

## Categorical Exclusion

(Version: FEB06)

Compliance Tracking Number: 2006-054

PEPC Project Number: 15517

### A. PROJECT INFORMATION

**Title:** Boy's Town Drainage Improvement

**Location:** Yosemite Valley, Mariposa County, California

**Project Manager:** Michael Pieper, Facilities Management, Yosemite National Park

### B. COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION

This project, after careful consideration, is an action that has been determined to result in no measurable environmental effects. It is therefore categorically excluded from further National Environmental Policy Act analysis under Categorical Exclusion: DO12 3.4 C (9) - *Repair, resurfacing, striping, installation of traffic control devices, and repair/replacement of guardrails, culverts, signs, and other minor existing features on existing roads when no potential for environmental impact exists.*, C (16) - *Installation of underground utilities in areas showing clear evidence of recent human disturbance or areas within an existing road prism or within an existing overhead utility right-of-way, and E (4) - Removal of non-historic materials and structures in order to restore natural conditions when the removal has no potential for environmental impacts, including impacts to cultural landscapes or archeological resources.*

Necessary compliance coordination has been completed regarding the National Historic Preservation Act, the Wilderness Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and the Endangered Species Act, as applicable. Environmental impacts will be minor or less when the project is implemented with the conditions stipulated under **Project Mitigations and Conditions** in **Section I** at the end of the attached *Environmental Screening Form*.

Additional supporting information for this determination and the stipulated conditions can be found in the following attachments (when checked):

- Cultural Resource Effects Assessment Form (XXX)*
- Wilderness Minimum Requirement Analysis*
- Wild and Scenic River Section 7 Determination*
- Park Management Terms and Conditions*
- Other:

### C. DECISION

*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 or conditions in DO12 3.5 or 3.6 apply and the action is fully described in DO12, Section 3.4.*

//MJ Tollefson//  
Michael J. Tollefson

4/10/06  
Date

Original: Statutory Compliance File  
cc: Project Proponent

Attachments (2)

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



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
L7617 (YOSE-PM)

## Memorandum

To: Michael Pieper, Project Manager, Facilities Management, Yosemite National Park

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: Notice to Proceed, 2006-054 Boy's Town Drainage Improvement

Your proposed project is an action that has been determined, after careful consideration, to result in no measurable environmental effects. It is therefore categorically excluded from further National Environmental Policy Act analysis under Categorical Exclusion: DO12 3.4 C (9) - *Repair, resurfacing, striping, installation of traffic control devices, and repair/replacement of guardrails, culverts, signs, and other minor existing features on existing roads when no potential for environmental impact exists*, C (16) - *Installation of underground utilities in areas showing clear evidence of recent human disturbance or areas within an existing road prism or within an existing overhead utility right-of-way*, and E (4) - *Removal of non-historic materials and structures in order to restore natural conditions when the removal has no potential for environmental impacts, including impacts to cultural landscapes or archeological resources*.

Necessary compliance coordination has been completed regarding the National Historic Preservation Act, the Wilderness Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and the Endangered Species Act, as applicable. This project clearance is valid providing that you adhere to the conditions stipulated in the enclosed *Categorical Exclusion Form* and associated documents when implementing this project.

//MJ Tollefson  
Michael J. Tollefson

4/10/06  
Date

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.*

## **Environmental Screening Form**

(Version: FEB06)

Compliance Tracking Number: 2006-054

PEPC Project Number: 15517

### **A. PROJECT INFORMATION**

**Title:** Boy's Town Drainage Improvement

**Location:** Yosemite Valley, Mariposa County, California

**Project Manager:** Michael Pieper, Facilities Management, Yosemite National Park

### **B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND**

#### PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Boy's Town area is characterized by low relief and poor natural drainage during spring snow melt. Existing wetland delineations do not indicate that the area is a jurisdictional wetland. Seasonal flooding of the northern most tent cabins (numbers 50-63, 65-69, and 75) in Boy's Town has created unacceptable living conditions for employees in these cabins. While a small portion of the flooding is due to seasonally high groundwater levels leading to ponding in many areas, much of the flooding stems from diversion of flows from Upper Pines Campground into the area and diversion of natural drainage within Boy's Town. As much as 50% of the water flowing through Boy's Town originates from Upper Pines Campground. Within Boy's Town, the natural drainage channel has been blocked by fill, forcing runoff into unchannelized areas and exacerbating flooding (see Map 2- Existing conditions).

#### PROPOSED PROJECT ACTIONS

1. Relocate cabins 60 and 68. These cabins and the fill between them block the natural drainage of the area. Removal of the fill under and between the cabins is necessary to restore the natural channel in this location and to block the course of the diverted channel where it turns 90 degrees to the west at tent # 68 (see Map 3 - Proposed Actions). Removal of the fill will require attention to the main propane gas line, and feeder lines to tents, buried in this location.

