventing visitor parking in closed areas. Temporary lighting has been provided along a pre-existing foot path to the concrete pad. A slatted buck-and-rail fencing has been constructed along the edges of the concrete pad to provide screening to prevent vehicular lights from intruding on visitors staying overnight in the nearby cottages.

Agency Name: National Park Service, Yosemite National Park

Project Name: Replace Ahwahnee Dormitory Steam Line

Description: The purpose of this project was to replace the existing steam line from The Ahwahnee hotel to The Ahwahnee dormitory for consistent and cost effective heating, for energy efficient operations, and to eliminate conflicts with the hotel chiller. Steam from the hotel is piped from the hotel to the dormitory to provide for hot water and heating. Frequent steam line failures were causing excessive and costly repairs that only last two or three years. The loss of steam caused the boilers to run continuously causing excessive use of fuel and energy. In addition, since the ruptured steam line ran under the chiller building, excess heat entered the chiller building, which defeated the purpose of the chiller. Further, the steam from ruptured pipes was damaging trees, shrubs, and grasses in the pathway of the line. In 2005, an engineering firm

investigated and developed a plan to install a new line alongside the existing line. The plan allowed for the replacement in the same location with little or no additional disturbance, thereby minimizing resource impacts.

Agency Name: National Park Service, Yosemite National Park

Project Name: **Comprehensive Roof Replacement Project**

Description: Two areas of The Ahwahnee hotel's slate roof were deficient: one area located on the roof of The Ahwahnee Kitchen, and a lower level roof that slopes both west and east from the gable. Both sections sustain heavy snow loads that shed from the upper Dining Room roof above. The slate of the lower kitchen roof was broken in these areas. Additionally, the snow accumulation on the lower kitchen roof was causing a "water dam" and snow melt run-off pooled against the roof seam, leaking into The Ahwahnee Kitchen and Dining Room.

Agency Name: National Park Service, Yosemite National Park

Project Name: **Yosemite Valley Shuttle Bus Stop Improvements**

Description: This project consisted of the preparation of preliminary design plans, environmental compliance documents, and construction drawings; the construction of six, 10-foot by 80-foot concrete braking pads, and the rehabilitation or replacement of 94,000 square feet of asphalt road approaches and the construction of bus stop shelters. The shuttle bus stop at the Ahwahnee was improved with this project.

Agency Name: National Park Service, Yosemite National Park

Project Name: **The Ahwahnee Fire and Life-Safety Improvements Project**

Description: The Fire and Life-Safety Improvements Project for The Ahwahnee involved the installation of automatic fire sprinklers, fire/smoke detectors, and fire alarm systems throughout the National Historic Landmark building. The installation of the fire and life-safety equipment affected every room of the building and involved varying amounts of disruption to the historic finishes. Once the installation was completed, all disrupted finishes were restored with in-kind repairs and finishes. Improvements to fire-safe the 2nd floor corridor and to widen the existing exterior south stair from the 2nd floor to ground level were completed to meet code.

Agency Name: National Park Service, Yosemite National Park

Project Name: **Provide Secondary Egress from 5th and 6th Floors**

Description: This project provided a second means of fire egress from the fifth and sixth floors of The Ahwahnee hotel. The majority of work occurred during the full closure for The Ahwahnee hotel for fire sprinkler and alarm system installation in February and March 2011 to minimize impact to visitors and operations.

The project provided a second means of fire egress from the 5th and 6th floor to the existing 4th floor South Wing stair of The Ahwahnee, and improved the south egress from the 4th floor to the ground level of the hotel. The design for the 5th and 6th floor egress called for construction of a new, open interior stair from the 6th to 5th floor by modifying a guestroom on each of these two floors (607 and 502), and an existing storage closet on the 5th floor. In addition, an exit corridor through the 5th floor attic and a new enclosed stair from this attic corridor were constructed to link the new egress from the upper two floors to the existing south stair well on the 4th floor. Guestroom 439, on the 4th floor, was slightly modified.

Agency Name: National Park Service, Yosemite National Park

Project Name: **The Ahwahnee Hotel Kitchen, Install FRP Board**

Description: This project installed Fiberglass Reinforced Plastic (FRP) on the interior vertical walls of the kitchen of The Ahwahnee. The installation of FRP on many of the interior walls brought the kitchen to current standards for cleanable surfaces in commercial kitchens, and protects the historic walls from potential damage.

The FRP installation is designed to be fully removable and reversible if deemed necessary in the future. Additionally, the FRP has the potential to protect the historic plaster walls from damage caused by grease, dirt, water and steam.

Agency Name: National Park Service, Yosemite National Park

Project Name: **Ahwahnee Rehabilitate Historic Light Fixtures**

Description: This project addressed the immediate safety concerns related to the original light fixtures in The Ahwahnee hotel. A recent condition assessment of the original light fixtures concluded that there were seismic and electrical safety issues that should be immediately addressed. The original light fixtures at The Ahwahnee are character defining features of the National Historic Landmark. Ensuring that these fixtures are in good condition is essential to the protection of the historic integrity of the facility, and to the safety of guests and employees of The Ahwahnee.

