



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:** Kinzie Gordon

**From:** Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

**Subject:** NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2010-077 Ahwahnee – Provide Secondary Egress from Mezzanine, 5th and 6th Floors (33679)

The Executive Leadership Team has reviewed the proposed project/action 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 construction staging areas do not affect culturally significant plant resources or archeological resources.
- Implement in accordance with the Ahwahnee Comprehensive Rehabilitation Programmatic Agreement.

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 33679.

//Edward J. Walls// (acting)

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.*



---

## Categorical Exclusion Form

**Project:** Ahwahnee - Provide Secondary Egress from Mezzanine, 5th, and 6th Floors

**PEPC Project Number:** 33679

**Project Description:**

This project would comply with fire and life-safety code standards. This project would provide a second means of fire egress from the mezzanine, fifth, and sixth floors of The Ahwahnee hotel. Public assembly would be allowed to continue in the south Mezzanine rooms after egress upgrades. Contractors will adhere to the crafted cut-and-patch specifications developed by NPS Historical Architects.

This project will entail the following elements:

6th Floor to 4th Floor Actions:

- Build open interior stairway between the fifth and sixth floors by reconfiguring interior areas of rooms 607 and 502.
- Construct an exit-way corridor within the fifth floor attic to connect stair extension to an existing hallway by modifying an existing closet.
- Extend the existing three foot wide south wing exit stair from the fourth floor to connect with the new fifth floor attic exit-way corridor. The floor plan of guestroom 439 will be modified to create space for the extension.
- Widen opening in existing roof to accommodate a new exit stair on the fourth floor. A heat trace will be installed or a maintenance protocol will be developed to keep the exit stairway clear during the winter.
- Install fire rated doors on hold openers in the second floor corridor to create fire rated vestibule leading to the exterior fire escape door.
- Install a fire rated door at guestroom 236 and convert a hallway storage room into a closet for room 239 in order to provide a two-hour fire break.

Mezzanine Actions:

- Install a secondary exit door from the South Mezzanine via the Tresidder Room.
- Modify the existing granite veneered concrete façade at the exterior of the building to accommodate a new exterior door at the mid-landing of the exterior stair.
- Install a concrete beam to structurally support the door frame.
- Demolish the exterior stone in an area of approximately 4 feet wide by 13 feet tall.
- Reinstall the granite veneer on the building's exterior to match the existing veneer after door installation. The interior exit door and door frame would be located on the north wall of the Tresidder Room.
- Flip the swing of the non-historic, existing pair of interior French entry doors by modifying hardware to swing into the Tresidder Room from the Tudor Lounge to follow the egress route.

Park Historical Architect will provide quality assurance/quality control oversight of all actions taken on historic finishes throughout this project. The project will be executed in accordance to the programmatic agreement developed with the State Historic Preservation Office for the Ahwahnee Comprehensive Rehabilitation Plan.

**Project Locations:**

Mariposa County, CA

**Mitigations:**

- Ensure that construction staging areas do not affect culturally significant plant resources or archeological resources.
- Implement in accordance with the Ahwahnee Comprehensive Rehabilitation Programmatic Agreement

**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.19 Construction or rehabilitation in previously disturbed or developed areas, required to meet health or safety regulations, or to meet requirements for making facilities accessible to the handicapped.

**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**     //Edward J. Walls// (acting)    

**Date**   8/12/11  

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



# ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

## DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 12/05/2010

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:** 2010-077 Ahwahnee - Provide Secondary Egress from Mezzanine, 5th, and 6th Floors  
**PEPC Project Number:** 33679  
**Project Type:** Facility Rehabilitation (FR)  
**Project Location:** Mariposa County, California  
**Project Leader:** Kinzie Gordon

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.	No				
2. From geohazards	No				
3. Air quality		Negligible			This project will produce temporary air emissions during construction.
4. Soundscapes		Negligible			Temporary construction noises will be a part of this project. The hotel will be closed during the egress addition.
5. Water quality or quantity	No				
6. Streamflow characteristics	No				

<b>Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources</b>	<b>No Effect</b>	<b>Negligible Effects</b>	<b>Minor Effects</b>	<b>Exceeds Minor Effects</b>	<b>Data Needed to Determine/Notes</b>
7. Marine or estuarine resources	No				
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	No				The hotel will be closed from February 22 <sup>nd</sup> to March 17 <sup>th</sup>
18. Archeological resources	No				
19.		Negligible			Ahwahnee Hotel National Historic

<b>Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources</b>	<b>No Effect</b>	<b>Negligible Effects</b>	<b>Minor Effects</b>	<b>Exceeds Minor Effects</b>	<b>Data Needed to Determine/Notes</b>
Prehistoric/historic structure					Landmark;
20. Cultural landscapes	No				
21. Ethnographic resources	No				
22. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections)	No				
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,	No				

<b>Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources</b>	<b>No Effect</b>	<b>Negligible Effects</b>	<b>Minor Effects</b>	<b>Exceeds Minor Effects</b>	<b>Data Needed to Determine/Notes</b>
paleontological resources)?					

