



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: 2013-007 Ahwahnee Correct Balcony Deficiencies (47575)

The Executive Leadership Team has reviewed the proposed project/action and completed its environmental assessment documentation, and we have determined the following:

- There will not be any effect on threatened, endangered, or rare species and/or their critical habitat.
- There will be no adverse effect to historical properties.
- There 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:

- To minimize the visual intrusion impacts of the safety guardrail from the ground, the new handrail shall be designed to be of the minimal profile possible, in terms of both its vertical supports and horizontal rail. The horizontal support must consist of a single steel cable. The final design of the handrail shall be with input from Historic, Architect, and Landscape staff and with final approval by the Park Historical Architect.

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 47575.

//Don L. Neubacher//
Don L. Neubacher

Enclosure (with attachments)

cc: Statutory Compliance File

Letter of Compliance Completion - Ahwahnee Correct Balcony Deficiencies - PEPC ID: 47575

*The signed original of this document is on file at the
Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in
Yosemite National Park.*



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: 2013-007 Ahwahnee Correct Balcony Deficiencies

PEPC Project Number: 47575

Project Description:

This project will provide a permanent rehabilitation of the solarium ceiling and correct deck surface design deficiencies on four balconies at The Ahwahnee Hotel. The solarium ceiling was damaged in several locations during heavy rain events as a result of cracks in the lead deck surface on the second floor balcony deck. The solarium ceiling plaster is part of the historic fabric of the hotel. The 2nd floor balcony deck was replaced in 2005 with waterproofing and finish, therefore it does not have historic integrity. The remaining three decks were also inspected and included in the work scope to prevent future water infiltration and damage to fabric.

The construction scope of work for decks includes:

1. Remove the walking surfaces from each balcony and salvage for re-installation.
2. Remove lead sheet waterproofing on all decks and store on The Ahwahnee property (in back employee parking area east of cottages). Delaware North Companies (DNC) to sell lead and offset project costs with proceeds. All decks will be stripped of lead in its entirety with the exception of the lead located under the existing two sets of stairs on the 2nd floor balcony, which will remain as it will be too costly to remove and this area is a low risk for lead sheeting failure.
3. Install 3-ply modified bitumen plaza grade waterproofing directly over existing concrete deck substrate of the 2nd, 4th and 5th floor decks. For the 7th floor deck, a wood deck will be built up over the existing two tiered deck to provide a uniform slope. The 3-ply bitumen will then be installed on the wood substrate. Color of exposed bitumen shall be approved by NPS/DNC prior to purchasing material. The bitumen waterproofing shall have a manufacturer's warranty of 30 years.
4. Remove, salvage and re-install copper cap flashing pans and bronze cap plates at all locations. Install new copper where required.
5. On 2nd floor balcony, install two additional outlet scuppers to allow better drainage from deck.
6. At all decks, provide heat trace systems in new and existing downspouts to prevent freezing.
7. On 7th floor balcony, provide new safety guardrail. Design of handrail shall be with input from the NPS Historical Architect.
8. Following waterproofing installation, re-install walking surfaces in same pattern as existing.

Solarium work includes rehabilitating the lath and plaster finish on the solarium ceiling where damage has occurred. This will also include pull testing of the support wire and inspection of the structural bar supports to confirm structural integrity.

Project Locations:

Mariposa County, CA

Mitigations:

- To minimize the visual intrusion impacts of the safety guardrail from the ground, the new handrail shall be designed to be of the minimal profile possible, in terms of both its vertical supports and horizontal rail. The horizontal support must consist of a single steel cable. The final design of the handrail shall be with input from park History, Architecture, and Landscape staff and with final approval by the Park Historical Architect.

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.4 Routine maintenance and repairs to cultural resource sites, structures, utilities and grounds under an approved Historic Structures Preservation Guide or Cyclic Maintenance Guide; or if the action would not adversely affect the cultural resource.

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:** 9/24/13
Don L. Neubacher

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 09/05/2013

ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 09/05/2013

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: 2013-007 Ahwahnee Correct Balcony Deficiencies
PEPC Project Number: 47575
Project Type: Capital Improvement (CI)
Project Location:
County, State: Mariposa, California **District:** Yosemite Valley
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.	No				
2. From geohazards	No				
3. Air quality		Negligible			Temporary air emissions will occur

Environmental Screening Form (ESF) - Ahwahnee Correct Balcony Deficiencies - PEPC ID: 47575

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
					during the balcony redecking.
4. Soundscapes		Negligible			This project will produce temporary construction noises.
5. Water quality or quantity	No				
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				

