



Letter of Compliance Completion

Memorandum

To: William Bryan, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2016-024 Merced River Plan Implementation: Half Dome Village - Temporary Ice Rink Installation (66646)

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

- 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/are 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:

- There must be a decibel test done by the NPS Safety Office for the generator intended for installation at this location.
- There must be bollards or rocks positioned for propane tank protection.
- Archeological spot monitoring may occur during ground disturbing activities (pole installation and wet tap).

Recommendations for Conditions or Stipulations: None

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 66646.

//Woody Smeck//
Woody Smeck

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

Location: Half Dome Village - Temporary Ice Rink Installation
- PEPC ID: 66646



Memo To File

A. Project Information

Park Name: Yosemite National Park

PEPC Project Number: 66646

Project Title: 2016-024 Merced River Plan Implementation: Half Dome Village - Temporary Ice Rink Installation

Project Location:

County, State: Mariposa, California

Project Leader: William Bryan

B. Description of the Current Action

This project was selected for implementation in the 2014 Record of Decision for the Merced River Plan/EIS (PEPC 18982). This project must adhere to mitigation and stipulations in the Final EIS/Record of Decision and the MRP programmatic agreement.

This project will install a seasonal temporary ice rink and associated services within the concession land assignment main parking lot at Half Dome Village. The proposed rink will be utilized during the winter season and then removed and stored at the Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area during the summer season. The ice rink will be installed by a third-party vendor, Everything Ice, Inc. The ice rink will be 60' x 120'.

A water connection in previously disturbed area of the orchard parking lot to access water from the existing 8" hydrant line is necessary to supply the 7000 gallons of water for initial set and 1000 gallons of water for daily maintenance. To access line and provide water service to the area, a trench of 65' x 12" x 36" is necessary. Compliance for the water supply will be completed at a later date.

Four 12' x 14' canvas tents on pier and post foundation (relocated from Boystown and not utilized in current contract) will be set adjacent to rink on south side to accommodate storage, visitor changing area, hot water tank, and skate rental. No concessions will be provided within service area. Three standard and one ADA portable toilets will be located within the fenced service area to provide for public comfort.

The mechanical unit producing the ice and the proprietary tube system operate at 73 dBA at 30'. This system will be on a 35 foot long trailer parked temporarily at the east side of rink. The rink dasher boards are constructed of galvanized steel frames.

Three temporary utility poles 4" x 4" x 16' poles will be attached to the relocated canvas tents on the south side of the rink to support 120 volt/70 watt high pressure sodium fixtures and sound system. Three additional utility poles will be permanently erected on the north side of the ice rink, just off the asphalt parking lot. The poles will be buried 6' in the ground with 25' above ground allowing placement of 208 volt/1000 watt quartz halogen tube lights in waterproof fixtures (as existed at former ice rink area). Halogen lights will provide direct lighting to the ice surface. Sodium lights will light the shadows on the ice as well as provide light to associated service areas. All lighting will be pointed downward to prevent light pollution.

A 100kW propane powered generator provided by the concessioner will be located adjacent to the refrigeration trailer on the east side of the rink. This installation will provide 400 amp electrical service for rink and 200 amp electrical service for amenities. The generator will use approximately 1500 gallons of propane per week. Associated amenities such as heat for tents and hot water production would require 200 gallons of propane per week. Generator would be utilized in 2016/2017 season and is intended to be replaced by appropriately sized transformer by NPS in fiscal year 2017.

Temporary fencing will be installed to define the Zamboni storage and operating area, secure the refrigeration/mechanical area, and define the fire pit area. Green snow fencing, as used at Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area, will be utilized and installed without digging to provide temporary fencing that can be moved to allow area clearing after weather events. A wooden landing will be relocated from the former ice rink to support the parking of the Zamboni when not in use.

Rubber flooring will be provided at the approximately 60' x 12' visitor entrance area on the south side of the rink. In addition, a 40' half circle of rubber flooring will be provided on the west side of the rink. A fire pit will be located on the west side of the rink as well.

The traffic pattern for the parking lot will allow for fire truck access on the south side of the rink allowing for one row of head-in parking north of existing historic tents.