### C. MANDATORY CRITERIA

<b>Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Comment or Data Needed to Determine</b>
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?	Yes			
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		
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?	Yes			Will have cumulative effect in conjunction with other projects related to the Ahwahnee Comprehensive Rehabilitation on the National Historic Landmark
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		

<b>Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Comment or Data Needed to Determine</b>
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**

1. Are personnel preparing this form familiar with the site? Yes
2. Is the project in an approved plan such as a General Management Plan or an Implementation Plan with an accompanying NEPA document? No
3. Are there any interested or affected agencies or parties? Yes
4. Has consultation with all affected agencies or tribes been completed? Yes
5. 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)? Yes

#### **E. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM SIGNATORIES**

<b><u>Interdisciplinary Team</u></b>	<b><u>Field of Expertise</u></b>
Don L. Neubacher	Superintendent
Kathleen Morse	Chief of Planning
Randy Fong	Chief of Project Management
Dale St. Vincent	Acting Chief of Administration Management
Ed Walls	Chief of Facilities Management
Joe Meyer	Acting 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
Kinzie Gordon	Project Leader
Elexis Mayer	Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager
Elexis Mayer	Acting Historic Preservation Officer
Renea Kenec	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.*

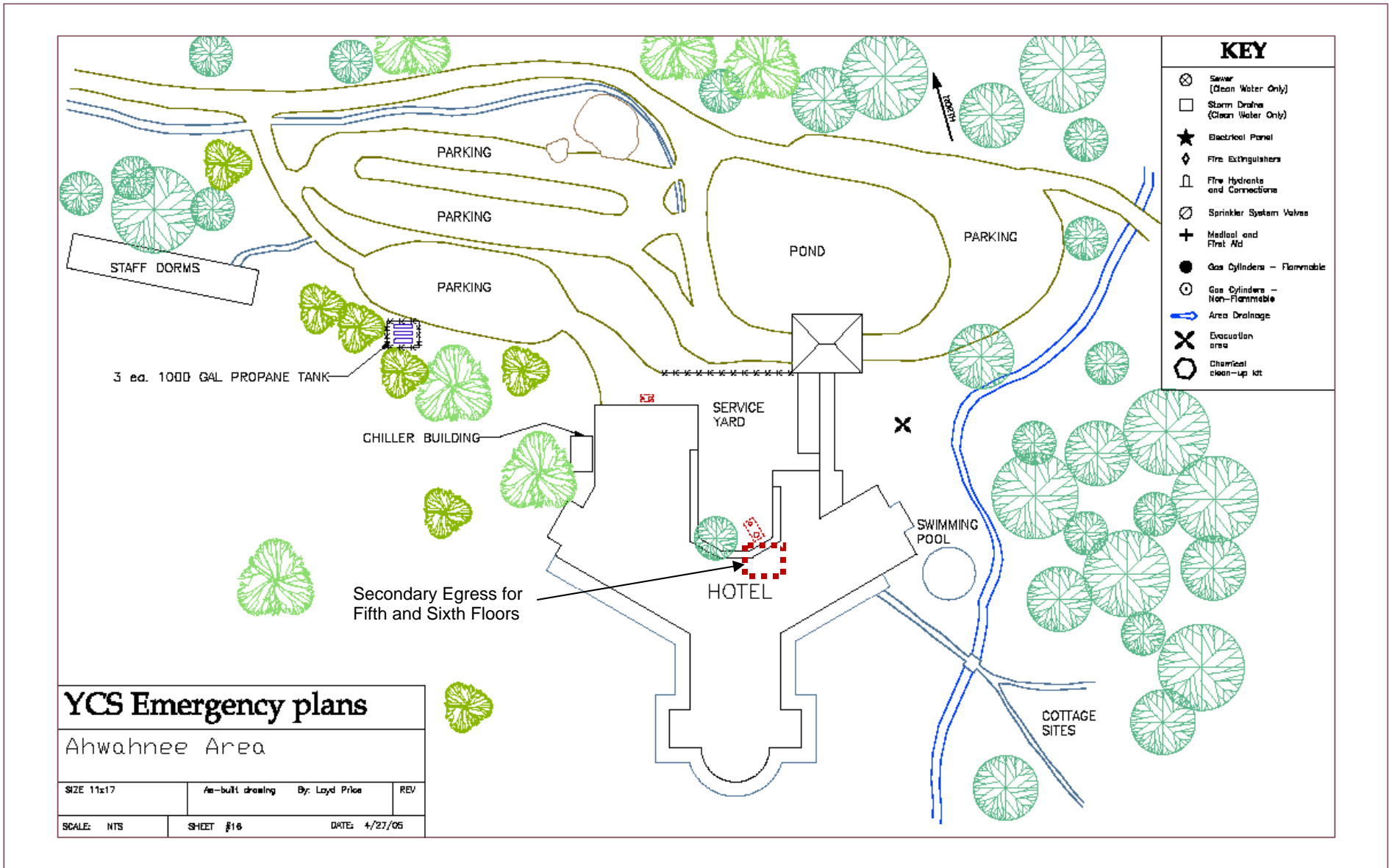
**Recommended:**

Compliance Specialists	Date
<u>//Renea Kennec//</u> Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec	<u>8/10/11</u>
<u>//Elexis Mayer//</u> Compliance Program Manager – Elexis Mayer	<u>8/10/11</u>
<u>//David Engelstad//</u> Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong	<u>8/10/11</u>

