



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:** Mike Gauthier, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park  
**From:** Superintendent, Yosemite National Park  
**Subject:** NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2015-026 Temporary T-Mobile Cell on Wheels (COW) at Sentinel Site (60347)

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 be no adverse effect on historical, 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 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:

- Ensure that the agreement with T-Mobile has language that T-Mobile is responsible for returning the site to its original state after the COW is removed.
- If there is any hot work, e.g. welding, grinding, cutting, or similar processes that could produce flame, sparks, or similar hot material, this would require a hot work permit from the Fire Marshal.

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 60347.

//Randy Fong// for  
Don L. Neubacher

Enclosure (with attachments)

cc: Statutory Compliance File

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Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in  
Yosemite National Park.*



## Categorical Exclusion Form

**Project:** 2015-026 Temporary T-Mobile Cell on Wheels (COW) at Sentinel Site

**PEPC Project Number:** 60347

**Description of Action (Project Description):**

T-Mobile proposes to place a temporary cell on wheels (COW) trailer at the existing Sentinel cell and radio tower site. This would begin initiating coverage for T-Mobile customers in Yosemite National Park.

This proposal includes installing a 70 foot temporary antenna/tower, tower guy-wires, posts, and cables. Batteries and equipment will be placed in the existing shelter.

The COW will remain in place until plans are approved and construction is completed for the next phase of the modified tower at the Sentinel site. This temporary infrastructure will then be removed by T-Mobile.

**Project Location:**

Mariposa County, CA

**Mitigation(s):**

- No mitigations identified.

**CE Citation:** 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:** //Randy Fong//for

Don L. Neubacher

**Date:** 11-16-15

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## ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

Updated Sept 2015 per NPS NEPA Handbook

### A. PROJECT INFORMATION

**Project Title:** 2015-026 Temporary T-Mobile Cell on Wheels (COW) at Sentinel Site  
**PEPC Project Number:** 60347  
**Project Type:** Engineering/Technical Services  
**Project Location:**  
**County, State:** Mariposa, California  
**Project Leader:** Mike Gauthier

### B. RESOURCE IMPACTS TO CONSIDER:

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
<b>Air</b> Air Quality	Potential	Temporary dust and emissions from excavation equipment.
<b>Biological</b> Nonnative or Exotic Species	None	
<b>Biological</b> Species of Special Concern or Their Habitat	None	
<b>Biological</b> Vegetation	None	
<b>Biological</b> Wildlife and/or Wildlife Habitat including terrestrial and aquatic species	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Archeological Resources	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Cultural Landscapes	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Ethnographic Resources	None	

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Potential for Impact</b>	<b>Potential Issues &amp; Impacts</b>
<b>Cultural</b> Museum Collections	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Prehistoric/historic structures	None	
<b>Geological</b> Geologic Features	Potential	Ground disturbance for installation of 3 ice bridge posts (2-ft diameter hole by 30-inches deep for concrete footing); buried ground wire (approximately 30 linear feet in 12-inch by 24-inch trench); and 6 ground rods (driven to 10 foot depth).
<b>Geological</b> Geologic Processes	None	
<b>Lightscapes</b> Lightscapes	None	
<b>Other</b> Human Health and Safety	Potential	Beneficial impact to visitors and employees by providing service to T-Mobile customers.
<b>Other</b> Operational	Potential	In the short term, need approval from park's Communication Branch and High Voltage Branch for cellular equipment installation and access into the communication shelter and electrical connection for cellular power.
<b>Socioeconomic</b> Land Use	None	
<b>Socioeconomic</b> Minority and low-income populations, size, migration patterns, etc.	None	
<b>Socioeconomic</b> Socioeconomic	None	
<b>Soundscapes</b> Soundscapes	Potential	Temporary noise from equipment used for excavation.
<b>Viewsheds</b>	Potential	The permanent tower installation (to follow the temporary COW) was analyzed in the Communication Data Network Environmental Assessment.
<b>Visitor Use and Experience</b> Recreation Resources	None	

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
<b>Visitor Use and Experience</b> Visitor Use and Experience	Potential	Beneficial impact to visitors by providing service to T-Mobile customers.
<b>Water</b> Floodplains	None	
<b>Water</b> Marine or Estuarine Resources	None	
<b>Water</b> Water Quality or Quantity	None	
<b>Water</b> Wetlands	None	
<b>Water</b> Wild and Scenic River	None	
<b>Wilderness</b> Wilderness	None	

**Recommended:**

Compliance Specialists	Date
<u>//Corrie Stetzel//</u> Compliance Specialist – Corrie Stetzel	<u>11/6/2015</u>
<u>//Madelyn Ruffner//</u> Compliance Program Manager – Madelyn Ruffner	<u>11/10/15</u>
<u>//Randy Fong//</u> Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong	<u>11/10/15</u>

**Approved:**

Superintendent	Date
<u>//Randy Fong// for</u> Don L. Neubacher	<u>11/16/15</u>

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## ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

### A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

2. **Project Description:**

**Project Name:** 2015-026 Temporary T-Mobile Cell on Wheels (COW) at Sentinel Site  
**Prepared by:** Sara Dolan **Date Prepared:** 11/02/2015 **Telephone:** (209) 379-1308  
**PEPC Project Number:** 60347  
**Area of potential effects (as defined in 36 CFR 800.16[d])**  
Sentinel Dome Radio Tower Site

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

☒ No  
☐ Yes

4. **Potentially Affected Resource(s):**

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:

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### **[ X ] Anthropologist**

**Name:** Scott Carpenter

**Date:** 10/26/2015

**Comments:** No known historic properties. No recorded archeological sites or known ethnographically sensitive areas. Project limited to area of previously constructed facility.

*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

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### **[ X ] Archeologist**

**Name:** Scott Carpenter

**Date:** 10/26/2015

**Comments:** No known historic properties. No recorded archeological sites or known ethnographically sensitive areas. Project limited to area of previously constructed facility.

*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

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### **[ X ] Historical Architect**

**Name:** Scott Carpenter

**Date:** 10/26/2015

**Comments:** No historic structures/building within vicinity of project

*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

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### **[ X ] Historical Landscape Architect**

**Name:** Kimball Koch

**Date:** 10/23/2015

*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

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**No Reviews From:** Curator, 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.

Explanation: **1999 Parkwide PA as amended in 2014**

☐ 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

SHPO/THPO Notes:

### 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.

**No stipulations or conditions identified.**

#### 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:

##### Historic Preservation Officer:

Kimball Koch    //Kimball Koch//                      **Date:** 11/2/2015

#### 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:** //Randy Fong// for                      **Date:** 11/16/15  
Don L. Neubacher

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