



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:** Lisa Hendy, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

**From:** Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

**Subject:** NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2013-047 Lower Pines Preventative Search and Rescue  
Campsite Installation (49658)

The Executive Leadership Team has reviewed the proposed project 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 not be any effect on historic, cultural, or archeological resources.
- 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:

- No mitigations identified.

### Recommendations for Conditions or Stipulations:

None

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 49658.

//Don 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.*



National Park Service  
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Yosemite National Park  
Date: 03/26/2014

## Categorical Exclusion Form

**Project:** 2013-047 Lower Pines Preventative Search and Rescue Campsite Installation

**PEPC Project Number:** 49658

**Project Description:**

The Protection Division has a need for an additional campsite site in Yosemite Valley to host preventative search and rescue operations. This project will add one new administrative site in Lower Pines Campground for preventative search and rescue volunteer coordinator use. The new site will be delineated by concrete bumper logs and will use the native ground as the parking surface. The site will be located in a clear area approximately twenty feet southwest of site #16. The site is near existing utilities so disturbances for new water, sewer, and electric service connection will be minimal. The water service will connect at site #16 with a trench approximately 30 feet long. The sewer service will connect to the sewer main approximately 10 feet away. The new electric service will connect to the panel in the nearby comfort station and will require a trench approximately 60 feet long. It is anticipated that a new electric panel will be required and will be installed in the same location within the utility chase of the comfort station.

**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 Neubacher//

Don L. Neubacher

**Date:** 4/3/14

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## ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

### DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 03/24/2014

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:** 2013-047 Lower Pines Preventative Search and Rescue Campsite Installation  
**PEPC Project Number:** 49658  
**Project Type:** Campsite development (OTHER)  
**Project Location:**  
**County, State:** Mariposa, California  
**Project Leader:** Lisa Hendy

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			Utility trenching includes: electrical - 30 feet long, 18 inches wide, and 36 inches deep; water line - 30 feet long, 24 inches wide, and 36 inches deep; sewer line - 10 feet long, 36 inches wide and depth to match the existing sewer grade.
2. From geohazards	No				
3. Air quality	No				
4. Soundscapes		Negligible			Temporary equipment sounds will occur during campsite installation.
5. Water quality or quantity	No				
6. Streamflow	No				

<b>Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources</b>	<b>No Effect</b>	<b>Negligible Effects</b>	<b>Minor Effects</b>	<b>Exceeds Minor Effects</b>	<b>Data Needed to Determine/Notes</b>
characteristics					
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,	No				

<b>Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources</b>	<b>No Effect</b>	<b>Negligible Effects</b>	<b>Minor Effects</b>	<b>Exceeds Minor Effects</b>	<b>Data Needed to Determine/Notes</b>
etc.					
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources	No				
18. Archeological resources	No				
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,	No				

<b>Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources</b>	<b>No Effect</b>	<b>Negligible Effects</b>	<b>Minor Effects</b>	<b>Exceeds Minor Effects</b>	<b>Data Needed to Determine/Notes</b>
conservation potential, sustainability					
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**

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

<b>Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Comment or Data Needed to Determine</b>
resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?				
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		

<b>Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Comment or Data Needed to Determine</b>
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? Yes, Facilities Management and Protection staff.
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? Yes, February Tribal Spreadsheet.
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 SIGNATORIESF. SUPERVISORY SIGNATORY**

<b><u>Interdisciplinary Team</u></b>	<b><u>Field of Expertise</u></b>
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
Lou Summerfield	Acting 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
Kimball Koch	Project Leader
Madelyn Ruffner	Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager
Renea Kennec	NEPA Specialist



**Recommended:**

Compliance Specialists	Date
<u>//Renea Kennec//</u> Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec	<u>3/31/14</u>
<u>//Madelyn Ruffner//</u> Compliance Program Manager – Madelyn Ruffner	<u>4/1/14</u>
<u>//Randy Fong//</u> Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong	<u>4/2/14</u>

**Approved:**

Superintendent	Date
<u>//Don Neubacher//</u> Don L. Neubacher	<u>4/3/14</u>

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Yosemite National Park  
Date: 03/26/2014

## PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: March 26, 2014

### PROJECT INFORMATION

**Park Name:** Yosemite National Park  
**Project Title:** 2013-047 Lower Pines Preventative Search and Rescue Campsite Installation  
**PEPC Project Number:** 49658  
**Project Type:** Campsite development (OTHER)  
**Project Location:**  
**County, State:** Mariposa, California  
**Project Leader:** Lisa Hendy

### PARK ESF ADDENDUM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
<b>SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST</b>				
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		
<b>NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST</b>				
Entail ground disturbance?	Yes			Utility trenching includes: electrical - 30 feet long, 18 inches wide, and 36 inches deep; water line - 30 feet long, 24 inches wide, and 36 inches deep; sewer line - 10 feet long, 36 inches wide and depth to match the existing sewer grade.
Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?		No		
Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?		No		

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
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		
<b>WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST</b>				
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			
<b>WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST</b>				
Within designated Wilderness?		No		
Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?		No		



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Yosemite National Park  
Date: 03/26/2014

# ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

## A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

### 2. Project Description:

**Project Name:** 2013-047 Lower Pines Preventative Search and Rescue Campsite Installation

**Prepared by:** Renea Kennec

**Date Prepared:** 03/24/2014

**Telephone:** 209-379-1038

**PEPC Project Number:** 49658

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

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

☐ No

☒ Yes

**Source or reference:**

### 4. Potentially Affected Resources:

#### 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

☐ No 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

☐ Yes 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:**

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[ X ] Archeologist  
Name: Sonny Montague  
Date: 03/17/2014

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* [ ]  
Assessment of Effect: \_\_\_ No Potential to Cause Effect X No Historic Properties  
Affected \_\_\_ No Adverse Effect \_\_\_ Adverse Effect \_\_\_ Streamlined Review  
Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:  
Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

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[ X ] Anthropologist  
Name: Jennifer Hardin  
Date: 04/01/2014  
Comments: Tribal review began March 4, 2014. No tribal comments received as of April 1, 2014.

