



South Entrance Station Kiosks Replacement

The existing kiosks at South Entrance Station, located on the southern end of the park on Wawona Road (Highway 41), were originally constructed as temporary structures. The structures are in poor condition and are compromising the safety of park staff. There are multiple collisions each year, often involving larger vehicles striking the kiosks as they enter/exit and navigate the narrow lanes and difficult turning radius. In addition, the poor design of the existing facilities contributes to vehicle backups extending over two miles on peak days.

Purpose

The purpose of this project is to improve employee and visitor safety through design and construction of safe, secure, accessible, and high performance entrance station kiosks. The objectives of the project are to:

- Improve safety by addressing the overall kiosk placement and road layout configuration, reducing congestion and improving visitor service through wayfinding and lighting;
- Replace and update fire and security monitoring, alarm systems, and communication infrastructure;
- Replace kiosks with architecturally appropriate structures using the new Big Oak Flat Entrance Station Kiosk as the baseline for design; and
- Provide an overall kiosk design that is accessible, comfortable, climate-controlled, and energy efficient.

What does this project entail?

The new kiosks would be relocated to a safer location along the Wawona Road approximately 350 feet south of the existing kiosks location. The proposed work includes:

- On-site construction and installation of three new, 8 feet by 14 feet permanent kiosks;
- Relocation of the kiosks, requiring a widening of the existing road prism to a maximum width of 100 feet and 400 feet long (approximately 43,000 square feet of fill and cut disturbance on the east side of the road);
- Relocation of utility lines (gas, electric, and telecommunications), trenched within the road prism;
- Installation of curbing, signs, and landscaping around the kiosks;
- Installation of security upgrades such as video cameras and panic buttons; and
- Removal of second growth trees along the roadway for road widening, the majority of which are less than 20 inches in diameter (White fir, Incense cedar, Sugar pine and Ponderosa pine).



Vehicle collisions with entrance kiosks cause hazardous safety conditions for NPS employees.

Project Considerations

The South Entrance was determined eligible for the National Register as a historic district in 2004. There is one historic kiosk that would remain in its existing location and would be used as an office. A No Adverse Effect determination is anticipated to the historic district.

The South Entrance area has numerous historic-period archeological sites in the general vicinity and one prehistoric/historical archeological site within the immediate project area. Park staff are in the process of planning subsurface investigations in the area of potential effect.

To avoid impacts to wildlife during construction and tree removal, 1) construction activities would be timed to avoid the most sensitive periods (denning, roosting, nesting, and hibernating) for special status animals and (2) activities would be adaptively managed for special status species through continued targeted surveys during key time periods during the construction and post-construction phases.

Less than an acre of wetland area would be affected by the project due to fill from road widening. Hydrologic flow would continue through a culvert under the Wawona Road. The park would apply for the appropriate state/federal permits prior to construction.

The park has initiated consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer regarding the proposed undertaking. Consultation with the park's traditionally associated tribes and groups will be ongoing to address potential impacts to culturally significant resources.

Planning for restoration of the Mariposa Grove is currently under way through a separate project. That project will incorporate the kiosks relocation into the long-term transportation planning for the South Entrance Station.

What is the project schedule?

The park is initiating the design process and anticipates completing compliance for the project in late summer 2012. A categorical exclusion per the National Environmental Policy Act is anticipated. Tree removal would begin in Fall 2012 and construction is anticipated to begin in early 2013, with completion by early 2014.

Your part in the process

- **Comment online:** The project is open for comment May 30 through June 29, 2012 at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/SEntrKiosk>. The public is encouraged to submit comments electronically through this website. Click on the "Open for Comment" link on the left side of the screen to submit a comment.
- **Add your name to the park's planning list** to receive periodic planning-related electronic notices on this and other park projects by e-mailing your request to yose_planning@nps.gov.
- **Submit a written comment postmarked by June 29, 2012, to:**

Superintendent
Attn: South Entrance Station Kiosks Replacement
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