



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: John Chisum

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2010-049 Tuolumne Meadows Campground Accessibility Improvements (31394)

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 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 all equipment and materials brought into the park are free of non-native, invasive plants and animals, and noxious weeds. All staff working on site shall be informed of and follow best management practices for preventing the introduction and spread of non-native, invasive species as described in Division 1 Specifications, Section 1335.
- Ensure the accessibility signage is up to date upon completion of the project.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

//Charles Cuvelier// 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: 2010-049 Tuolumne Meadows Campground Accessibility Improvements

PEPC Project Number: 31394

Project Description:

This Tuolumne Meadows campground project will correct accessibility deficiencies at 12 non-accessible campsites as outlined in Yosemite's Self Evaluation and Transition Plan. Sites to be improved include A10, A11, B37-39, C1, C77, C80-81, C87, C89-90. The existing sites have been selected by a team of subject matter experts to ensure minimum grading and construction impact. None of the sites are located within the known archeological sites. Additionally, the sites are away from the river bank and provide a variety of different camping experiences for users. Site work includes:

1. Improvements will be fitted into the existing campsite border or impacted area.
2. The finished surface of campsite areas will be made up of decomposed granite 6" thick.
3. Campsite border will be pressure treated 6x6 wood. The wood will be brown and unpainted.
4. Campsite borders will have drainage slots for rain run off.
5. 25% of improved campsites will have a raised tent pad that is 12' by 12' and between 17" and 19" in height. Pads will be constructed with 6x6 pressure treated brown wood.
6. An accessible parking space will be provided in the existing parking spur for each site. The parking spaces will range from 16' (van accessible space) to 20' (RV space) in width and will be between 20' and 30' in length.
7. Parking spaces will be 6" GraniteCrete or similar cement or polymer based soil hardening product. GranitCrete surfaces have the look and feel of a crushed organic surface, but bare the near strength and erosion control of professionally installed concrete. They are porous, addressing storm-water and heat island environmental concerns and yielding high LEED® points in up to three categories of the LEED® rating system.
8. Earthwork operations will be minimized. Soil generated from campsite and pad installation may be used where fill and catch-slope grading is required. Fill shall be compacted in 4" lifts.
9. All excess material and debris will be removed from the park.
10. The fire grill concrete foundation size will be 2' wide by 16" deep by 8" high.
11. The table will have a tie down concrete footing that is 8" in diameter and 16" deep with a ¼" chain 6' long.
12. The bear box will have concrete footings pads that are 37" wide by 12" deep by 4" thick with two 1/2" bolts.
13. Two concrete wheel stops will be place at the back of each accessible parking space.
14. Concrete will be colored to match existing surroundings.

Project Locations:

Tuolumne County, CA

Mitigations:

- Ensure that all equipment and materials brought into the park are free of non-native, invasive plants and animals, and noxious weeds. All staff working on site shall be informed of and follow best management practices for preventing the introduction and spread of non-native, invasive species as described in Division 1 Specifications, Section 1335.
- Ensure the accessibility signage is up to date upon completion of the project.

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.3 Routine maintenance and repairs to non-historic structures, facilities, utilities, grounds and trails.

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: //Charles Cuvelier// acting **Date:** 8/3/11
Don L. Neubacher

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Yosemite National Park.*



ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 07/25/2011

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: Tuolumne Meadows Campground Accessibility Improvements
PEPC Project Number: 31394
Project Type: Capital Improvement (CI)
Project Location:
County, State: Tuolumne, California
Project Leader: John Chisum

Target compliance completion date: 06/15/2010

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				Excavation in parking spurs may be up to 6" to install a properly compacted base.
2. From geohazards	No				
3. Air quality		Negligible			A small loader will be used to move the decomposed granite around the job site; temporary, negligible impacts associated with this project.
4. Soundscapes		Negligible			Temporary construction noises are associated with the campsite upgrades.
5. Water quality or	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
quantity					
6. Streamflow characteristics	No				
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		Negligible			Project will improve accessibility of existing sites.

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
18. Archeological resources		Negligible			Tuolumne Meadows Archeological District.
19. Prehistoric/historic structure	No				
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	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
resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?					

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		

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
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? Yes
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	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
John Chisum	Project Leader
Elexis Mayer	Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager
Elexis Meyer	Acting Historic Preservation Officer
Renea Kennece	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.