The condition assessment assigned numeric safety ratings to each fixture (1 being the least safety risk and 5 being the highest safety risk). The fixtures that received a rating of 5 (24 fixtures) were not anchored to meet seismic safety codes. Fixtures that received a rating of 4 (111 fixtures) had some electrical concerns that require urgent action. Ratings of 3, 2, and 1 are minor and will be addressed in later stages of implementation of this project.

Agency Name: National Park Service, Yosemite National Park

Project Name: **The Ahwahnee Hotel Interior Decoration Projects 2010-11**

Description: This project enhanced the historic character of the National Historic Landmark building by restoring historic furnishings appropriately to the period of significance of the building (1927-1942), and appropriately decorating spaces in these buildings to either reflect or be

compatible with the period of significance. Interior decorating and furnishing projects included soft good purchasing, interior paint, wall and window coverings, carpeting, guest room furniture purchase and placement, public space furnishings, reupholstering of reserve property and historic furnishings, and bathroom fixture replacement. All projects were interior to these structures. This project did not include any modifications to historic buildings and structures. All furnishing projects were limited to refurbishment and compatibility with the period of significance, and any additional furnishings that were required for operational and modern use, were designed to be compatible to the historic structure's period of significance.

Agency Name: National Park Service, Yosemite National Park

Project Name: **The Ahwahnee Hotel ADA Restroom Improvements**

Description: The Women's and Men's public restrooms were improved during the planned closure of the Ahwahnee in February/March 2011. Existing non-historic fixtures, partitions, and finishes were replaced with historically compatible fixtures, partitions, and finishes. In the Women's restroom, the existing layout was reconfigured to allow for new ADA compliance elements. Two existing stalls were removed and a new ADA-compliant stall was placed in the northwest corner. A regular stall was placed in the northeast corner to and one sink was made ADA-compliant.

Agency Name: National Park Service, Yosemite National Park

Project Name: **The Ahwahnee – Stabilize Kitchen Floor**

Description: This project structurally strengthened and stabilized portions of the kitchen floor at The Ahwahnee National Historic Landmark. Significant portions of the kitchen floor were failing and required stabilization from below. The tile floor in the kitchen was buckled and uneven and could not support the traffic or equipment required for kitchen and food and beverage operations. This project addressed the immediate concern of stabilization prior to implementing a more comprehensive kitchen rehabilitation. This project was designed to provide a structurally sound kitchen floor and substructure for approximately ten years.

Current Actions or Plans

Agency Name: National Park Service, Yosemite National Park

Project Name: **Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan**

Description: The National Park Service is currently preparing a new comprehensive river management plan and environmental impact statement for the Merced Wild and Scenic River within Yosemite National Park. Public scoping was reopened for the new plan in 2009. The public scoping and comment period ended in February 2010.

In the new Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan, the agency will address resource protection and restoration; development (and/or removal) of lands and facilities; user capacities; and specific management measures that will be used to protect and enhance the

river's outstandingly remarkable values. The Merced River Plan/EIS will address the quantity and mixture of recreation and other public uses that may be permitted without adverse impact to the river's outstandingly remarkable values, including a discussion of the maximum number of people that may be received in the river corridor.

Agency Name: National Park Service, Yosemite National Park

Project Name: **Parkwide Invasive Plant Management Plan Update**

Description: The purpose of this plan is to provide park resource managers with the necessary planning tools and procedures for effectively and efficiently managing non-native invasive plants in Yosemite National Park, including the project area. The primary goal is to create a plan that is adaptive, that allows managers to adapt to changing conditions and needs. A methodology will also be created for assessing the efficacy and impacts of new herbicides, and assessing various management guidelines and tools. Public comment for this environmental assessment document occurred in December 2010, preparation of a decision document is underway.

Agency Name: National Park Service, Yosemite National Park

Project Name: **Scenic Vista Management Plan**

Description: The Scenic Vista Management Plan will create a program with a comprehensive strategy to prioritize viewpoints for management, identify which methods of vegetation clearing area appropriate at what times and in which places, and describe what trees and brush may need to be removed to restore the view at high priority vistas, including portions of Yosemite Valley near the project area and views from the Ahwahnee Lounge, the front lawn, Dining Room, Winter Club Room and Solarium. Proposed vista management methods could include fire, mechanical thinning, and trimming.

Public comment for this document occurred in July 2010, and preparation of a decision document is underway.

