



# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yosemite National Park  
P. O. Box 577  
Yosemite, California 95389

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
L7615(YOSE-PM)

### Memorandum

**To:** Korwin Kirk, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

**From:** Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

**Subject:** NEPA and NHPA Clearance: Lake Eleanor- Water Pump Replacement (61481)

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 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:

- Ensure that tribal monitoring occurs during all ground disturbing activities.

**Recommendations for Conditions or Stipulations:** None

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 61481.

//Don L. Neubacher//  
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:** 2015-033 Lake Eleanor Water Pump Replacement

**PEPC Project Number:** 61481

**Description of Action:**

The Lake Eleanor Ranger Station currently uses a gasoline powered water pump to pump water to the storage tank. The existing pump is located at the edge of the lake where there is a potential for a hazardous material spill when refueling. This proposal would install a solar powered submersible pump in the lake which will eliminate the need for refueling.

Power for the new pump will be supplied by the existing photovoltaic system that delivers electricity to the ranger station complex. An electrical conduit and water line (pipe) will be laid in a 180 foot trench from the generator shed to the edge of the lake at the normal high water level point. A 100 foot hose and electrical cable will be connected to the pipe/conduit at the high water point and extend the pump out into the lake. The submersible pump will be moved further out as the lake level drops. An additional 100 foot hose and cable could be attached if necessary to extend the pump further into the lake. The water line will continue from the generator shed uphill approximately 200 feet to the southeast and tie into an existing water line to fill the water storage tank. An alternative was explored that would install solar panels on the dam. This was dismissed because of the need to drill holes and set anchors in the concrete structure of the dam. It was determined that the drilling holes in the 98 year old structure would be detrimental.

**Project Locations:**

Tuolumne County, CA

**Mitigation:**

- Ensure that tribal monitoring occurs during all ground disturbing activities.

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

**Decision:** I find that the action fits within the categorical exclusion above. Therefore, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No extraordinary circumstances apply.

**Superintendent:** //Don L. Neubacher//

Don L. Neubacher

**Date:** 3/30/16

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**Extraordinary Circumstances:**

If implemented, would the proposal...	Yes/No	Notes
<b>A.</b> Have significant impacts on public health or safety?	No	
<b>B.</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	
<b>C.</b> Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?	No	
<b>D.</b> Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	No	
<b>E.</b> Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	No	
<b>F.</b> Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	No	
<b>G.</b> 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	
<b>H.</b> 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	
<b>I.</b> Violate a federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	No	
<b>J.</b> Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898)?	No	
<b>K.</b> Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 130007)?	No	
<b>L.</b> 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	



## ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

Updated Sept 2015 per NPS NEPA Handbook

### A. PROJECT INFORMATION

**Project Title:** 2015-033 Lake Eleanor- Water Pump Replacement  
**PEPC Project Number:** 61481  
**Project Type:** Equipment Replacement (EQR)  
**Project Location:**  
**County, State:** Tuolumne, California **District:** Canyon Ranch  
**Project Leader:** Korwin Kirk

### B. RESOURCE IMPACTS TO CONSIDER:

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
<b>Air</b> Air Quality	None	
<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	Potential	Issue: Mitigation: tribal monitoring during all ground disturbing activities.
<b>Cultural</b> Museum Collections	None	

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Potential for Impact</b>	<b>Potential Issues &amp; Impacts</b>
<b>Cultural</b> Prehistoric/historic structures	None	
<b>Geological</b> Geologic Features	None	
<b>Geological</b> Geologic Processes	None	
<b>Lightscares</b> Lightscares	None	
<b>Other</b> Human Health and Safety	None	
<b>Other</b> Operational	None	
<b>Other</b> Other	None	
<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	Issue: There will be some temporary dust emissions during trenching.
<b>Viewsheds</b> Viewsheds	None	
<b>Visitor Use and Experience</b> Recreation Resources	None	
<b>Visitor Use and Experience</b> Visitor Use and Experience	None	
<b>Water</b> Floodplains	None	
<b>Water</b> Marine or Estuarine Resources	None	
<b>Water</b>	None	