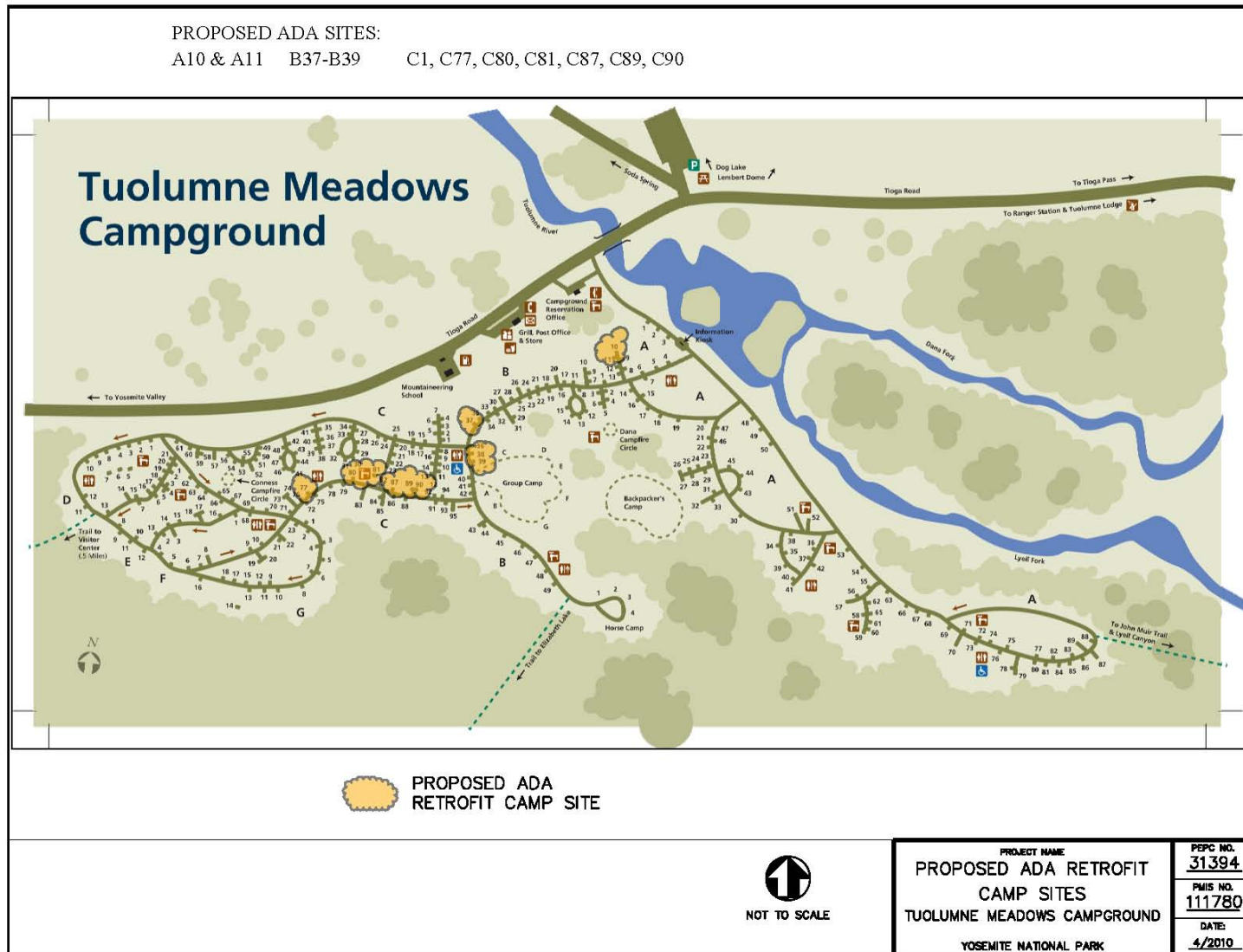
Recommended:

Compliance Specialists	Date
<u>//Renea Kennece//</u> Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennece	<u>8/1/11</u>
<u>//Madelyn Ruffner// acting</u> Compliance Program Manager – Elexis Mayer	<u>8/1/11</u>
<u>//David Engelstad// acting</u> Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong	<u>8/2/11</u>

Approved:

Superintendent	Date
<u>//Charles Cuvelier// acting</u> Don L. Neubacher	<u>8/3/11</u>

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PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: July 28, 2011

PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
Project Title: Tuolumne Meadows Campground Accessibility Improvements
PEPC Project Number: 31394
Project Type: Capital Improvement (CI)
Project Location:
County, State: Tuolumne, California
Project Leader: John Chisum

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			Excavation in parking spurs may be up to 6" to install a properly compacted base.
Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?		No		
Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?		No		
Has a National Register form been completed?		No		
Are there any structures on the park's List of Classified Structures in the		No		

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
area of potential effect?				
WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST				
Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor? (Name the river corridor)	Yes			Tuolumne Wild and Scenic 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?			NA	
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:** 2010-049 Tuolumne Meadows Campground Accessibility Improvements
- b) **Date Prepared:** 07/28/2011
- c) **PEPC Project Number:** 31394
- d) **Locations:** Tuolumne County, CA

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

- No
 Yes

Source or reference: Tuolumne Meadows 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): Tuolumne Meadow Archeological District
NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

Historical structures/resources affected?

5. **The proposed action will: (check as many as apply)**

- Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure
- Replace historic features/elements in kind
- Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure
- 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
or cultural landscape
- Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible
- 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): _____

6. Supporting Study Data:

(Attach if feasible; if action is in a plan, EA or EIS, give name and project or page number.)

B. REVIEWS BY CULTURAL RESOURCE SPECIALISTS

The park 106 coordinator 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: 08/01/2011
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: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

[X] Historical Architect
 Name: Shawn Lingo
 Date: 07/26/2011
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)]

[X] Historical Landscape Architect
 Name: Danny Schaible
 Date: 07/27/2011
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:

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

C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'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:

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 PA

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 SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

Acting Historic
Preservation
Officer

//Madelyn Ruffner// acting

Date: 8/1/11

Elexis Mayer

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.

Superintendent: //Charles Cuvelier// acting

Date: 8/3/11

Don L. Neubacher

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