



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: 2011-045 Ahwahnee and Wawona Hotel Restaurant – Replace Grease Traps (39446)

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 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:

- Archeological and American Indian monitoring required during ground disturbing activities, analysis and reporting of results, and museum accessioning for resultant artifacts and data. In the event previously undocumented archeological features are uncovered and cannot be protected from disturbance, data recovery specific to those features would also be necessary.
- Continue to consult History, Architecture, and Landscapes staff in development of and review of design and contract documents.

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 39446.

//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: 2011-045 Ahwahnee and Wawona Hotel Restaurant - Replace Grease Traps

PEPC Project Number: 39446

Project Description: The purpose of this project is to replace one grease trap at the Wawona Hotel, and one grease trap at the Ahwahnee. These grease traps have been identified as deficient for various reasons in the National Park Service (NPS) Grease Management Plan and in the 2011 Draft Preliminary Design Report - Grease Interceptor Study/Design.

WAWONA: The existing trap at Wawona Hotel is undersized at 1,500 gallons and does not adequately prevent grease from entering sanitary sewer line. It was installed in 1984 and is located underground in the back dock area of the Wawona Hotel kitchen. The Draft Preliminary Design Report recommends replacing this with a 2,500 gallon interceptor in the same location. Ground disturbance will occur during construction in this area that was pre-disturbed when the existing trap was installed in 1984. The approximate extent of ground disturbance is 14 feet wide x 25 feet long x 10 feet deep. Park Archaeology and Anthropology have been consulted on this project and have provided guidance for appropriate mitigation measures. Archaeological and cultural resource monitoring will take place during ground disturbing activity.

AHWAHNEE: The existing trap at The Ahwahnee is a 4,000 gallon interceptor that is undersized. It will be replaced with a 6,000 gallon interceptor. Ground disturbance will occur during construction in this area that was pre-disturbed when the existing trap was installed, and most recently with the NPS lift station construction in the same area. The approximate maximum extent of ground disturbance is 10 feet wide x 35 feet long x 10 feet deep. A cleanout and connections to existing plumbing will also occur for this project. Replacement of this interceptor is subject to the National Historic Preservation Act. Park Archaeology and Anthropology have been consulted on this project and have provided guidance for appropriate mitigation. Archaeological and cultural resource monitoring will take place during ground disturbing activity.

Vehicular access to structures and small staging areas will occur on paved surfaces. All fill used on this project will be certified weed-free and ground disturbing equipment will be washed and inspected by NPS prior to park entry.

Project Locations:

Mariposa County, CA

Mitigations:

- Archeological and American Indian monitoring required during ground disturbing activities, analysis and reporting of results, and museum accessioning for resultant artifacts and data. In the event previously undocumented archeological features are uncovered and cannot be protected from disturbance, data recovery specific to those features would also be necessary.

- Continue to consult History, Architecture, and Landscapes staff in development of and review of design and contract documents.

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.15 Installation of underground utilities in previously disturbed areas having stable soils, or in an existing utility right-of-way.

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 1/5/12

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 12/15/2011

ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 12/14/2011

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: 2011-045 The Ahwahnee and Wawona Hotel Restaurant - Replace Grease Traps
PEPC Project Number: 39446
Project Type: Capital Improvement (CI)
Project Location:
County, State: Mariposa, California
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			
2. From geohazards	No				
3. Air quality		Negligible			Temporary air emissions are included in the installation of the grease traps.
4. Soundscapes		Negligible			Installing the grease traps will produce temporary noises.
5. Water quality or quantity	No				
6. Streamflow characteristics	No				
7. Marine or estuarine 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
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				
18. Archeological resources	No				Yosemite Valley Archeological District.
19. Prehistoric/historic structure	No				
20. Cultural landscapes	No				Yosemite Valley Historic District.
21. Ethnographic resources	No				Yosemite Valley American Indian Traditional Cultural Property.
22. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and	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
archival and manuscript collections)					
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		No		

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?				
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		No		

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?				

