



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: Jim Donovan, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park
From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park
Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2016-016 Parkwide Traffic Counters Rehabilitation (65468)

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:

- Project areas located at Southside Drive near the Chapel, North Side Drive at Camp 4, the Crane Flat Intersection, and Chinquapin, are within or nearby sensitive cultural resources. Archeological monitoring is required in these project areas. The project manager should coordinate with cultural resources staff at least two weeks prior to project implementation.

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 65468.

// 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: 2016-016 Parkwide Traffic Counters Rehabilitation

PEPC Project Number: 65468

Description of Action (Project Description):

The National Park Service will be working with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to rehabilitate seven existing traffic count stations that were originally installed in Yosemite during the mid-1980s. Traffic count station data is collected to inform NPS and FHWA management systems (Bridge, Pavements, Safety and Congestion) and is also used as a basis for visitation statistics. Traffic data is used by planners and designers in the NPS and FHWA.

Count station equipment is approaching the end its life span. Project work includes the replacement of inductive wire loops in pavement on roadways, shallow trenching for wire in conduit, installation of pull boxes, replacement of counter units in equipment boxes, and connection to existing phone or data lines. The specific locations of proposed work are (1) El Portal Road at the Arch Rock Entrance Station, (2) Southside Drive in Leidig Meadow at the Valley Chapel, (3) Northside Drive at Camp 4, (4) the Big Oak Flat and Tioga Road intersection at Crane Flat, (5) the Wawona and Glacier Point Road intersection at Chinquapin, (6) Big Oak Flat Road at the Big Oak Flat Entrance Station, and (7) Tioga Road near the Wilderness Center.

Project Locations:

Mariposa County, CA

Mitigation(s):

- Project areas located at Southside Drive near the Chapel, North Side Drive at Camp 4, the Crane Flat Intersection, and Chinquapin, are within or nearby sensitive cultural resources. Archeological monitoring is required in these project areas. The project manager should coordinate with cultural resources staff at least two weeks prior to project implementation.

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

Explanation:

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 //

Date: 9/14/2016

Don L. Neubacher

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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: 2016-016 Parkwide Traffic Counters Rehabilitation
PEPC Project Number: 65468
PMIS Number: 138988
Project Type: Repair/Rehabilitation (REHAB)
Project Location:
County, State: Mariposa County, CA
Tuolumne County, CA
Project Leader: Jim Donovan

B. RESOURCE IMPACTS TO CONSIDER:

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Air Air Quality	None	
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	The Southside Drive site near the Yosemite Valley Chapel, North Side Drive site at Camp 4, the Crane Flat Intersection site, and the Chinquapin project location, are within or nearby sensitive cultural resources. Archeological monitoring is required in these project areas. The project manager should coordinate with cultural resources staff at least two weeks prior to project implementation.
Cultural Cultural Landscapes	Potential	This project takes place in the Chinquapin Historic District, the Tioga Road Historic District, and the Yosemite Valley Historic District
Cultural Ethnographic Resources	None	
Cultural	None	

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Museum Collections		
Cultural Prehistoric/historic structures	Potential	This project takes place in the Chinquapin Historic District, Tioga Road Historic District, Yosemite Valley Historic District and at the Tioga Pass Entrance Station
Geological Geologic Features	Potential	Shallow trenching is required for installation of inductive loop counter cable, wire in conduit, and pull boxes. Inductive loop will be installed up to 2.5 inches under pavement. Conduit trenching up to 18 inches deep. Pull boxes will be level with the ground up to 18 in. by 11 in.
Geological Geologic Processes	None	
Lightscares Lightscares	None	
Other Human Health and Safety	None	
Other Operational	Potential	There will be temporary lane closures while installing loop counters under the roadway.
Socioeconomic Land Use	None	
Socioeconomic Minority and low-income populations, size, migration patterns, etc.	None	
Soundscapes Soundscapes	Potential	Short-term noise impacts would be caused by the pavement saw, limited in duration to one day at each site.
Viewsheds Viewsheds	None	
Visitor Use and Experience Recreation Resources	None	
Visitor Use and Experience Visitor Use and Experience	None	There will be temporary lane closures and small hold-ups in traffic flow while installing loop counters under the roadway.
Water Floodplains	None	
Water Marine or Estuarine Resources	None	
Water Water Quality or Quantity	None	
Water	None	