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Water Quality or Quantity		
<b>Water</b> Wetlands	None	
<b>Water</b> Wild and Scenic River	None	
<b>Wilderness</b> Wilderness	None	
<b>Wilderness</b> Wilderness	None	

**Recommended:**

Compliance Specialists	Date
<u>//Renea Kennec//</u> Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec	<u>3/28/16</u>
<u>//Lisa Acree// for Madelyn Ruffner</u> Compliance Program Manager – Madelyn Ruffner	<u>3/28/16</u>
<u>//Randy Fong//</u> Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong	<u>3/29/16</u>

**Approved:**

Superintendent	Date
<u>//Don L. Neubacher//</u> Don L. Neubacher	<u>3/30/16</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:** 2015-033 Lake Eleanor Water Pump Replacement

**Prepared by:** Sara Dolan **Date Prepared:** 02/23/2016 **Telephone:** (209) 379-1308

**PEPC Project Number:** 61481

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

Lake Eleanor Ranger Station

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

☐ No

☒ Yes

**Source or reference:** Dolan (2016)

### 4. Potentially Affected Resources:

**Historical Structures/Resources Notes:** The intact historic buildings and foundations related to the maintenance of Lake Eleanor Dam. The buildings were constructed sometime in between 1918 and 1945.

**Ethnographic Resources Affected Notes:** A project specific letter was sent to the tribes on Feb. 5, 2016.

### 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 ] 106 Advisor

Name: Kimball Koch

Date: 03/28/2016

Comments: Per the archeologist's review, the placement of the utility line will avoid historic/cultural resources. Per the anthropologist's review, there are no identified ethnographic resources within the project area. No identified historic properties (built environment) have been identified.

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [ ]*

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

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

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[ X ] Anthropologist

Name: Eirik Thorsgard

Date: 02/22/2016

Comments: There are no identified Ethnographic Resources within the project area. Tribal Consultation letters were sent on 02/05/2016. One Tribe requested to monitor the project during ground disturbing portions of the project.

*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: Tribal Monitor during the ground disturbing portion of the project.

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[ X ] Archeologist

Name: Sara Dolan

Date: 02/23/2016

Comments: The area was recently visited (2-22-16) to assess the historic buildings and foundations. The placement of the utility line will avoid historic/cultural resources.

*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 ] Historian

Name: Scott Carpenter

Date: 02/23/2016

Comments: No issues with historic buildings, structures, or properties.

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* ☐ [ ]

Assessment of Effect: ☒  X  No Potential to Cause Effect ☐ No Historic Properties Affected ☐ No

Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect ☐ Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

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☒ [ X ] Historical Architect

Name: Scott Carpenter

Date: 02/23/2016

Comments: No issues with historic buildings, structures, or properties.

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* ☐ [ ]

Assessment of Effect: ☒  X  No Potential to Cause Effect ☐ No Historic Properties Affected ☐ No

Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect ☐ Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: Trenching alignment will avoid all historic structures, buildings, and properties

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☒ [ X ] Historical Landscape Architect

Name: Kimball Koch

Date: 03/28/2016

Comments: No historic landscapes (built environment) identified in vicinity.

*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:

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**No Reviews From:** Curator, Other Advisor

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## **C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **1. Assessment of Effect:**

☐ No Potential to Cause Effects

☒  X  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.

Assessment of Effect Form - Lake Eleanor- Water Pump Replacement - PEPC ID: 61481

☐ 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 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

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.**

**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.)**

- **Assessment of Effect - Ensure that tribal monitoring occurs during all ground disturbing activities.**

**D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:**

Kimball  
Koch

//Kimball Koch//

**Date:** 3/28/16

**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:** 3/30/16

Don L. Neubacher

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