2. Restore flow in the old natural channel. As a first step, a sufficient amount of accumulated duff and branches currently impeding flow in the old natural channel would be removed to facilitate drainage. This would be done with minimal heavy equipment to see if the old natural channel would effectively drain the area.

If this first step proves ineffective, then removal of all accumulated duff and branches currently impeding flow in the old channel to facilitate drainage will be required. The removal of several small cedars growing in the channel will also be required. This would be done with a track excavator. The estimated disturbance area is 200-ft. long by 6-ft. wide by 12" deep. At this point, the channel will then be maintained as a drainage ditch.

3. Pending elevation verification, install a new 24" high density polyethylene pipe (HDPE) culvert at the intersection of Southside Drive and Happy Isles shuttle bus road. This culvert would cross Southside Drive from the stop sign on the Happy Isles shuttle bus road to an area in the southwest corner of Lower Pines campground. Drainage would then follow a natural channel along the edge of the campground to the Merced River. This step would alleviate flooding in several sites in Lower

Pines campground as well. Both ends of the existing culvert that drains into the Boy's Town area would then be plugged.

(Phase 2 of this project was removed from the proposal.)

**Table B1 – Background Information**

	Yes	No	N/A	Explanation/Notes
1. Did NPS staff conduct a site visit? If yes, list attendees. If no, explain.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Facilities Management, Resources Management & Science (hydrologist), Business Revenue & Management, and Environmental Planning & Compliance.
2a. Is the project providing compliance for an action associated with but not covered by an approved plan? (Identify the plan and provide a section or page citation.); OR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2b. Is the project in an approved plan? (Identify the plan and provide a section or page citation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2c. Is the project consistent with that plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2d. Is the Plan's CE, FONSI, or ROD current?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
3a. Are there any interested or affected parties?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3b. Has a diligent effort been made to communicate with them?	<input type="checkbox"/>			
4a. Are there any affected agencies or tribes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4b. Has consultation been completed?	<input type="checkbox"/>			

**Table B2 – Environmental Screening Form Attachments (provide Attachment letter—A, B, etc.)**

	Yes	No	N/A	Explanation/Notes
1. Maps: 2 required (vicinity map & site map)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Boy's Town: Map 1, Vicinity; Map 2, Existing Drainage Conditions; Map 3, Proposed Drainage Actions; see Attachment A.
2. Drawings (e.g., design, construction)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Site Plans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Photographs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Boy's Town Flooding: see Attachment B.
5. Non-NEPA/NHPA Approvals (Explain)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Other (Explain)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

**C. ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL RESOURCE EFFECTS**

Are any impacts possible on the following resources?	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Geologic resources: soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. From geohazards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Air quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Soundscapes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negligible: temporary during construction.
5. Water quality or quantity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Stream flow characteristics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negligible: the old channel would be reopened; the new channel from placement of fill & tents, which is creating problems, would be blocked; a new culvert would keep runoff from Upper Pines Campground east of Southside Drive; all affected runoff would still end up in the same natural drainage east of Southside Drive, flowing to the Merced River.
7. Marine or estuarine resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
8. Floodplains or wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9. Land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10. Rare or unusual vegetation – old growth timber, riparian, alpine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11. Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12. Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yosemite is a World Heritage Site: the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see Section F, National Historic Preservation Checklist and the attached XXX.
13. Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14. Unique or important fish or fish habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
18. Cultural resources including cultural landscapes, ethnographic resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negligible: Yosemite Valley Archeological, Yosemite Valley Historic, and Curry Village Historic Districts; the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see Section F, National Historic Preservation Checklist and the attached XXX.
19. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
20. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
21. Energy resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
22. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
23. Resource, including energy, conservation potential	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
24. Urban quality, gateway communities, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
25. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
26. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**Comments, Mitigations and Conditions:**

1. None

**D. MANDATORY CRITERIA**

<b>If implemented, would the proposed action:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Data Needed to Determine/Notes</b>
1. Have material adverse effects on public health or safety?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Have adverse effects on such unique 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; floodplains; or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the National Register of Natural Landmarks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mitigated: see Section F, National Historic Preservation Checklist and the attached XXX.
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7. Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mitigated: see Section F, National Historic Preservation Checklist and the attached XXX
8. Have adverse effects on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9. Require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10. Threaten to violate a federal, state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11. Involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA sec. 102(2)(E))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12. Have a disproportionate, significant adverse effect on low-income or minority populations (EO 12898)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13. Restrict access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 130007)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of federally listed noxious weeds (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of non-native invasive species or actions that may promote the introduction, growth or expansion of the range of non-native invasive species (EO 13112)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
16. Require a permit from a federal, state, or local agency to proceed, unless the agency from which the permit is required agrees that a CE is appropriate?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
17. Have the potential for significant impact as indicated by a federal, state, or local agency or Indian tribe?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
18. Have the potential to be controversial because of disagreement over possible environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
19. Have the potential to violate the NPS Organic Act by impairing park resources or values?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**Comments, Mitigations and Conditions:**

