



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: Jim Bacon

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2011-016 El Portal Remote Parking and Express Valley Shuttle Pilot Project (37316)

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 project implementation, the following mitigations must be adhered to:

- No mitigations identified.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

//Edward J. Walls//
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: 2011-016 El Portal Remote Parking and Express Valley Shuttle Pilot Project

PEPC Project Number: 37316

Project Description:

Project Description: This project will implement a pilot of "special event" shuttle bus service and associated remote parking between El Portal and Yosemite Valley. This service will be in addition to the existing YARTS service schedule providing more opportunities for day use visitors and park staff/partners to take alternative transportation during peak use periods in the summer to relieve traffic congestion and promote a positive visitor experience. This pilot project is consistent with the sustainability and visitor experience emphasis areas of the park's draft strategic vision.

Service Schedule and Route: "Special Event" Service is scheduled to take place on weekends and holidays between June 25 and September 6, 2011. Weekend service will include Saturdays and Sundays (2 days), while the 4th of July and Labor Day holidays will include service Friday thru Monday (4 days).

Two additional YARTS runs will be added to the existing schedule, providing service on a half-hour basis. The bus will stop at all existing stops in El Portal and proceed directly to Yosemite Valley where it will drop passengers at the Visitor Center (stop # X). From the Visitor Center passengers will be able to access the Valley Shuttle and other concessioner transit services to reach other destinations throughout the park.

Remote Parking Lot: Essential to this project is the use of a remote intercept parking lot to stage day use visitor vehicles. The existing employee parking lot located in front of the Resources Management and Science building will be used on weekends and holidays to stage visitor parking for the special event shuttle (see map and photos attached). The few employees that currently use this lot during weekends will be informed that they must park behind the Warehouse where there is excess supply during these times. Visitors taking the special event shuttle bus will use the existing YARTS bus stop located in front of the RMS building on Foresta Road.

Temporary signs will be located along HWY 140 and Foresta Road to direct visitors to the remote parking lot and bus stop (see signs attached). Both sandwich-board and electronic variable message signs will be used during weekend and holiday service days and removed during weekday non-service days. Two portable toilets and a hand washing station will be employed at the parking lot throughout the duration of the project and removed upon its completion. Seasonal Protection Division personnel will staff the lot to direct traffic and parking. A media release, including service schedule, route and parking location information will be provided to the public prior to implementing service.

Data Collection and Monitoring: Data collection efforts will document project success collecting information on the number of riders on the special event bus service, including the number of vehicles on the ground at the remote parking lot. This data collection effort will be conducted by Resources Management and Science staff. A NPS Research Permit has already been submitted and approved.

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.7 Establishment of mass transit systems not involving construction, experimental testing of mass transit systems, and changes in operation of existing systems (e.g., routes and schedule changes).

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 //Edward J. Walls// acting

Date 8/12/11

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 07/28/2011

ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 07/28/2011

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: 2011-016EI Portal Remote Parking and Express Valley Shuttle Pilot Project
PEPC Project Number: 37316
Project Type: Transportation Plan (TRAN)
Project Location:
County, State: Mariposa, California
Project Leader: Jim Bacon

Target compliance completion date: 06/18/2011

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	No				
4. Soundscapes		Negligible			Establishing a visitor use area will create noises not usually associated with this area at this particular time.
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				
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 addition of a new service will provide visitors with an option to travel to Yosemite Valley.
18. Archeological resources	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
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 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	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
Jim Bacon	Project Leader
Elaxis Mayer	Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager
Elaxis Mayer	Acting 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>8/10/11</u>
<u>//Elexis J. Mayer//</u> Compliance Program Manager – Elexis Mayer	<u>8/10/11</u>
<u>//David Engelstad// acting</u> Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong	<u>8/10/11</u>

Approved:

Superintendent	Date
<u>//Don L. Neubacher//</u> Don L. Neubacher	<u>8/12/11</u>

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 07/28/2011

PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: July 28, 2011

PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
Project Title: 2011-016 El Portal Remote Parking and Express Valley Shuttle Pilot Project
PEPC Project Number: 37316
Project Type: Transportation Plan (TRAN)
Project Location:
County, State: Mariposa, California **District, Section:** CA19,
Project Leader: Jim Bacon

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?		No		
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		No		

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
List of Classified Structures in the area of potential effect?				
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		