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
- 1.A. Did personnel conduct a site visit? No
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? No
4. Has consultation with all affected agencies or tribes been completed? No
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*) No

E. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM SIGNATORIES

<u>Interdisciplinary Team</u>	<u>Field of Expertise</u>
Don L. Neubacher	Superintendent
Michael Gauthier	Chief of Staff
Kathleen Morse	Chief of Planning
Randy Fong	Chief of Project Management
Terri Austin	Chief of Administration Management
Ed Walls	Chief of Facilities Management
Linda C. Mazzu	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
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>12/15/11</u>
<u>//Elexis J. Mayer//</u> Compliance Program Manager – Elexis Mayer	<u>12/23/11</u>
<u>//Randy Fong//</u> Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong	<u>1/4/12</u>

Approved:

Superintendent	Date
<u>//Don L. Neubacher//</u> Don L. Neubacher	<u>1/5/12</u>

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 12/15/2011

PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: December 15, 2011

PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
Project Title: 2011-045 Ahwahnee and Wawona Hotel Restaurant - Replace Grease Traps
PEPC Project Number: 39446
Project Type: Capital Improvement (CI)
Project Location:
County, State: Mariposa, California
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			
Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?	Yes			
Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?		No		
Has a National Register form been completed?			NA	
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?	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		

Figure 1 - Ahwahnee

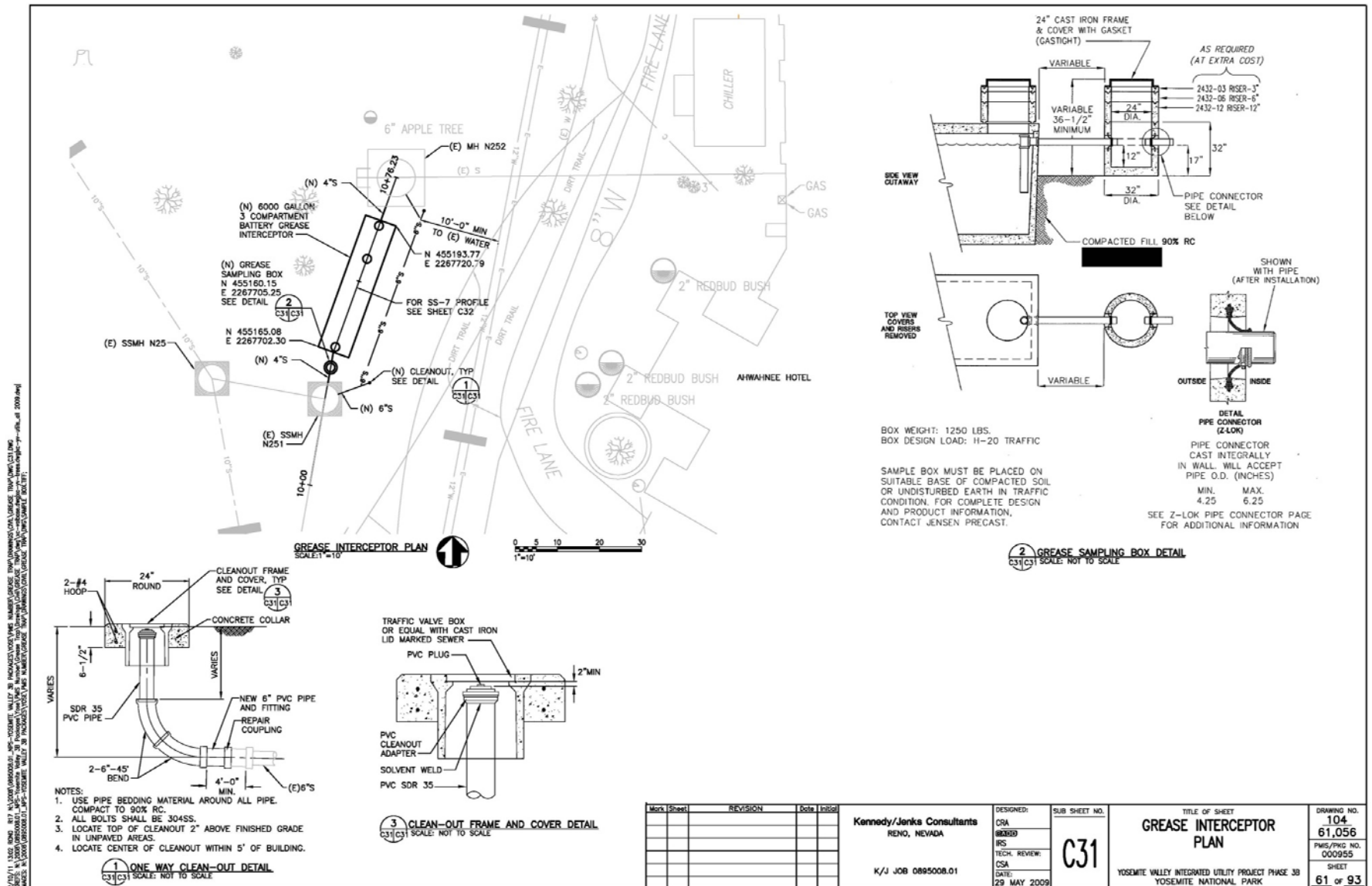


Figure 2 - Ahwahnee

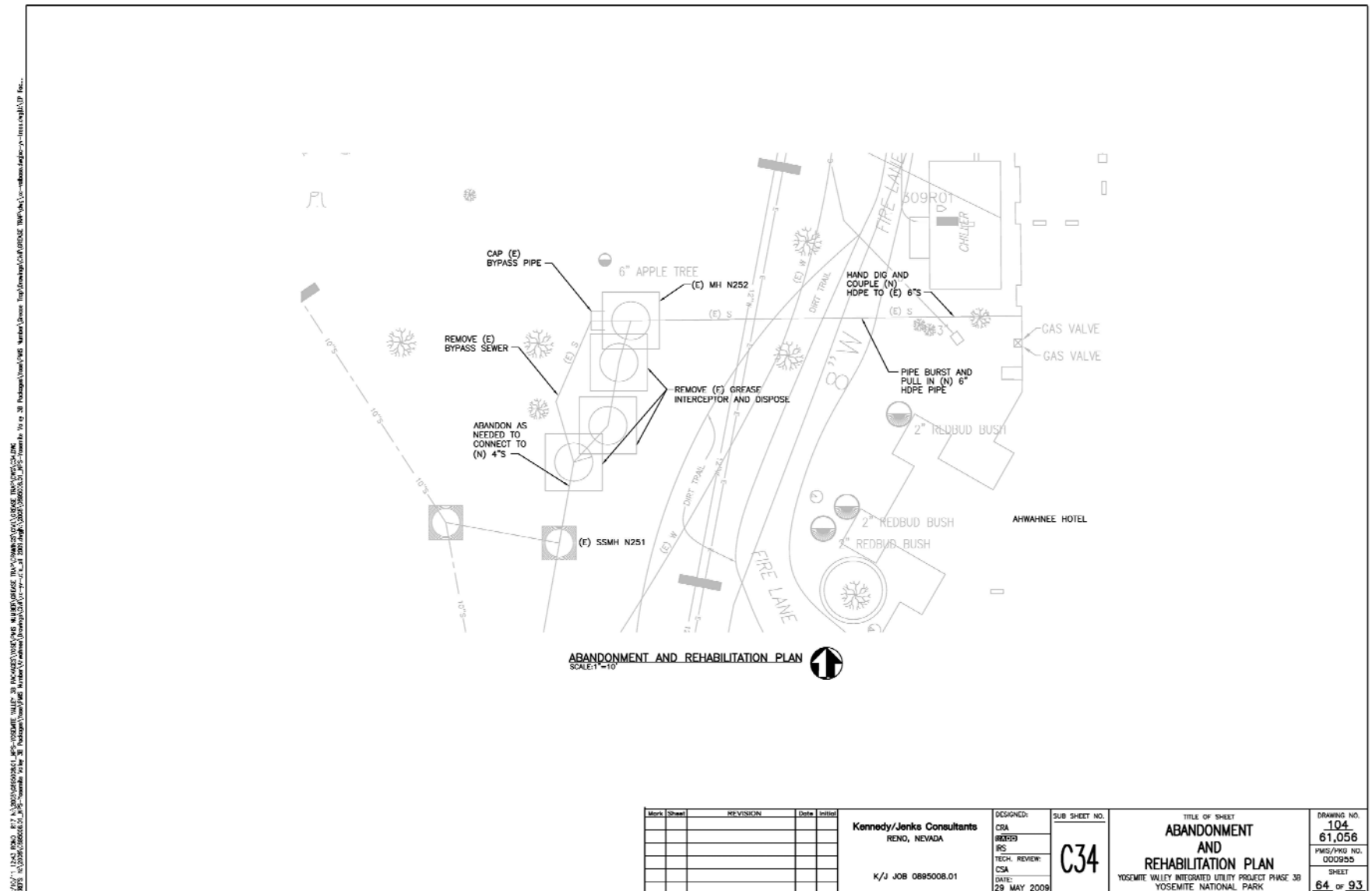
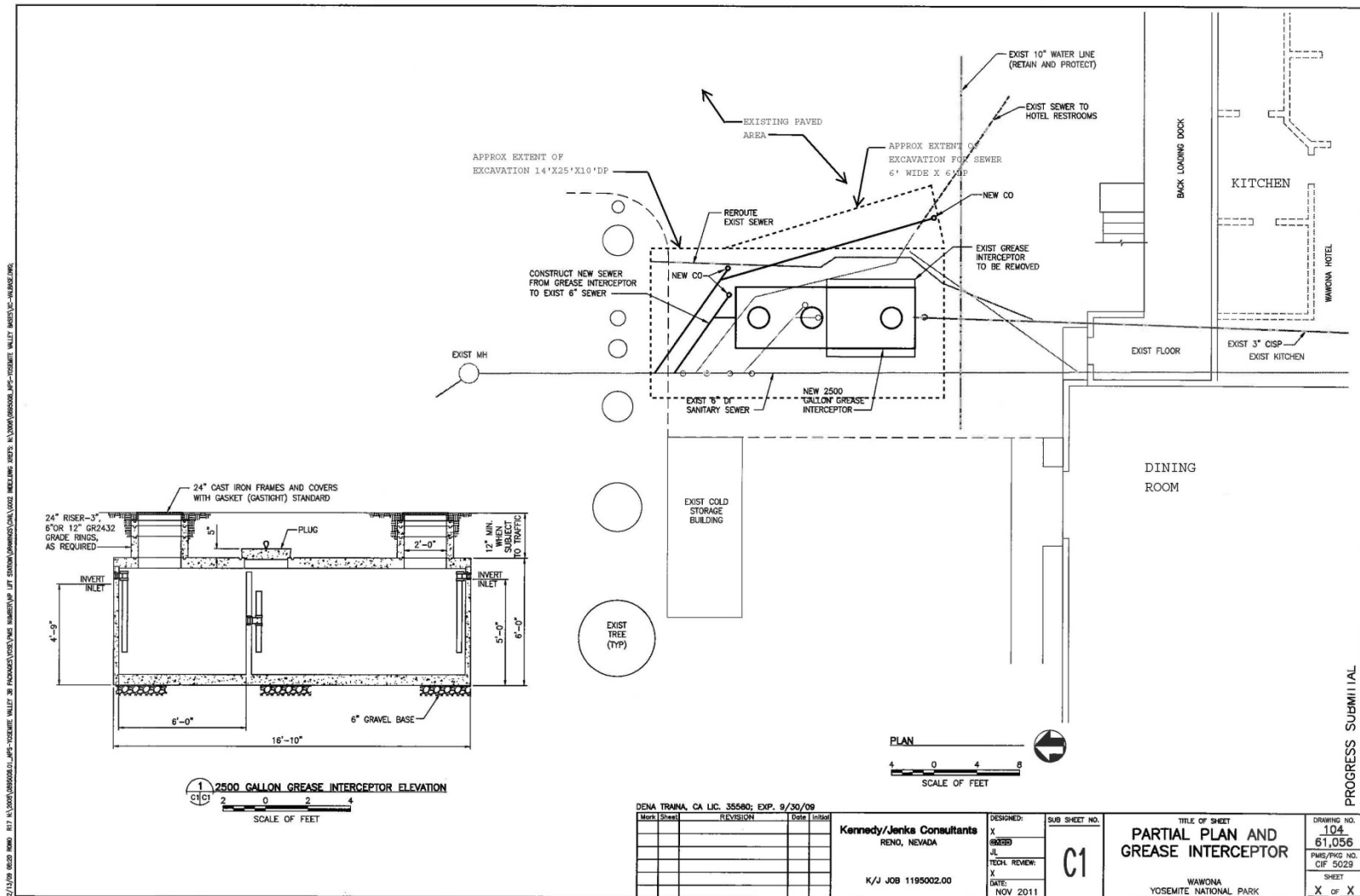