Agency Name: National Park Service, Yosemite National Park

Project Name: **2009 Yosemite Fire Management Plan**

Description: The 2001 Federal Fire Policy specifically mandates public land agencies to reduce the amount of forest and shrubland fuels around areas with homes and buildings, and to restore ecosystems to a more natural, fire-tolerant balance. In response, the National Park Service has issued new fire management guidelines that require updated fire management plans. Yosemite National Park's 2009 Fire Management Plan serves to utilize the new fire management guidelines in outlining procedures for managing fire in Yosemite National Park; for restoration and maintenance of ecosystems, for reduction of hazard fuels, for protection of natural and cultural resources, and for protection of wildland urban interface communities.

Agency Name: National Park Service, Yosemite National Park

Project Name: East Yosemite Valley Utilities Improvement Plan

Description: The existing utility infrastructure serving Yosemite Valley was identified as a potential problem due to its age, condition inadequate capacity, inaccessibility to future facilities and inappropriate location in environmentally sensitive areas. The National Park Service completed an Environmental Assessment and a Finding of No Significant Impact for the Utilities Master Plan was signed in October 2003 to allow efficient relocation and upgrading of utility systems to provide for utility needs while reducing long-term environmental impacts from utility repair and maintenance activities. Construction of phase 1 of the improvement began in 2005 and has been ongoing with implementation of the utility improvements occurring in three phases over 10 years.

Agency Name: National Park Service, Yosemite National Park

Project Name: Ahwahnee Hotel Improve Porte Cochère Access Walkways and Fence

Description: The porte cochère and entry gallery are classic features of The Ahwahnee hotel 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 cochère, 2) the service yard fence and, 3) the wood-plank boardwalk in the main entry gallery. In addition to replacement of wood members, 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. This project will also address some of the drainage issues under the wooden walkways.

Reasonably Foreseeable Actions

Agency Name: National Park Service, Yosemite National Park

Project Name: Concessioner Parking Lot Restoration Project

Description: Concessioner-assigned paved parking areas would be replaced to a maintainable condition and to provide safe access for visitors and staff. Currently, paved parking areas have significant deterioration from age, construction activities, tree root lift, rodent activity, and extreme weather. Numerous potholes, annual patching, and excessive cracks exist causing safety and concerns related to American with Disabilities and Architectural Barriers Act requirements.

As part of this project, paved areas will be evaluated individually for proper drainage, elevations, curbing, striping, and improved efficiency. The existing parking area foot prints will be retained as designated in the concessions contract for concessioner land assignments. This project will not expand any parking areas, nor will it add any parking spaces.

Agency Name: National Park Service, Yosemite National Park

Project Name: **Parkwide Rehabilitate Concessioner Operated Fireplaces**

Description: The fireplaces throughout the concessioner operations are in need of varying degrees of major to minor repairs due to their age, frequency of use, seismic activity, foundation settlement, and code requirements. The purpose of this project is to replace fireplace components, 12 fireplaces at The Ahwahnee hotel are scheduled for rehabilitation. Work may include: demolition of existing materials, replacement with in-kind fabric while retaining historic design, fire box repair, masonry improvements, and miscellaneous upgrades.

Agency Name: National Park Service, Yosemite National Park

Project Name: **Correct Grease Trap Design Deficiencies**

Description: An update to the park's Grease Management Plan was completed in 2008. The grease interceptor at the Ahwahnee was included in the study. This project would include design and construction to address recommendations regarding water temperature, grease build-up, and plumbing under the kitchen and to the underground interceptor.

Agency Name: National Park Service, Yosemite National Park

Project Name: **The Ahwahnee Dormitory Seismic Upgrades**

Description: The existing wood foundation at The Ahwahnee dormitory inadequately supports the building on unstable soil requiring ongoing stabilization repairs. This project will replace the foundation with a permanent foundation to provide long-term structural stabilization of the dormitory building. The project will also include an evaluation of the existing utilities and components located under the building floor, the building floor structure, structural elements of the building, and soil erosion and drainage issues to determine if these elements should be replaced or rehabilitated as part of the project. The design of a permanent foundation at the dormitory will also include seismic safety upgrades to the building, such as shear walls, as recommended by the seismic study done to support the Ahwahnee Rehabilitation Plan. This project is currently in the design stage and construction is tentatively scheduled for 2012.

Agency Name: National Park Service, Yosemite National Park

Project Name: **The Ahwahnee – Recondition Pool**

Description: The proposed project will include removing tile along the water line of the pool, installing a pre-cast coping and new tile at water line, repair of plaster to affected areas of tile replacement, prepping and painting the pool basin, installing an ADA-compliant gate handle, and either relocating the chlorination system or replacing the chlorine system with an acceptable alternative.

This project will begin in the fall of 2011.

Agency Name: National Park Service, Yosemite National Park

Project Name: Ahwahnee Hotel, Ground Floor Exterior Door Replication Test

Description: The purpose of this project is to replace one set of exterior ground floor doors at The Ahwahnee to serve as a design for replacement of the most severely deteriorated ground floor doors. The scope included design services and replacement of one set of exterior doors located in the Great Lounge.

This project will begin in the winter of 2011.

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