C. Description of Previous Compliance Documentation

Decision Document Name: Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan

Decision Document PEPC ID: 18982

Decision Document Approval Date: Mar 31, 2014

D. Notes

- There must be a decibel test done by the NPS Safety Office for the generator intended for installation at this location.
- There must be bollards or rocks positioned for propane tank protection.
- Archeological spot monitoring may occur during ground disturbing activities (pole installation and wet tap).

E. Conclusion

I certify that the existing NPS NEPA document has been reviewed and there are no substantive differences between the current proposal and its associated environmental impacts and the proposal and impacts as described in the existing NEPA document and associated decision document.

Acting

Superintendent: //Woody Smeck//

Date: 11/10/16

Woody Smeck

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ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

Updated Sept 2015 per NPS NEPA Handbook

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: 2016-024 Merced River Plan Implementation: Half Dome Village - Temporary Ice Rink Installation
PEPC Project #: 66646
Project Type: Capital Improvement/New Construction (CI)
Project Location:
County, State: Mariposa, California
Project Leader: William Bryan

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	This area is within the Yosemite Valley Archeological District. Archeological spot monitoring may occur.
Cultural Ethnographic	None	No Ethnographic Sites have been recorded within the project area. Original scoping sent to Tribes in December 2009. A site visit was held

Environmental Screening Form (ESF) - Merced River Plan Implementation: Half Dome Village - Temporary Ice Rink Installation - PEPC ID: 66646

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Resources		on December 2, 2013. Project review letter sent on August 30, 2016. No comments or concerns have been received to date regarding the project.
Cultural Museum Collections	None	
Cultural Prehistoric/historic structures	None	
Geological Geologic Features	Potential	This project requires installment of three utility poles on the north side of the rink buried 6 ft. under the ground with 25 ft. above ground. This project also requires a digging in the parking lot to allow a "wet tap" connection to the water main under the parking lot.
Geological Geologic Processes	None	
Lightsapes Lightsapes	Potential	The utility poles on the south side of the ice rink will support 120 volt/70 watt high pressure sodium lights. The utility poles on the north side of the ice rink will support 208 volt/ 1000 watt quartz halogen tube lighting. These lights will be directed downward to light the rink and the surrounding service area and prevent excess light pollution.
Other Human Health and Safety	None	
Other Operational	Potential	The ice rink will be 60 ft. by 120 ft., half the size of the ice rink to be removed, altering the operational practices of the concessioner. The temporary ice rink model will require set-up and take down of most equipment and structures every season.
Other Other	Potential	A 100kW propane generator will be used to power the ice rink operations. Intercool Biogreen 40 will be used with ice making machinery.
Socioeconomic Land Use	Potential	The capacity of the concessioner parking lot will be temporarily reduced while the seasonal/tremporary ice rink is in place.
Socioeconomic Minority and low-income populations, size, migration patterns, etc.	None	
Soundscapes Soundscapes	Potential	With the sound system being moved from the former ice rink location to the current location, and the increased visitor concentraion in this area the noise levels in the temporary ice rink location will increase.
Viewsheds	Potential	The utility poles, lights, and ice rink are all closer to guest cabins and will cause temporary visual impacts while the seasonal/temporary ice

Environmental Screening Form (ESF) - Merced River Plan Implementation: Half Dome Village - Temporary Ice Rink Installation - PEPC ID: 66646

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Viewsheds		rink is in operation.
Visitor Use and Experience Recreation Resources	Potential	The seasonal/temporary ice rink will be half the size of the ice rink to be removed. Yosemite Hospitality may have to change methods of operation to meet the visitor demand for ice skating recreation.
Visitor Use and Experience Visitor Use and Experience		
Water Floodplains	None	
Water Marine or Estuarine Resources	None	
Water Water Quality or Quantity	None	
Water Wetlands	None	
Water Wild and Scenic River	Potential	The installation of the temporary/seasonal ice rink will allow the ice skating and services related to ice skating to be removed from the Merced River Corridor.
Wilderness Wilderness	None	

C. ESF ADDENDUM QUESTIONS:

Question	Answer	Notes
SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST		
Listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (Federal or State)?	No	
Species of special concern (Federal or State)?	No	
Park rare plants or vegetation?	No	
Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above?	No	