Figure 3 - Wawona





National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 12/15/2011

ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

2. Project Description:

Project Name: 2011-045 Ahwahnee and Wawona Hotel Restaurant - Replace Grease Traps

Prepared by: Renea Kennec

Date Prepared: 12/14/2011

Telephone: 209-379-1038

PEPC Project Number: 39446

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

☐ No

☒ Yes

Source or reference: Yosemite Valley Archeological District; Yosemite Valley Historic District; Yosemite Valley American Indian Traditional Cultural Property

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:

Archeological resources affected?

Name and numbers: Yosemite Valley Archeological District

Cultural landscapes affected?

Name and numbers: Yosemite Valley Historic District

NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

Ethnographic resources affected?

Name and numbers: Yosemite Valley American Indian Traditional Cultural Property

NR status: 8 - Within a Register-eligible district

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

- ☐ 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 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, 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] Historical Landscape Architect

Name: David Humphrey

Date: 12/20/2011

Comments: Issues pertaining to both sites are generally addressed in current draft (Wawona) or final (Ahwahnee) documents (CLR and HSR) for both properties. HAL Branch has been and will continue to be actively involved in development of and review of design and contract documents for these projects.

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: None.

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

[X] Archeologist

Name: Laura Kirn

Date: 12/16/2011

Comments: Both excavations will occur in sensitive archeological sites which are individually eligible for listing in the National Register and comprise contributing elements of archeological districts as well as

ORV resources of the Merced Wild and Scenic River. Work would occur in previously disturbed areas but involving significant new ground disturbance. Given the nature of the sites, our specific information about the deposits in the projects' vicinity, and the fact that previous disturbance has occurred, data recovery excavations are not recommended. However, both archeological and American Indian monitoring are required during construction to address any discovery of buried archeological features, and recover diagnostic artifacts to add information to the information available for site interpretation.

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: Archeological and American Indian monitoring required during ground disturbing activities, analysis and reporting of results, and museum accessioning for resultant artifacts and data. In the event previously undocumented archeological features are uncovered and cannot be protected from disturbance, data recovery specific to those features would also be necessary.

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

[X] Anthropologist

Name: Laura Kirn

Date: 12/16/2011

Comments: Work with the AICMC for monitoring at the Ahwahnee as they are the lead tribal entity for the IUMP project. Work with the Picayune Chukchansi for the Wawona work, and if they are not available, work with the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians for the Wawona excavations.

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: American Indian monitoring required during ground disturbance.

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

No Reviews From: Curator, Historical Architect, 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 ☐ 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 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.)

Archeological and American Indian monitoring required during ground disturbing activities, analysis and reporting of results, and museum accessioning for resultant artifacts and data. In the event previously undocumented archeological features are uncovered and cannot be protected from disturbance, data recovery specific to those features would also be necessary.

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

Acting Historic Preservation Officer //Elexis J. Mayer// Date 12/23/11
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: //Don L. Neubacher// Date: 1/5/12
Don L. Neubacher

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