- None

**E. SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST**

Within the area of potential effect, are there:	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (Federal or State)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Species of special concern (Federal or State)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Park rare plants or vegetation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
If "yes" to any of the above questions, a Special-Status Species Checklist must be completed and attached.				
<b>Comments, Mitigations and Conditions:</b>				
1. None				

**F. NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST**

Within the area of potential effect:	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Will there be ground disturbance?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The reopening of the blocked natural drainage channel (with possible removal of up to 12" of soil) and the placement of a culvert; the assessment of effect is "No Effect;" see Condition 1, below, and the attached XXX.
2. Are there any archeological sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Are there any Native American Indian traditional cultural resources?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Is the project within the boundary of an archeological or historic landscape or district?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Yosemite Valley Archeological, Yosemite Valley Historic, and Curry Village Historic Districts; the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see Condition 2, below, and the attached XXX.
5a. Is there a National Historic Landmark?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5b. Is there a structure(s) on the park's <i>List of Classified Structures</i> ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5c. Is there a historic property with a DOE and concurrence by the SHPO or a completed National Register form?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5d. Is there a cultural property requiring review under NHPA, Section 106?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Would there be alteration of a structure or cultural landscape covered by 5a-d, above?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Yosemite Valley and Curry Village Historic Districts; the addition of a culvert and associated treatments; the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see Condition 2, below, and the attached XXX.
If "yes" to any of the above, then an Assessment of Effects form (YOSE-XXX) must be completed and attached.				
<b>Mitigations and Conditions:</b>				
1. Contact the park Archeologist (Laura Kirn, 379-1314) with two weeks notice to arrange for archeological monitoring if mineral soil needs to be removed to open the blocked Boy's Town natural drainage channel.				
2. Ensure that there is no mortar in the culvert riprap when the contractor is finished.				

**G. WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST**

Is the proposed project:	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Within designated Wilderness?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
If "yes" to either of the above, then a Wilderness Minimum Requirements Analysis must be completed and attached.				
<b>Mitigations and Conditions:</b>				
1. None				

**H. WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST**

Does the proposed project:	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor? If 'yes', name the river(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Merced River
2. Fall within the bed and banks AND affect the free-flow of the river?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Potentially affect water quality of the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Remain consistent with its river segment classification?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reopening the blocked Boy's Town natural drainage channel and installing a new culvert under Southside Drive is consistent with this river segment's classification as "Recreational."
5. Protect and enhance river ORVs?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The project actions would protect and enhance river ORVs.
6a. Fall within the River Protection Overlay?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6b. If "yes", is it consistent with conditions of the River Protection Overlay?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
7. Remain consistent with the areas Management Zoning?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The project actions are consistent with this area's management zoning of "3B-Visitor Base and Lodging."
8a. Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8b. If 8a is "yes", will the project affect the Wild and Scenic River corridor?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
8c. If 8a is "yes", will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
If "yes" to questions 2, 8b, or 8c, then a WSRA Section 7 determination must be completed and attached.				

**Mitigations and Conditions:**

1. None



**I. NEPA Analysis and Approval Conditions**

When implemented as detailed in the project description and following all Project Mitigations and Conditions listed below, this project meets the terms and conditions of a categorical exclusion to NEPA.

**Applicable Categorical Exclusion:**

Notwithstanding that this project involves elements and impacts similar to those covered by the following three CEs, careful consideration indicates that its implementation would entail only negligible environmental impact; therefore, the project is reasonably covered under DO12 C (9) - *Repair, resurfacing, striping, installation of traffic control devices, and repair/replacement of guardrails, culverts, signs, and other minor existing features on existing roads when no potential for environmental impact exists.*, C (16) - *Installation of underground utilities in areas showing clear evidence of recent human disturbance or areas within an existing road prism or within an existing overhead utility right-of-way,* and E (4) - *Removal of non-historic materials and structures in order to restore natural conditions when the removal has no potential for environmental impacts, including impacts to cultural landscapes or archeological resources.*

**Project Mitigations and Conditions:**

- 1. Contact the park Archeologist (Laura Kirn, 379-1314) with two weeks notice to arrange for archeological monitoring if mineral soil needs to be removed to open the blocked Boy's Town natural drainage channel.**
- 2. Ensure that there is no mortar in the culvert riprap when the contractor is finished.**