Question	Answer	Notes
NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST		
Entail ground disturbance?	Yes	This project requires installment of three utility poles on the north side of the rink buried 6 ft. under the ground with 25 ft. above ground. This project also requires a digging in the parking lot to allow a "wet tap" connection to the water main under the parking lot.
Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?	Yes	This area is within the Yosemite Valley Archeological District. Archeological spot monitoring may occur.
Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?	No	
Has a National Register form been completed?	No	
Are there any structures on the park's List of Classified Structures in the area of potential effect?	No	
WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST		
Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor?	No	
Fall within the bed and banks AND will affect the free-flow of the river?	No	
Have the possibility of affecting water quality of the area?	No	
Remain consistent with its river segment classification?		
Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River?	No	
Will the project encroach or intrude upon the Wild and Scenic River corridor?	No	
Will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values?	No	
WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST		
Within designated Wilderness?	No	
Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?	No	

Environmental Screening Form (ESF) - Merced River Plan Implementation: Half Dome Village - Temporary Ice Rink Installation - PEPC ID: 66646

Recommended:

Compliance Specialists	Date
<u>//Renea Kenec//</u> Compliance Specialist – Renea Kenec	<u>11/9/16</u>
<u>//Erin Davenport//</u> Compliance Program Manager – Erin Davenport	<u>11/10/16</u>
<u>//Ron Gaunt//</u> Chief, Project Management – Madelyn Ruffner	<u>11/10/16</u>

Approved:

Acting Superintendent	Date
<u>//Woody Smeck//</u> Woody Smeck	<u>11/10/16</u>

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ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. Park: Yosemite National Park

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

Yosemite Valley Archeological District, Yosemite Valley Historic District, Camp Curry Historic District

2. Project Description:

Project Name: 2016-024 Merced River Plan Implementation: Half Dome Village - Temporary Ice Rink Installation

Prepared by: Sara Dolan **Date Prepared:** 09/12/2016 **Telephone:** (209) 379-1308

PEPC Project Number: 66646

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

Historical Structures/Resources Affected:

Name and number(s): Yosemite Village Historic District

NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

Name and number(s): Camp Curry Historic District

NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

5. The proposed action will: (check as many as apply)

- No Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure
- No Replace historic features/elements in kind

- No Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure
- No Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)
Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting
- Yes 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: 9/30/2016

Comments: The structure is temporary and does not adversely effect historic resources in the project area.

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: 09/30/2016

Comments: No Ethnographic Sites have been recorded within the project area. Original scoping sent to Tribes in December 2009. A site visit was held on December 2, 2013. Project review letter sent on August 30, 2016. No comments or concerns have been received to date regarding the project.

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []
Assessment of Effect: No Potential to Cause Effect No Historic Properties
Affected No Adverse Effect Adverse Effect Streamlined Review
Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

[X] Archeologist
Name: Sara Dolan
Date: 09/12/2016

Comments: Archeological spot monitoring may occur during ground disturbing activities (pole installation and wet tap access to water line).

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: Archeological spot monitoring may occur.

[X] Historian

Name: Scott Carpenter

Date: 09/15/2016

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: 09/15/2016

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: 09/13/2016

Comments: Installation is temporary.

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:

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
- No Adverse Effect
- Adverse Effect

2. Documentation Method:

Assessment of Effect Form - Merced River Plan Implementation: Half Dome Village - Temporary Ice Rink Installation - PEPC ID: 66646

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: Merced River Plan

Explanation: This action is listed in the Merced River Plan Programmatic Agreement as a Category 3. The action was grouped with the relocation of the Curry Ice Rink, bike and raft rentals, and redesign of the area to accommodate a parking lot. The Yosemite Valley Historic District nomination lists the Ice Rink, 3 ice rink support sheds, and the ice rink parking lot as non-contributing resources that postdate the period of significance. The undertaking does not qualify for streamlined review under the 2008 Servicewide PA.

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.

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 - Archeology - Archeological spot monitoring may occur during ground disturbing activities (pole installation and wet tap).

Assessment of Effect Form - Merced River Plan Implementation: Half Dome Village - Temporary Ice Rink
Installation - PEPC ID: 66646

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

Historic Preservation Officer

Kimball Koch //Kimball Koch// **Date:** 11/9/16

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.

**Acting
Superintendent:** //Woody Smeck// **Date:** 11/10/16
Woody Smeck

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