



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: Ron Gaunt, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2009-085 Yosemite Village Replace Cooling Tower (27102)

The Executive Leadership Team has reviewed the proposed project 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 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:

- No mitigations identified.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

//Don L. Neubacher//

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: 2009-085 Yosemite Village Replace Cooling Tower

PEPC Project Number: 27102

Project Description:

This project will replace the existing cooling tower within the Yosemite Village Store with a new cooling tower located adjacent to the breezeway on the outside of the building. The existing cooling system is located within the village store and is undersized, antiquated, and subject to frequent break down. It leaks approximately 2,000 gallons of water a day. All piping from the new cooling tower to the cooling system inside the Village Store Complex will be run along walls. No trenching will be required. The noise level of the new cooling tower will be slightly higher than the current system at peak load due to the new unit being located outside. However, at lesser loads the system will have noise levels similar to the current system. The new system will still conform to noise regulations (36 CFR 2.12)

The following actions will be implemented:

- One spice bush and one small dogwood tree will need to be removed to allow for enough room for the foundation and fence.
- Pour a 14-foot by six-foot, 18 inch deep concrete pad.
- Shift the location of the existing air compressor.
- Install the new cooling tower and concrete pad.
- Construct a wood plank board screening fence.
- The new cooling tower will be visually screened by approximately 40 linear feet of wood board plank fencing. The fence will be visually consistent with the Village Store building and will be painted Wosky brown. Up to ten 12 inch diameter by 18 inch depth post holes will need to be dug for the fence posts.
- Removed materials will be disposed of as recycled materials.

Project Locations:

Mariposa County, CA

Mitigations:

- 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.18 Construction of minor structures, including small improved parking lots, in previously disturbed or developed areas.

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 //Don L. Neubacher//

Date 5/25/11

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ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 04/25/2011

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: 2009-085 Yosemite Village Replace Cooling Tower
PEPC Project Number: 27102
Project Type: Capital Improvement (CI)
Project Location: Mariposa County, CA
Project Leader: Ron Gaunt

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.		Negligible			Eight fence post holes will be dug 24 inches deep and 12 inches in diameter.
2. From geohazards	No				
3. Air quality		Negligible			
4. Soundscapes		Minor			New cooling system will be located outside and will be louder than the existing system at increased loads. Installation of the cooling tower unit will produce temporary construction noises.
5. Water quality or quantity	No				
6. Streamflow characteristics	No				

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
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				

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
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources		Negligible			Visitor experience will be affected by the noise of the new cooling tower.
18. Archeological resources	No				
19. Prehistoric/historic structure	No				
20. Cultural landscapes		Negligible			Yosemite Village Historic District and Yosemite Valley Historic District.
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				

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
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, paleontological resources)?	No				

C. MANDATORY CRITERIA

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

For the purpose of interpreting these procedures within the NPS, any action that has the potential to violate the NPS Organic Act by impairing park resources or values would constitute an action that triggers the DOI exception for actions that threaten to violate a federal law for protection of the environment.

D. OTHER INFORMATION

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

E. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM SIGNATORIES

<u>Interdisciplinary Team</u>	<u>Field of Expertise</u>
Don L. Neubacher	Superintendent
Kathleen Morse	Chief of Planning
Randy Fong	Acting Chief of Project Management
Lena McDowall	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
Ron Gaunt	Project Leader
Elexis Mayer	Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager
Barbara Wyatt	Historic Preservation Officer
Renea Kennec	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>4/28/11</u>
<u>//Elexis Mayer//</u> Compliance Program Manager – Elexis Mayer	<u>5/12/11</u>
<u>//Randy Fong//</u> Acting Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong	<u>5/19/11</u>

Approved:

Superintendent	Date
<u>//Don L. Neubacher//</u> Don L. Neubacher	<u>5/23/11</u>

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CIF 5004 – Replace Village Store Complex Cooling Tower Project Photographs



Proposed breezeway area for new cooling tower placement. Note that ground disturbance will only occur within this notch in the Village Store building which is approximately 25 by 15 feet.



Note that the fence will run approximately 25 feet as shown above and then an additional 15 feet at an “L” to fully enclose the new cooling tower.