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
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			The Solarium will be temporarily closed during the lath and plaster work. The balconies will be temporarily closed to visitors during the deck work.
18. Archeological resources	No				
19. Prehistoric/historic structure		Negligible			The Ahwahnee Hotel National Historic Landmark; listed in the National Register.
20. Cultural landscapes		Negligible			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,	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
etc.					
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;		No		

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

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?				
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		

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
Teri Austin	Chief of Administration Management
Ed Walls	Chief of Facilities Management
Linda C. Mazzu	Chief of Resources Management & Science
Kris Kirby	Chief of Business and Revenue Management
Tom Medema	Chief of Interpretation and Education
Kevin Killian	Chief of Visitor and Resource Protection

Ron Gaunt Madelyn Ruffner Renea Kennec	Project Leader Acting Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager NEPA Specialist
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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>9/18/13</u>
<u>//Madelyn Ruffner//</u> Acting Compliance Program Manager – Madelyn Ruffner	<u>9/19/13</u>
<u>//Randy Fong//</u> Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong	<u>9/23/13</u>

Approved:

Superintendent	Date
<u>//Don L. Neubacher//</u> Don L. Neubacher	<u>9/24/13</u>

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 09/05/2013

PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: September 5, 2013

PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
Project Title: 2013-007 Ahwahnee Correct Balcony Deficiencies
PEPC Project Number: 47575
Project Type: Capital Improvement (CI)
Project Location:
County, State: Mariposa, California **District:** Yosemite Valley
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?		No		
Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?		No		
Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?	Yes			The balconies originally consisted of a concrete substrate but leakage occurred. The bitumen waterproofing will be under blocks or wooden planks and not be visually intrusive.
Has a National Register form been completed?	Yes			The Ahwahnee Hotel National Historic Landmark and National Register listing.

ESF Addendum - Ahwahnee Correct Balcony Deficiencies - PEPC ID: 47575

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
Are there any structures on the park's List of Classified Structures in the area of potential effect?	Yes			
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		



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 09/05/2013

ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

2. **Project Description:**

Project Name: 2013-007 Ahwahnee Correct Balcony Deficiencies

Prepared by: Renea Kennec

Date Prepared: 09/05/2013

Telephone: 209-379-1038

PEPC Project Number: 47575

Area of potential effects (as defined in 36 CFR 800.16[d])

Ahwahnee Hotel National Historic Landmark; Yosemite Valley Historic District

3. **Has the area of potential effects been surveyed to identify historic properties?**

 No

 X Yes

Source or reference:

4. **Potentially Affected Resources:**

Historical Structures/Resources Affected:

Name and numbers: Ahwahnee Hotel National Historical Landmark

NR status: 7 - A designated National Historic Landmark

NR status: 1 – Listed in Register and documented

Cultural Landscapes Affected:

Name and numbers: Yosemite Valley Historic District

NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

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

☐ Yes Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure
☐ No Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)
☐ No 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
☐ No Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources
☐ No 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:

☒ Archeologist
 Name: Sonny Montague
 Date: 07/26/2013

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance ☒
 Assessment of Effect: ☒ No Potential to Cause Effect ☐ No Historic Properties
 Affected ☐ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect ☐ Streamlined Review
 Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

☒ Anthropologist
 Name: Jennifer Hardin
 Date: 07/30/2013

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance ☐
 Assessment of Effect: ☒ No Potential to Cause Effect ☐ No Historic Properties
 Affected ☐ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect ☐ Streamlined Review
 Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

☒ Historical Landscape Architect
 Name: Kevin McCardle
 Date: 09/05/2013

Assessment of Effect Form - Ahwahnee Correct Balcony Deficiencies - PEPC ID: 47575

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance ☐

Assessment of Effect: ☒ No Potential to Cause Effect ☐ No Historic Properties Affected ☐ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect ☐ Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

☒ Historical Architect

Name: Gabrielle Harlan

Date: 09/05/2013

Comments: See below for stipulations.

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance ☐

Assessment of Effect: ☐ No Potential to Cause Effect ☐ No Historic Properties Affected ☒ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect ☐ Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: It is our understanding that the new safety guardrail on the 7th floor balcony is necessary due to modern code requirements. However, it also represents the addition of a new element to the National Historic Landmark. Therefore, to minimize the impact of this visual intrusion from the ground, the new handrail shall be designed to be of the minimal profile possible, in terms of both its vertical supports and horizontal rail. We understand that the horizontal is currently proposed to consist of a single steel cable. The final design of the handrail shall be with input from HAL and with final approval by the Park Historical Architect.

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 Potential to Cause Effects
☐ 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

☐ 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:

Kimball
Koch

//Kimball Koch//

Date: 9/20/13

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:** 9/24/13
Don L. Neubacher

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