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* [ ]  
Assessment of Effect: \_\_\_ No Potential to Cause Effect X No Historic Properties  
Affected \_\_\_ No Adverse Effect \_\_\_ Adverse Effect \_\_\_ Streamlined Review  
Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:  
Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

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[ X ] Historical Landscape Architect  
Name: Kevin McCardle  
Date: 03/24/2014

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* [ ]  
Assessment of Effect: \_\_\_ No Potential to Cause Effect \_\_\_ No Historic Properties  
Affected X No Adverse Effect \_\_\_ Adverse Effect \_\_\_ Streamlined Review  
Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:  
**Doc Method:** Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

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**No Reviews From:** Curator, Historical Architect, Historian, 106 Advisor, Other Advisor

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## **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:** 4/1/14

**E. SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL**

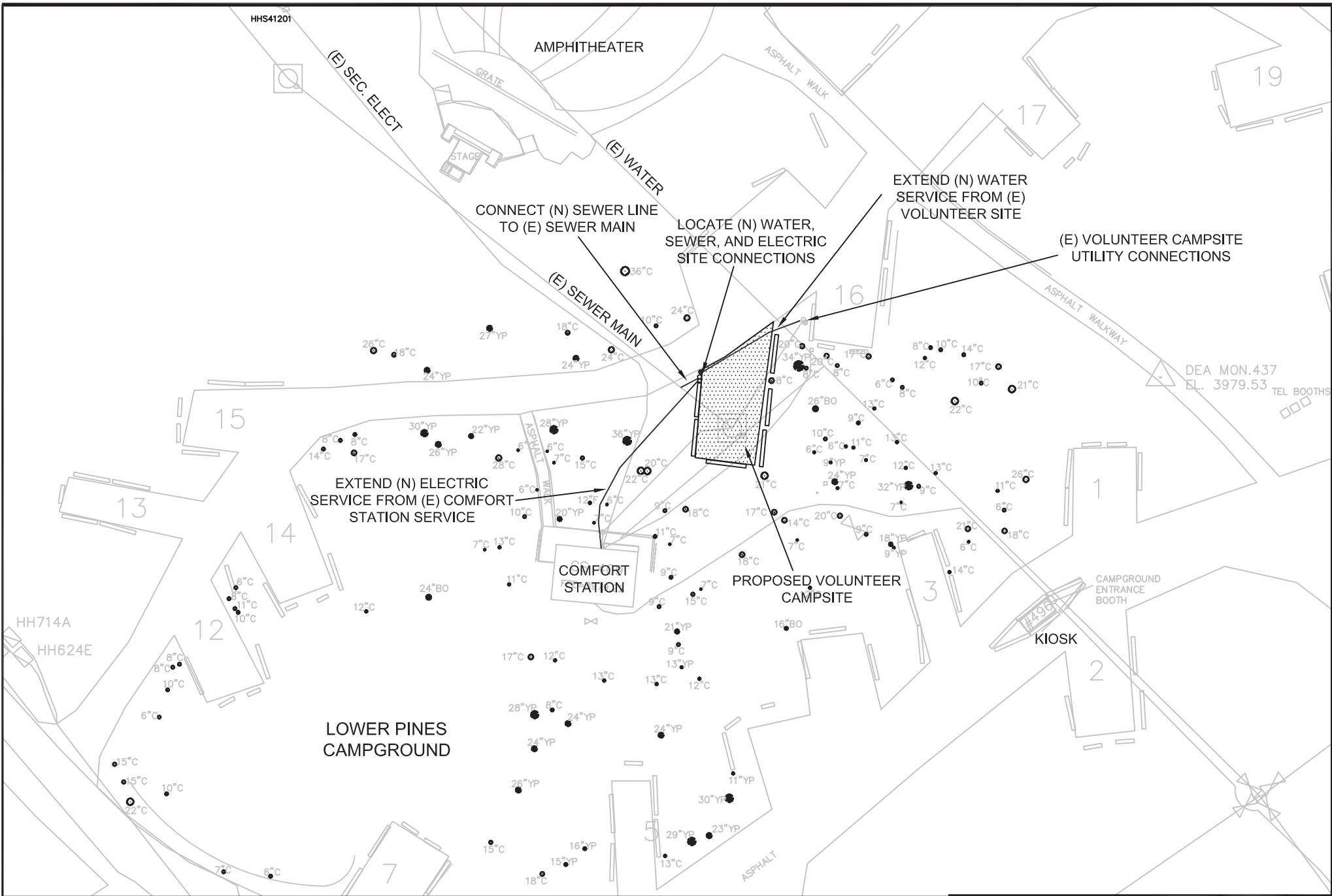
The proposed work conforms to the NPS *Management Policies* and *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*, and I have reviewed and approve the recommendations, stipulations, or conditions noted in Section C of this form.

**Superintendent:** //Don Neubacher//

Don L. Neubacher

**Date:** 4/3/14

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PROJECT NAME  
**PROPOSED VOLUNTEER CAMPSITE**  
**LOWER PINES CAMPGROUND**  
**YOSEMITE VALLEY**  
**YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK**

PEPC NO.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
PMIS NO.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE:  
**12/2013**