Vegetation removal will be required.



The existing air compressor will need to be rearranged in this area to allow enough room for the cooling tower.



Fence style will match the wood plank board siding of the building and be painted Wosky brown to match. All piping and conduit will be run through the building and not under ground. Ground disturbance in this area will be in pre-disturbed areas and within fill.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 04/27/2011

PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: April 27, 2011

PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
Project Title: 2009-085 Yosemite Village Replace Cooling Tower
PEPC Project Number: 27102
Project Type: Capital Improvement (CI)
Project Location: Mariposa, CA
Project Leader: Ron Gaunt

PARK ESF ADDENDUM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST				
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		
NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST				
Entail ground disturbance?	Yes			Eight fence post holes will be dug 24 inches deep and 12 inches in diameter.
Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?		No		
Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?	Yes			A new fence will be placed next to the Village Store in the breezeway area.
Has a National Register form been completed?		No		

Are there any structures on the park's List of Classified Structures in the area of potential effect?		No		
WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST				
Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor? (Name the 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			
WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST				
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:** 2009-085 Yosemite Village Replace Cooling Tower
- b) **Date Prepared:** 04/10/2011
- c) **PEPC Project Number:** 27102
- d) **Locations:** Mariposa County, CA

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

☐ No

☒ Yes

Source or reference: Yosemite Valley Historic District; Yosemite Village Historic District; Yosemite Valley Archeological 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 Resource(s):

Archeological resources affected?

Name and number(s): Yosemite Valley Archeological District
NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

Cultural landscapes affected?

Name and number(s): Yosemite Village Historic District
NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

Name and number(s): Yosemite Valley Historic District
NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

5. The proposed action will:

☐ No Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure

☐ No Replace historic features/elements in kind

☐ No Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure

No Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)
Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting
Yes or cultural landscape
No Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible
No Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible
Yes Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources
Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting, landscape elements,
No or archeological or ethnographic resources
No Involve a real property transaction (exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures)
 Other (please specify): _____

B. REVIEWS BY CULTURAL RESOURCE SPECIALISTS

The park Historic Preservation Officer requested review by the park's cultural resource specialist/advisors as indicated by check-off boxes or as follows:

[X] Archeologist
Name: Laura Kirn
Date: 04/20/2011

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []
Assessment of Effect: X 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)]

[X] Historical Architect
Name: Shawn Lingo
Date: 04/12/2011

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []
Assessment of Effect: X 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)]

[X] Anthropologist
Name: Jennifer Hardin
Date: 04/26/2011

Comments: As described, this proposed project does not appear to have the potential to affect known TCPs or other ethnographic resources. However, associated tribal groups will be consulted about the project due to its location, per the request of our tribal partners.

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []
Assessment of Effect: X No Historic Properties Affected ___ No Adverse Effect ___ Adverse Effect
___ Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: Traditionally associated tribal groups will be consulted about the project due to its location, per the request of our tribal partners.

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

[X] Historical Landscape Architect

Name: David Humphrey

Date: 04/12/2011

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: X 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)]

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

C. PARK HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Assessment of Effect:

No Historic Properties Affected X No Adverse Effect Adverse Effect

2. Documentation Method:

[] A. STANDARD 36 CFR PART 800 CONSULTATION

Further consultation under 36 CFR Part 800 is needed.

[] 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: 1999 Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

☐ E. COMBINED NEPA/NHPA Document

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. Memo to SHPO/THPO

☐ H. Memo to ACHP

3. Additional Consulting Parties Information:

Additional Consulting Parties: No

4. Stipulations and 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.

5. Mitigations/Treatment Measures:

Measures to prevent or minimize loss or impairment of historic/prehistoric properties:
(Remember that setting, location, and use may be relevant.)

No Assessment of Effect mitigations identified.

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK ACTING HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER:

Signature

Historic
Preservation
Officer

//Barbara Wyatt//

Barbara Wyatt

Date: 5/17/11

E. 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

Superintendent: //Don L. Neubacher//

Don L. Neubacher

Date: 5/23/11

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Yosemite National Park.*