*This project has been reviewed in accordance with the above criteria and it has been determined that the project will result in no or minimal environmental effects. Therefore, it is categorically excluded from further environmental review required under the National Environmental Policy Act. Additionally, the necessary compliance coordination has been completed with regard to the National Historic Preservation Act, the Wilderness Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and the Endangered Species Act.*

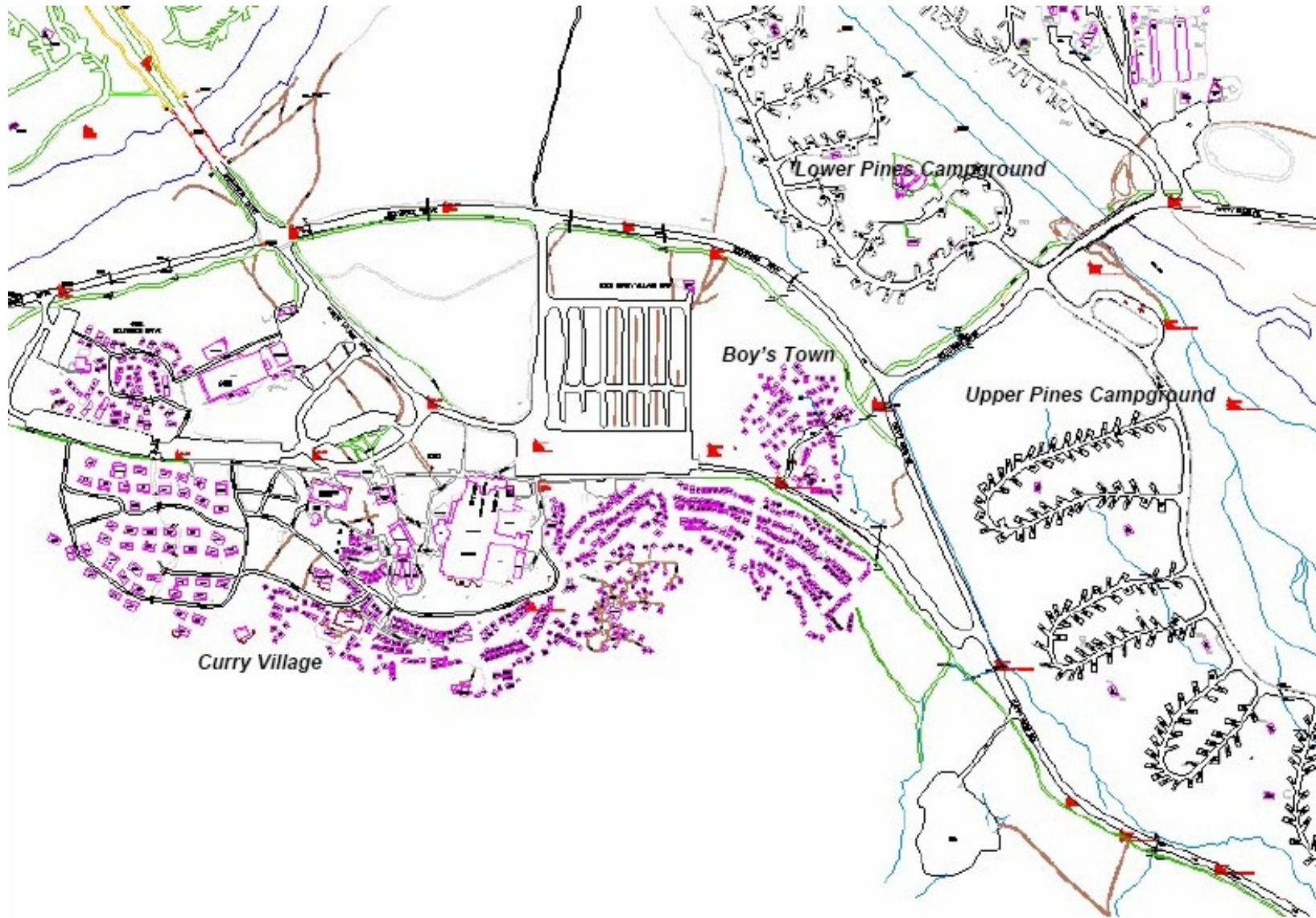
*//GW Colliver//* 4/13/06  
**Compliance Specialist** **Date**