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Wetlands		
Water Wild and Scenic River	Potential	The Arch Rock entrance station site and the Southside Drive site near the Yosemite Valley Chapel are within the Merced Wild and Scenic River Corridor. The Tioga Road location near the Wilderness Center is in the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Corridor.
Wilderness Wilderness	None	

Recommended:

Compliance Specialists	Date
<u>// Kristin Anderson //</u> Compliance Specialist – Kristin Anderson	<u>8/31/2016</u>
<u>// Erin Davenport // (acting for Madelyn Ruffner)</u> Compliance Program Manager – Madelyn Ruffner	<u>9/8/2016</u>
<u>// Madelyn Ruffner // (acting for Randy Fong)</u> Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong	<u>9/9/2016</u>

Approved:

Superintendent	Date
<u>// Don L. Neubacher //</u> Don L. Neubacher	<u>9/14/2016</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: 2016-016 Parkwide Traffic Counters Rehabilitation

Prepared by: Kristin Anderson **Date Prepared:** 8/31/2016 **Telephone:** 209-379-1002

PEPC Project Number: 65468

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

Varies, installations occur in selected areas parkwide, primarily at park entrances and within Yosemite Valley.

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): Yosemite Valley Archeological District

NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

Name and number(s): Crane Flat Archeological District

NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

Name and number(s): Archeological Site

NR status:

Archeological Resources Notes: Project areas located at Southside Drive near the Chapel, North Side Drive at Camp 4, the Crane Flat Intersection, and Chinquapin, are within or nearby sensitive cultural resources. Archeological monitoring is required in these project areas. The project manager should coordinate with cultural resources staff at least two weeks prior to project implementation.

Historical Structures/Resources Affected:

Name and number(s): Yosemite Valley Historic District

NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

Name and number(s): Tioga Pass Entrance Station **LCS** 005794 **Asset** MA03200

NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

Name and number(s): Tioga Road Entrance Historic District

NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

Name and number(s): Chinquapin Historic District

NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

Cultural Landscapes Affected:

Name and number(s): Yosemite Valley Historic District

NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

Name and number(s): Tioga Road Entrance Historic District

NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

Name and number(s): Chinquapin Historic District

NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

Ethnographic Resources Affected Notes: No Ethnographic sites identified within proposed project boundaries. Tribal consultation sent via project letter dated June 7, 2016. No comments received regarding project to date.

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
- ☐ Yes Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure
- ☐ No Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)
- ☐ Yes 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: 07/14/2016

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

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

[X] Anthropologist

Name: Eirik Thorsgard

Date: 07/05/2016

Comments: No Ethnographic sites identified within proposed project boundaries. Tribal consultation sent via project letter dated June 7, 2016. No comments received regarding project to date.

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

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

[X] Archeologist

Name: Sara Dolan

Date: 07/20/2016

Comments: Project areas located in these locations 4803, 4804, 4805, 4806, 4807, are within/nearby sensitive cultural resources.

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

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: Project areas located at Southside Drive near the Chapel, North Side Drive at Camp 4, the Crane Flat Intersection, and Chinquapin, are within or nearby sensitive cultural resources. Archeological monitoring is required in these project areas. The project manager should coordinate with cultural resources staff at least two weeks prior to project implementation.

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

[X] Historian

Name: Scott Carpenter

Date: 07/13/2016

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

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

[X] Historical Architect

Name: Scott Carpenter

Date: 07/13/2016

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

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

[X] Historical Landscape Architect
Name: Kimball Koch
Date: 06/29/2016

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:

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:

[X] 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 Programmatic Agreement 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: Project specific letter sent to tribes on June 7, 2016. No comments received as of July 20, 2016.

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:

Historic Preservation Officer

Kimball Koch // Kimball Koch // **Date:** 8/31/2016

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 // **Date:** 9/14/2016
Don L. Neubacher

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FOTSC 4808 – Big Oak Flat Entrance – **Alt 1 (preferred)**