**Approved:**

Superintendent	Date
<u>//Edward J. Walls// (acting)</u> Don L. Neubacher	<u>8/12/11</u>

*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: 12/07/2010

## PARK ESF ADDENDUM

**Today's Date:** December 7, 2010

### PROJECT INFORMATION

**Park Name:** Yosemite National Park  
**Project Title:** 2010-077 Ahwahnee - Provide Secondary Egress from Mezzanine, 5th, and 6th Floors  
**PEPC Project Number:** 33679  
**Project Type:** Facility Rehabilitation (FR)  
**Project Location:**  
     **County, State:** Mariposa, California  
**Project Leader:** Kinzie Gordon

### PARK ESF ADDENDUM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
<b>SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST</b>				
Listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (Federal or State)?		No		
Species of special concern (Federal or State)?		No		
Park rare plants or vegetation?		No		
Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above?		No		
<b>NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST</b>				
Entail ground disturbance?		No		
Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?		No		
Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?	Yes			The egress will alter the interior and exterior of the hotel.
Has a National Register form been completed?	Yes			
Are there any structures on the park's List of Classified Structures in the area of potential effect?	Yes			Ahwahnee Hotel; LCS #55943.
<b>WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST</b>				

Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor?	Yes			Merced River.
Fall within the bed and banks AND will affect the free-flow of the river?		No		
Have the possibility of affecting water quality of the area?		No		
Remain consistent with its river segment classification?	Yes			
Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River?		No		
Will the project encroach or intrude upon the Wild and Scenic River corridor		No		
Will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values?		No		
Consistent with the provisions in the Merced River Plan Settlement Agreement?	Yes			
<b>WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST</b>				
Within designated Wilderness		No		
Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?		No		



## ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

### A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

2. **Project Description:**

a. **Project Name** 2010-077 Ahwahnee - Provide Secondary Egress from 5th and 6th Floors

b. **Date:** December 8, 2010

c. **PEPC Project ID Number:** 33679

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

No

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

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:**

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  
Notes:

5. **The proposed action will:**

Yes Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure

No 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:**

Please ensure that construction staging area(s) do not affect culturally significant plant resources or archeological resources.

**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:** Peter Lenz    **Date:** December 8, 2010    **Title:** Environmental Planning Assistant  
**Telephone:** 209-379-1366

**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: Laura Kirn

Date: 12/06/2010

Comments: The project does not involve ground disturbance therefore there is no potential to affect archeological resources.

*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:

Doc Method: No Potential to Cause Effects [800.3(a)(1)]

---

Historical Architect

Name: Gabrielle Harlan

Date: 12/06/2010

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:

The project shall be executed in accordance both with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (Rehabilitation Standards) and as described in the programmatic agreement developed between the park and the California Office of Historic Preservation for the Ahwahnee Comprehensive Rehabilitation Project.

Doc Method: Standard 4-Step Process

---

Anthropologist

Name: Jennifer Hardin

Date: 12/07/2010

Comments: No traditional cultural properties will be affected.

*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: Please ensure that construction staging area(s) do not affect culturally significant plant resources or archeological resources.

Doc Method: No Potential to Cause Effects [800.3(a)(1)]

---

Historical Landscape Architect

Name: David Humphrey

Date: 12/06/2010

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:

The project will be executed in accordance with the programmatic agreement developed with the State Historic Preservation Office for the Ahwahnee Comprehensive Rehabilitation Plan.

Doc Method: Standard 4-Step Process

---

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

---

### **C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Assessment of Effect:

\_\_\_\_\_ No Historic Properties Affected \_\_\_\_\_ No Adverse Effect  X  Adverse Effect

2. Compliance requirements:

[ ] A. STANDARD 36 CFR PART 800 CONSULTATION

Further consultation under 36 CFR Part 800 is needed.

[X] 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: \_\_\_\_\_

[X] 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:  Ahwahnee Comprehensive Rehabilitation 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 Section 106 coordinator:

Name: Elexis Mayer

Title: Acting Historic Preservation Officer

Date: December 8, 2010

**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 Historic Preservation Officer  //Elexis J. Mayer//   
Elexis Mayer

Date:  8/9/11

Signature of Superintendent  //Edward J. Walls// (acting)   
Don L. Neubacher

Date:  8/12/11

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