*//Elexis D. Mayer//* 4/13/06  
**Compliance Program Manager** **Date**

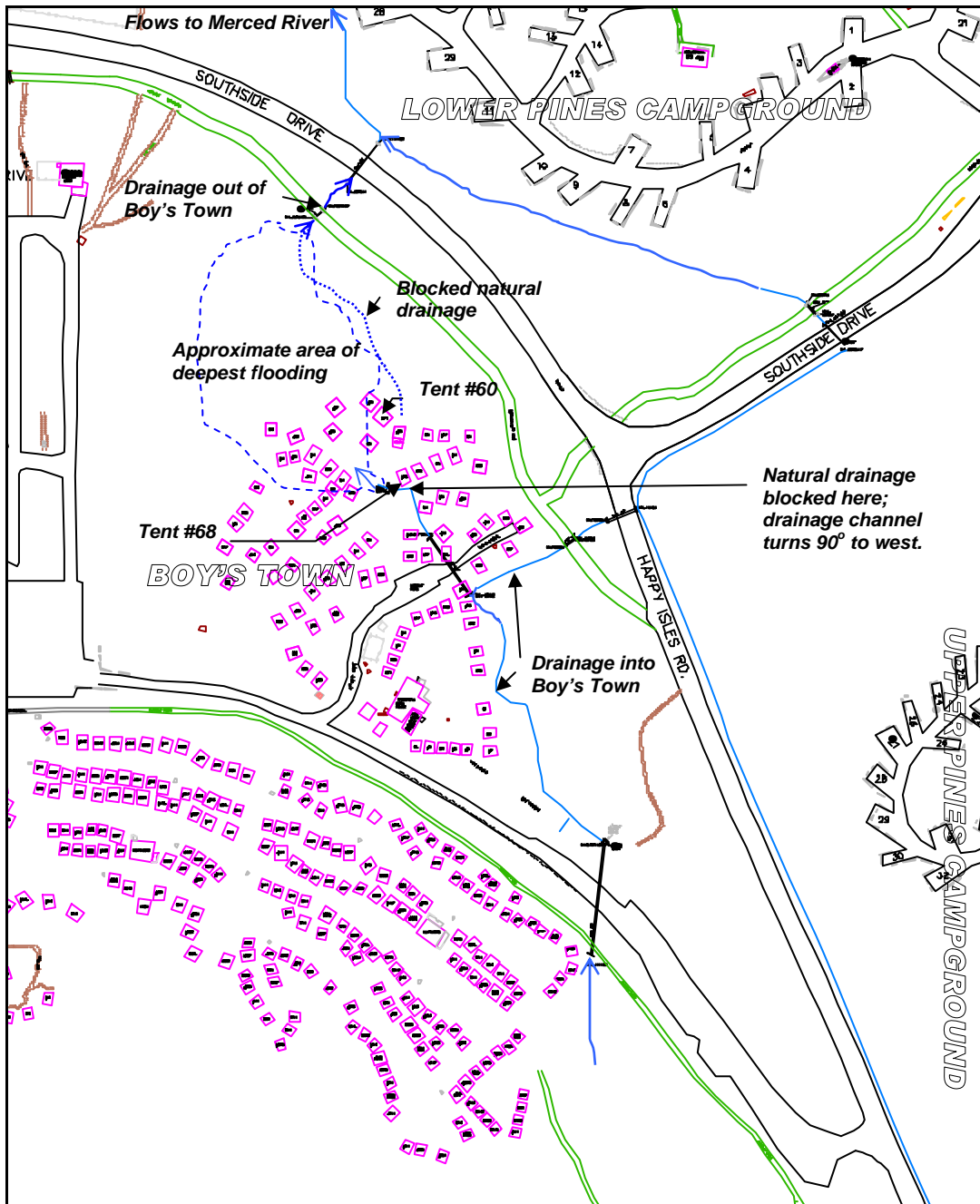
*//Bill Delaney//* 4/13/06  
**Chief, Project Management** **Date**

