



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: Garrett Chun, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park
From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park
Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2016-019 Geotechnical Investigation at Wawona Golf Course (66040)

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

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

- Archeological monitoring will be required in geo-test locations nearby sensitive cultural resources

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 66040.

// Don L. 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.*



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: 2016-019 Geotechnical Investigation at Wawona Golf Course

PEPC Project Number: 66040

Description of Action (Project Description):

This project performs geotechnical investigations at the Wawona Golf Course to determine if certain areas of the golf course are suitable for a leach field which will act as a secondary discharge of treated wastewater from the Wawona Wastewater Treatment Plant (the primary discharge will continue to be the golf course spray field).

This project is to help inform the larger Wawona Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade in 2019 which will include two lift station improvements, various wastewater treatment process components, overall treatment capacity, and improvements on the effluent disposal.

The geotechnical investigations will include twenty 6-inch holes (5 feet deep) for percolation tests, and twenty 2-inch holes (12 feet deep) to install piezometers to track groundwater conditions. Holes will be dug either manually with hand augers or using a gas-powered hand auger. The percolation holes will be backfilled immediately after completion of percolation testing.

Project Locations:

Mariposa County, CA

Mitigation(s):

- Archeological monitoring will be required in geo-test locations nearby sensitive cultural resources

CE Citation: E.5 Nondestructive data collection, inventory (including field, aerial, and satellite surveying and mapping), study, research, and monitoring activities.

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: 8/16/2016

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Extraordinary Circumstances:

If implemented, would the proposal...	Yes/No	Notes
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 resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?	No	
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	No	
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	No	
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	No	
G. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?	No	
H. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?	No	
I. Violate a federal, 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 (EO 12898)?	No	
K. 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	
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	



ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

Updated Sept 2015 per NPS NEPA Handbook

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: 2016-019 Wawona Golf Course Geotechnical Investigation
PEPC Project Number: 66040
Project Type: Reconnaissance Survey (RECON)
Project Location:
County, State: Mariposa, California
Project Leader: Garrett Chun

B. RESOURCE IMPACTS TO CONSIDER:

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Air Air Quality	Potential	Temporary exhaust from a gas powered auger (about 15 minutes per hole)
Biological Nonnative or Exotic Species	None	
Biological Species of Special Concern or Their Habitat	None	
Biological Vegetation	None	
Biological Wildlife and/or Wildlife Habitat including terrestrial and aquatic species	None	
Cultural Archeological Resources	Potential	There are sensitive cultural resources nearby the proposed geo-test locations. Archeological monitoring will be required in geo-test locations nearby sensitive cultural resources.
Cultural Cultural Landscapes	Potential	The golf course may be a NR-eligible resource. The golf course is being documented in a DOE currently under preparation.
Cultural Ethnographic Resources	None	
Cultural Museum Collections	None	
Cultural Prehistoric/historic	None	

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
structures		
Geological Geologic Features	Potential	This project requires drilling of 20 holes 6 inches in diameter and 5 feet deep, and 20 holes 2 inches in diameter 12 feet deep (a total of 40 holes).
Geological Geologic Processes	None	
Lightscares Lightscares	None	
Other Human Health and Safety	None	
Other Operational	Potential	Golf course fairways will be temporarily closed during installation of geotechnical holes. None of the holes will be placed in the tree line or on the greens.
Socioeconomic Land Use	None	
Socioeconomic Minority and low-income populations, size, migration patterns, etc.	None	
Socioeconomic Socioeconomic	None	
Soundscapes Soundscapes	Potential	Temporary noise disturbance while drilling the holes with the gas powered auger, to be done within normal business hours.
Viewsheds Viewsheds	None	
Visitor Use and Experience Recreation Resources	Potential	Could temporarily close golf course fairways to visitors while drilling and installing the geotechnical holes.
Visitor Use and Experience Visitor Use and Experience	None	
Water Floodplains	None	
Water Marine or Estuarine Resources	None	
Water Water Quality or Quantity	None	
Water Wetlands	None	
Water Wild and Scenic River	Potential	This project takes place near the South Fork of the Merced River
Wilderness	None	

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Wilderness		

Recommended:

Compliance Specialists	Date
<u>// Kristin Anderson //</u> Compliance Specialist – Kristin Anderson	<u>8/11/2016</u>
<u>// Madelyn Ruffner //</u> Compliance Program Manager – Madelyn Ruffner	<u>8/15/2016</u>
<u>// Randy Fong //</u> Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong	<u>8/16/2016</u>

Approved:

Superintendent	Date
<u>// Don L. Neubacher //</u> Don L. Neubacher	<u>8/16/2016</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: 2016-019 Wawona Golf Course Geotechnical Investigation

Prepared by: Kristin Anderson **Date Prepared:** 07/29/2016 **Telephone:** 209-379-1002

PEPC Project Number: 66040

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

Wawona Archeological District

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

☐ No

☒ Yes

Source or reference:

4. Potentially Affected Resource(s):

Archeological resources affected:

Name and number(s): Wawona Archeological District

NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

Name and number(s): Archeological Site

Archeological Resources Notes: There are sensitive archeological resources nearby the geotechnical test locations.

Historical Structures/Resources Affected:

Name and number(s): Wawona Historic District (CLI/DOE in prep)

Location: Wawona

Historical Structures/Resources Notes: The golf course is being documented in a DOE currently under preparation.

Cultural Landscapes Affected:

Name and number(s): Wawona Historic District (CLI/DOE in prep)

Location: Wawona

Cultural Landscapes Notes: The golf course is being documented as part of the historic district CLI for the hotel complex.

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:

☒ [X] 106 Advisor

Name: Kimball Koch

Date: 08/11/2016

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:

☒ [X] Anthropologist

Name: Eirik Thorsgard

Date: 08/01/2016

Comments: No identified ethnographic resources within the proposed project boundaries.

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:

☒ [X] Archeologist

Name: Sara Dolan

Date: 07/27/2016

Comments: There are sensitive cultural resources nearby the proposed geo-test locations.

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: Archeological monitoring will be required in geo-test locations nearby sensitive cultural resources.

☒ [X] Historian

Name: Scott Carpenter

Date: 08/02/2016

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:

☒ [X] Historical Architect

Name: Scott Carpenter

Date: 08/02/2016

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:

☒ [X] Historical Landscape Architect

Name: Kimball Koch

Date: 07/25/2016

Comments: The golf course may be a NR-eligible resource.

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:

No Reviews From: Curator, Other Advisor

C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Assessment of Effect:

☐ No Potential to Cause Effects

☐ No Historic Properties Affected

☒ X 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.

1999 PA as amended in 2016

☐ 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.)

- Archeological monitoring will be required in geo-test locations nearby sensitive cultural resources

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

Historic Preservation Officer

Kimball Koch // Kimball Koch //

Date: 8/11/2016

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 //

Don L. Neubacher

Date: 8/16/2016