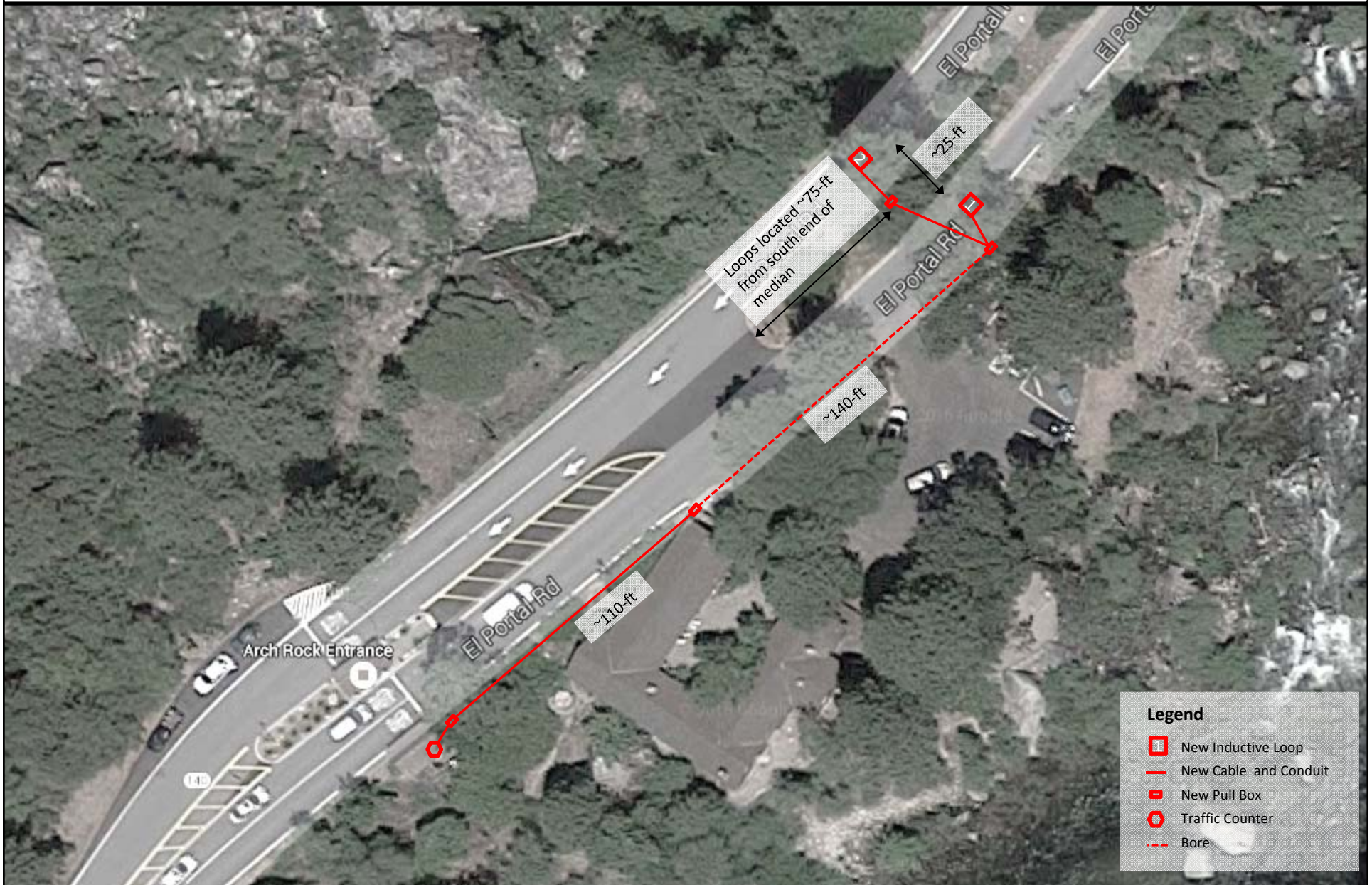


Not to scale

Produce by the NPS's Field Operations Technical Support Center (FOTSC)



FOTSC 4802 – Arch Rock Entrance



Not to scale

Produce by the NPS's Field Operations Technical Support Center (FOTSC)



FOTSC 4805 – Crane Flat Junction



Not to scale

Produce by the NPS's Field Operations Technical Support Center (FOTSC)

NOTES:
Depending on age of loops 1 and 2 (on Glacier Point Road), existing loops may be reused.

Legend

- New Inductive Loop
- New Cable and Conduit
- - - Bore
- New Pull Box
- Traffic Counter

Circuitous route used in an attempt to say away from mature trees

Produce by the NPS's Field Operations Technical Support Center (FOTSC)



FOTSC 4803 – Valley Chapel



Not to scale

Produce by the NPS's Field Operations Technical Support Center (FOTSC)



FOTSC 4804 – Camp 4 – ALT 1 (Preferred Alternative)

NOTES

1. Cabinet to be located on back side of ITS sign
2. New loops to be placed ~70-ft west of driveway and ~5-ft west of existing groundhogs
3. Lanes need to be minimum of 10-ft wide
4. Loops to be 5'x5'