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

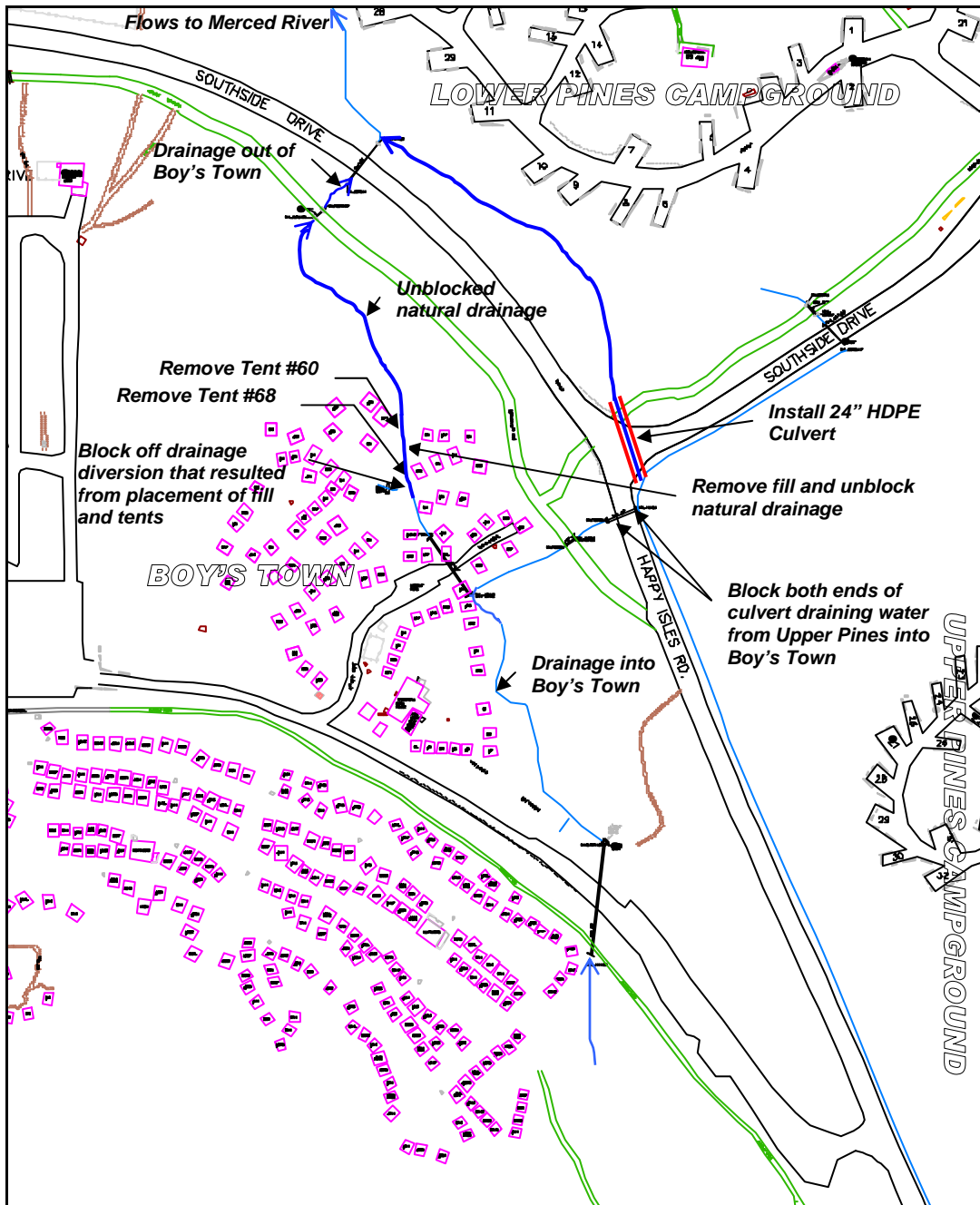
Attachment A



Map 1 Boy's Town - Vicinity Map



Map 2 Boy's Town Drainage - Existing Conditions



Map 3 Boy's Town Drainage - Proposed Actions

## Attachment B



**Photo 1 Drainage Channel Blocked by Tent #68, Making 90 Degree Bend to Left and Under Bridge**



**Photo 2 Flooding Inside Boy's Town Employee Residential Area**



**Photo 3 Flooding Inside Boy's Town Employee Residential Area**



**Photo 4 Flooding Inside Boy's Town Employee Residential Area**



**Photo 5 Flooding Inside Boy's Town Employee Residential Area**

## Preservation Assessment Form (YOSE XXX)

(Version: FEB06)

Compliance Tracking Number: 2006-054

PEPC Project Number: 15517

### A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

**Title:** Boy's Town Drainage Improvement

**Project Location and Area of Potential Effect:**

Yosemite Valley, Mariposa County, California

The area of potential effect encompasses Boy's Town residential area at Curry Village, in Yosemite Valley, and specifically the natural drainage from employee tent #68 through the culvert underneath the bike path northeast of Boy's Town; the culvert under the Fire Road south of Boy's Town and draining into Boy's Town; the culvert draining into Boy's Town from Upper Pines Campground near the stop sign on the Happy Isles Road at its intersection with Southside Drive, and the section of Southside Drive and bike path from the above mentioned stop sign to about 8' north of the bike path (see Maps 1, 2, and 3, in the project's Environmental Screening Form).

**Project Manager:** Michael Pieper, Facilities Management, Yosemite National Park

**Project Description:**

#### PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Boy's Town area is characterized by low relief and poor natural drainage during spring snow melt. Existing wetland delineations do not indicate that the area is a jurisdictional wetland. Seasonal flooding of the northern most tent cabins (numbers 50-63, 65-69, and 75) in Boy's Town has created unacceptable living conditions for employees in these cabins. While a small portion of the flooding is due to seasonally high groundwater levels leading to ponding in many areas, much of the flooding stems from diversion of flows from Upper Pines Campground into the area and diversion of natural drainage within Boy's Town. As much as 50% of the water flowing through Boy's Town originates from Upper Pines Campground. Within Boy's Town, the natural drainage channel has been blocked by fill, forcing runoff into unchannelized areas and exacerbating flooding (see Map 2- Existing conditons).

#### PROPOSED PROJECT ACTIONS

1. Relocate cabins 60 and 68. These cabins and the fill between them block the natural drainage of the area. Removal of the fill under and between the cabins is necessary to restore the natural channel in this location and to block the course of the diverted channel where it turns 90 degrees to the west at tent # 68 (see Map 3 - Proposed Actions). Removal of the fill will require attention to the main propane gas line, and feeder lines to tents, buried in this location.
2. Restore flow in the old natural channel. As a first step, a sufficient amount of accumulated duff and branches currently impeding flow in the old natural channel would be removed to facilitate drainage. This would be done with minimal heavy equipment to see if the old natural channel would effectively drain the area.

If this first step proves ineffective, then removal of all accumulated duff and branches currently impeding flow in the old channel to facilitate drainage will be required. The removal of several small cedars growing in the channel will also be required. This would be done with a track



excavator. The estimated disturbance area is 200-ft. long by 6-ft. wide by 12" deep. At this point, the channel will then be maintained as a drainage ditch.

3. Pending elevation verification, install a new 24" high density polyethylene pipe (HDPE) culvert at the intersection of Southside Drive and Happy Isles shuttle bus road. This culvert would cross Southside Drive from the stop sign on the Happy Isles shuttle bus road to an area in the southwest corner of Lower Pines campground. Drainage would then follow a natural channel along the edge of the campground to the Merced River. This step would alleviate flooding in several sites in Lower Pines campground as well. Both ends of the existing culvert that drains into the Boy's Town area would then be plugged.

(Phase 2 of this project was removed from the proposal.)

1. Attached Sensitive Information**	Yes	No	Explanation/Source/Notes
a. Maps	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	GIS CR Map
b. Drawings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
c. Site Plans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
d. Photographs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
e. Sample	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
f. List of Materials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
g. Other (Explain)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

\*\* Sensitive documents not for duplication or distribution beyond park management, subject matter experts, and the project statutory compliance file.

## B. DESCRIPTION OF EFFECTS

	Yes	No	N/A	Explanation/Notes
<b>1. Has the Area of Potential Effect been surveyed to identify historic properties?</b> If Yes, provide reference for the Survey (s).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Yosemite Valley Archeological, Yosemite Valley Historic, and Curry Village Historic Districts.
a. Would the proposed action affect a known historic property?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Yosemite Valley and Curry Village Historic Districts.
<b>2. List all Historic Properties in the Area of Potential Effect:</b>	<b>Affected?</b>			<b>Explanation/Notes</b>
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>		
a. CA MRP 0084	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Temporarily flooded
b. Yosemite Valley Historic District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Addition of a culvert and associated treatments
c. Curry Village Historic District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Temporary removal of two non-historic tents, non-historic fill, and re-opening of a natural drainage channel.
<b>3. List resources in the Area of Potential Effect to which American Indians attach cultural and religious significance:</b>	<b>Affected?</b>			<b>Explanation/Notes</b>
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>		
a. Toolahhahmah	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>4. The proposed action will:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Explanation/Note</b>
• Destroy, remove, or alter features or elements from a historic structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Replace historic features/elements in kind	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Add nonhistoric features/elements to a historic structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (including terrain)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

4. The proposed action will:	Yes	No	N/A	Explanation/Note
• Add nonhistoric features/elements (including visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	A culvert and associated treatments would be constructed in the Yosemite Valley Historic District.
• Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible, or alter associated terrain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible, or alter associated terrain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Begin or contribute to the deterioration of historic fabric, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Involve a real property transaction affecting historic cultural properties (i.e., the exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Potentially affect presently unidentified historic resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

5. Describe any measures that are incorporated as part of this project that will be taken to prevent or minimize loss or impairment of prehistoric or historic fabric, setting, integrity, or data:

Checklist prepared by: Jeannette Simons

Date: 6/1/06

Title: Historic Preservation Officer

**C. SPECIALIST SECTION**

**Specialists:** Your comments here (or attached) show that you have reviewed this proposal for conformity with requirements of *National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106*; with the 1995 *Servicewide Programmatic Agreement* (if applicable); with applicable parts of the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation*; with the *NPS Management Policies* and *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*; and have given your best professional advice about this project and the issues relevant to the Section 106 process, including identification and evaluation of historic properties and further consultation needs.