Legend

- New Inductive Loop
- New Cable and Conduit
- New Pull Box
- New Cabinet



Not to scale

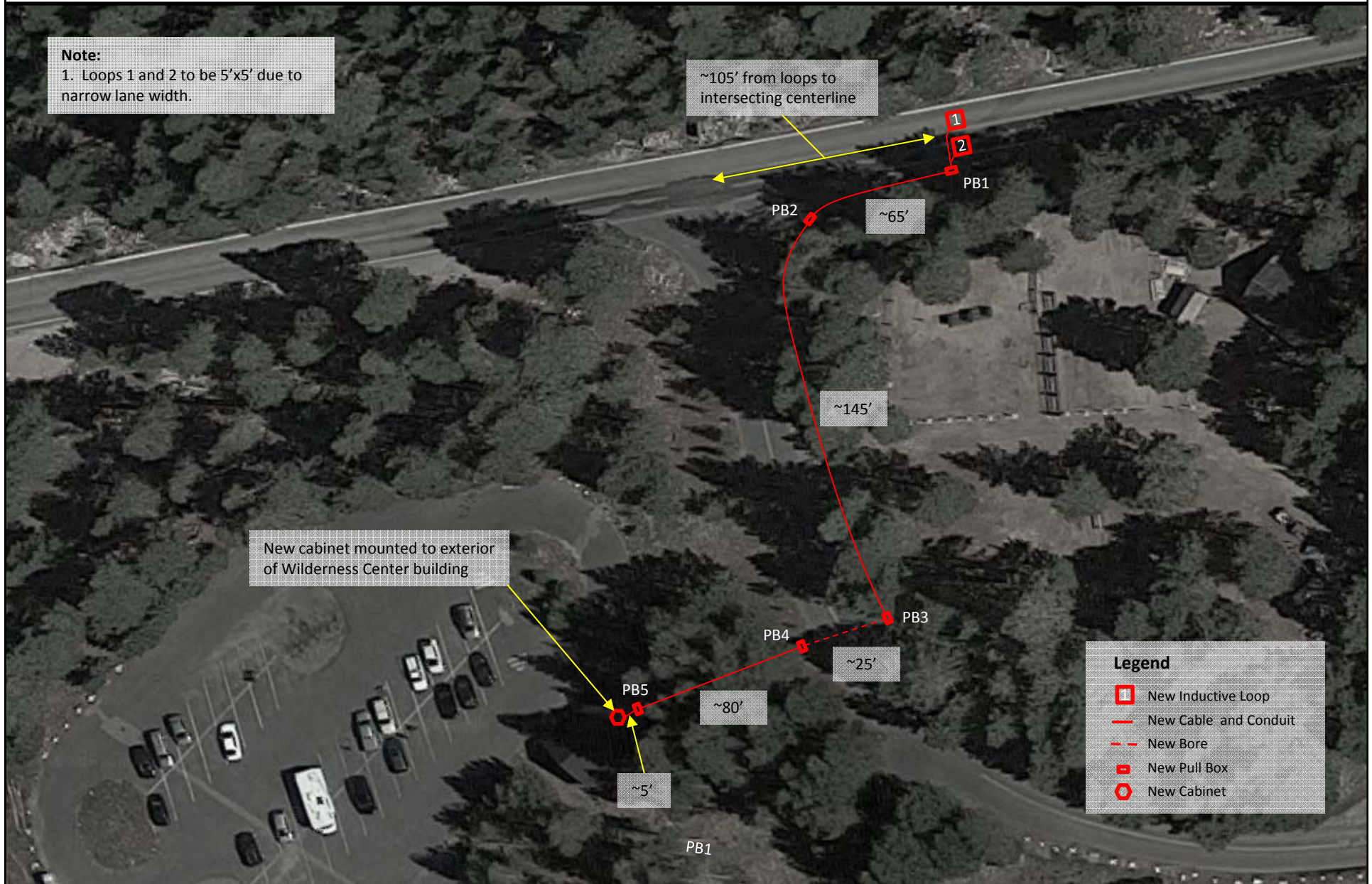
Produce by the NPS's Field Operations Technical Support Center (FOTSC)



FOTSC 4806 – Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center (Alternative 2)

Note:

1. Loops 1 and 2 to be 5'x5' due to narrow lane width.



Legend

- New Inductive Loop
- New Cable and Conduit
- New Bore
- New Pull Box
- New Cabinet

Not to scale

Produce by the NPS's Field Operations Technical Support Center (FOTSC)



June 2016