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**Archeologist**

Name: **Laura Kirn**

Date:

Comments:

Ground Disturbance Involved      Yes: X      No:

Assessment of Effect: **No Adverse Effect**

Recommended Conditions: Please contact archeology for 2-week notice so we can set up monitoring of ground disturbance if removal of mineral soil is necessary to open up drainage.

Signature of Archeologist: //signed original on file//

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**Cultural Anthropologist**

Name: **Sonny Montague**

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect: <Choose Effect> or write it here >>

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Cultural Anthropologist: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Curator**

Name: **Jonathan Bayless**

Date: 4/12/06

Comments:

Assessment of Effect: **No Adverse Effect**

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Curator: //signed original on file//

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**Historian**

Name: **Charles Palmer**

Date: 4/12/06

Comments:

Assessment of Effect: **No effect for Phase 1**

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Historian:  //signed original on file//

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**Historic Architect**

Name: **Sueann Brown**

Date: 4/12/06

Comments: Defer to Historic Landscape Architect's stipulations.

Assessment of Effect: **<Choose Effect> or write it here >>**

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Historic Architect:  //signed original on file//

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**Historic Landscape Architect**

Name: **Steven Torgerson**

Date: 4/12/06

Comments: Use of mortar on riprap area will be removed by contractor. This is only for Phase One of the project.

Assessment of Effect: **No Effect**

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Historic Landscape Architect:  //signed original on file//

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**Preservation Specialist**

Name: **Doug Martin**

Date: 4/12/06

Comments:

Assessment of Effect: **No Effect for Phase 1**

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Preservation Specialist: //signed original on file//

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**Native American Liaison**

Name: **Jeannette Simons**

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect: **<Choose Effect> or write it here >>**

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Native American Liaison: \_\_\_\_\_

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**<Enter Specialist Title>**

Name:

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect: **<Choose Effect> or write it here >>**

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of **<Enter Specialist Title>**: \_\_\_\_\_

**D. RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND SCIENCE DIVISION AND PARK 106  
COORDINATOR REVIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1. Review by specialists:** The appropriate subject-matter experts have reviewed the project and entered their comments and recommendations in Section C, above.

*The foregoing assessment is adequate: the proposed action is consistent with all applicable NPS management policies, standards, guidelines, or US DOI standards and guidelines, Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings, or others, and incorporates measures to avoid Adverse Effects.*

**Reviewed and Accepted by:**

**Signature:** //Niki Stephanie Nicholas// **Date:** 4/12/06  
Chief of Resources Management & Science Division

**2. Assessment of Effects: No Adverse Effect**

- 3. Compliance Requirements:** The following is the park's assessment of Section 106 process needs and requirements for this undertaking.

**Standard 36 CFR Part 800 Consultation**

Consultation under 36 CFR is needed subsequent to the preparation of this form and its review by appropriate historic resource management advisors.

**Undertaking related to the 1995 NPS Programmatic Agreement**

The above action meets all conditions for a programmatic exclusion under Stipulation IV. A of the 1995 NPS programmatic agreement, and is listed in Stipulation IV. B, as:

**Plan-Related Undertaking**

Consultation and review of the proposed undertaking were completed in the context of a plan review process, in accordance with the 1995 NPS programmatic agreement and 36 CFR Part 800.

**Undertaking Related to Another Agreement**

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under a document such as a statewide agreement written in accordance with 37 CFR Part 800.7 or counterpart regulations.

**Agreement:**

**Flood-Recovery Related Undertaking**

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under the letter-based agreement between the NPS, the State Historic Preservation Office, and the Council for Historic Preservation for "Highwater 97" flood repair and recovery

**Undertaking Related to the 1999 Yosemite Programmatic Agreement**

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under the park's 1999 programmatic agreement for planning, design, construction, operations and maintenance; the undertaking meets the stipulations identified in Article VII.C.2.

**4. Project Stipulations and Conditions**

Following are listed any stipulations or conditions necessary to ensure that the assessment of effects above is consistent with 36 CFR 800 criteria of effect or to mitigate potential adverse effects:

- a. Contractor to remove mortar from rip-rap. Coordinate with park Archeologist if mineral soil is removed.

**Recommended by Park Section 106 Coordinator:**

Name: **Jeannette Simons**

Title: **Historic Preservation Officer**

Signature: //Jeannette Simons//

Date: 4/18/06

**E. SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL**

*The proposed work conforms to NPS Management Policies and NPS-28 and I approve the recommendations, stipulations, and conditions noted in Section B of this form.*

Signature of Superintendent: //MJ Tollefson//

Date: 4/18/06

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