



# 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:** Erin Davenport, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

**From:** Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

**Subject:** NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2017-026 Yosemite Valley Lodge Basecamp Remodel (2017 YH) (68522)

The Superintendent and park interdisciplinary team have reviewed the proposed project and completed an impact analysis and documentation, and 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:

- Final fire suppression design will be revised from the submittal received on October 3, 2017 in order to minimize the visual impact of the sprinkler system and avoid an adverse effect. Revision of the fire sprinkler plan is also necessary to eliminate “dead-end” piping as shown in the August 29, 2017 submittal. In order to ensure revised plans meet these goals, final design documents, including the full set of 100% CDs and the revised sprinkler plans need to be reviewed by either the park historical architect (position currently vacant) or the regional historical architect prior to approval to proceed with construction. Project will follow the Secretary of the Interior Standards to avoid adverse effects.

### Recommendations for Conditions or Stipulations:

Final fire suppression designs and 100% CDs will be submitted for NPS review to confirm that NPS recommendations have been incorporated.

Letter of Compliance Completion – 2017-026 Yosemite Valley Lodge Basecamp Remodel (2017 YH) - PEPC ID: 68522

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 68522.

//Sula Jacobs// acting deputy

Palmer L. Jenkins (Acting Superintendent)

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:** 2017-026 Yosemite Valley Lodge Basecamp Remodel (2017 YH)

**PEPC Project Number:** 68522

**Project Description:**

This project includes the rehabilitation of the Food Court at Yosemite Valley Lodge. The project will maximize operational efficiency for food service and office space. The goal is to improve customer experience and minimize wait times. It will decrease seating from 225 to approximately 189 seats in the food court and provide 176 overflow seating in the banquet room (Garden Terrace). The work will address deferred maintenance and component renewal.

1. Provide separate service counters for "Healthy," "International," grill, pizza, and coffee.
2. Convert retail shop and catering kitchen to coffee counter.
3. Create double door system at main entrance to reduce conditioned air loss
4. Isolate coffee counter entrance and queuing from other food and beverage service.
5. Replace electrical panels, replace fire alarm, repair/replace ridge beam.
6. Repair and replace finishes and equipment.
7. Meet fire, safety, accessibility, and operational safety and health code compliance.
8. Install lighting, motion sensors, sprinklers, fire alarms, etc. consistent with historic building code.
9. Remodel locker rooms/restrooms to meet accessibility standards.

This action will implement requirements of the concession contract CC-YOSE004-16 with Yosemite Hospitality LLC which began March 1, 2016. Construction is planned for winter 2017/spring 2018.

**Project Locations:**

Mariposa County, CA

**Mitigations:**

- Final fire suppression design will be revised from the submittal received on October 3, 2017 in order to minimize the visual impact of the sprinkler system and avoid an adverse effect. Revision of the fire sprinkler plan is also necessary to eliminate "dead-end" piping as shown in the August 29, 2017 submittal. In order to ensure revised plans meet these goals, final design documents, including the full set of 100% CDs and the revised sprinkler plans need to be reviewed by either the park historical architect (position currently vacant) or the regional historical architect prior to approval to proceed with construction. Project will follow the Secretary of the Interior Standards to avoid adverse effects.

**CE Citation:** C.8 Replacement in kind of minor structures and facilities with little or no change in location, capacity or appearance.

**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:** //Sula Jacobs// acting deputy      **Date:** 11/20/17  
Palmer L. Jenkins

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

**Extraordinary Circumstances:**

If implemented, would the proposal...	Yes/No	Notes
<b>A.</b> Have significant impacts on public health or safety?	No	
<b>B.</b> Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?	No	
<b>C.</b> Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?	No	
<b>D.</b> Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	No	
<b>E.</b> Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	No	
<b>F.</b> Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	No	
<b>G.</b> Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?	No	
<b>H.</b> Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?	No	
<b>I.</b> Violate a federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	No	
<b>J.</b> Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898)?	No	
<b>K.</b> Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 130007)?	No	
<b>L.</b> Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?	No	



## ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

Updated Sept 2015 per NPS NEPA Handbook

### A. PROJECT INFORMATION

**Project Title:** 2017-026 Yosemite Valley Lodge Basecamp Remodel (2017 YH)  
**PEPC Project Number:** 68522  
**Project Type:** Concessions (CON)  
**Project Location:**  
**County, State:** Mariposa, California  
**Project Leader:** Erin Davenport

### B. RESOURCE IMPACTS TO CONSIDER:

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
<b>Air</b> Air Quality	Potential	Temporary air emissions during the construction work.
<b>Biological</b> Nonnative or Exotic Species	None	
<b>Biological</b> Species of Special Concern or Their Habitat	None	
<b>Biological</b> Vegetation	None	
<b>Biological</b> Wildlife and/or Wildlife Habitat including terrestrial and aquatic species	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Archeological Resources	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Cultural Landscapes	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Ethnographic	None	

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Potential for Impact</b>	<b>Potential Issues &amp; Impacts</b>
Resources		
<b>Cultural</b> Museum Collections	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Historic structures	Potential	Final fire suppression design will be revised from the drawings received on October 3, 2017 in order to minimize visual impact of the sprinkler system and avoid an adverse effect. In order to ensure revised plans meet this goal, final design documents, including the full set of 100% CD and the revised sprinkler plans need to be reviewed by either the park historical architect (position currently vacant) or the regional historical architect prior to approval to proceed with construction. Project will follow the Secretary of the Interior Standards to avoid adverse effects.
<b>Geological</b> Geologic Features	None	
<b>Geological</b> Geologic Processes	None	
<b>Lightscares</b> Lightscares	None	
<b>Other</b> Human Health and Safety	None	Revision of the fire sprinkler plan is also necessary to eliminate “dead-end” piping as shown in the August 29, 2017 submittal.
<b>Other</b> Operational	Potential	The Basecamp Café will be temporarily closed during the remodel. This project will be done during the low visitation season to be the least disruptive.
<b>Socioeconomic</b> Land Use	None	
<b>Socioeconomic</b> Minority and low-income populations, size, migration patterns, etc.	None	
<b>Socioeconomic</b> Socioeconomic	None	
<b>Soundscapes</b> Soundscapes	Potential	Construction noises will temporarily occur during the remodel work.
<b>Viewsheds</b> Viewsheds	None	
<b>Visitor Use and Experience</b> Recreation	None	

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Resources		
<b>Visitor Use and Experience</b> Visitor Use and Experience	None	
<b>Water</b> Floodplains	None	
<b>Water</b> Marine or Estuarine Resources	None	
<b>Water</b> Water Quality or Quantity	None	
<b>Water</b> Wetlands	None	
<b>Water</b> Wild and Scenic River	None	
<b>Wilderness</b> Wilderness	None	

**Recommended:**

Compliance Specialists	Date
<u>//Renea Kennec//</u> Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec	<u>11/7/17</u>
<u>Madelyn Ruffner//</u> Compliance Program Manager – Madelyn Ruffner	<u>11/7/17</u>
<u>//Ron Gaunt//</u> Chief, Project Management – Ron Gaunt	<u>11/14/17</u>

**Approved:**

Superintendent	
<u>//Sula Jacobs// acting deputy</u> Palmer L. Jenkins (Acting Superintendent)	<u>11/20/17</u>

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





## ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

### A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

2. **Project Description:**

**Project Name:** 2017-026 Yosemite Valley Lodge Basecamp Remodel (2017 YH)

**Prepared by:** Erin Davenport    **Date Prepared:** 08/22/2017    **Telephone:** 209-379-1067

**PEPC Project Number:** 68522

**Locations:**

**County, State:** Mariposa, CA

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

Yosemite Lodge Historic District

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

       No

  X   Yes

**Source or reference:**

4. **Potentially Affected Resources:**

**Archeological Resources Affected:**

**Name and numbers:** Yosemite Valley Archeological District    LCS

**Cultural Resources Affected:** None

**Historical Structures/Resources Affected:** Yosemite Lodge Historic District

**Ethnographic Resources Affected:** None

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

  Yes   Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure

  Yes   Replace historic features/elements in kind

  Yes   Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure

       Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc.  
  No   terrain)

       Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to  
  No   a historic setting or cultural landscape

  No   Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible

No Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible  
No Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources  
Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting,  
No landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources  
Involve a real property transaction (exchange, sale, or lease of land or  
No 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: 10/24/2017

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:  
Doc Method: Standard 4-Step Process

---

[ X ] Anthropologist  
Name: Scott Carpenter  
Date: 10/11/2017  
Comments: All work is interior to building. No cultural or traditionally significant resources affected.

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

---

[ X ] Archeologist  
Name: Sara Dolan  
Date: 10/03/2017  
Comments: The proposed construction work is located outside the boundaries of known archeological sites and does involve no ground disturbance. There are no archeological concerns.

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

Assessment of Effect Form – 2017-026 Yosemite Valley Lodge Basecamp Remodel (2017 YH) - PEPC ID: 68522

---

[ X ] Historian

Name: Scott Carpenter

Date: 10/11/2017

Comments: Changes to and near historic fabric will be minimal and sympathetic to original design, materials, and appearance.

*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: Sueann Brown

Date: 10/20/2017

Comments: Some aspects of the design proposed in early documents, including the 50% CDs would have an adverse effect , including the proposed trash room and beverage station location. Those designs have been revised to reduce the impact on the dining area, however only two sheets of the final drawings have been provided for review. Proposed designs for the sprinkler system and track lighting in the dining room would also detract from the historic character of the space. Those designs are being revised to minimize their visual impact by relocating piping and lighting to the existing ceiling beams rather than creating a new grid between the beams..

*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: Final design should be revised as described above in order to maintain historic character and avoid an adverse effect. In order to ensure revised plans meet this goal, final design documents, including the full set of 100% CD and the revised sprinkler plans need to be reviewed by either the park historical architect (position currently vacant) or the regional historical architect prior to approval to proceed with construction.

Doc Method: Standard 4-Step Process

---

[ X ] Historical Landscape Architect

Name: Kimball Koch

Date: 09/25/2017

*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:

Doc Method: Standard 4-Step Process

---

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

---

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

Assessment of Effect Form – 2017-026 Yosemite Valley Lodge Basecamp Remodel (2017 YH) - PEPC ID: 68522

**1. Assessment of Effect:**

☐ No Potential to Cause Effects  
☐ No Historic Properties Affected  
☒ No Adverse Effect  
☐ Adverse Effect

**2. Documentation Method:**

☒ A. STANDARD 36 CFR PART 800 CONSULTATION

Further consultation under 36 CFR Part 800 is needed.

☐ 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.

☐ E. Combined NEPA/NHPA Process

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:**

12/23/2016 NPS – Initiate consultation under 1999 Programmatic Agreement and request concurrence on eligibility of the property

2/3/2017 SHPO – Concurred with the determination of eligibility and the determination of the area of potential effects

6/5/2017 NPS – Notification of consultation under standard review process and request review of schematic design documents

8/2/2017 NPS – Request concurrence on identification of historic properties, and review of draft historic structures report and 50% design drawings

10/19/2017 NPS – Request expedited review (14-day, ending November 2) of assessment of no adverse effects

11/13/2017 NPS – Notification of the park's intentions to complete compliance on November 20 (after 30-day review period) and commence construction

### **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.**

Final fire suppression designs and 100% CDs will be submitted for NPS review to confirm that NPS recommendations have been incorporated.

### **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:**

**Section 106 Coordinator:**

Kimball

Koch

//Kimball Koch//

**Date:** 11/13/17

**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:** //Sula Jacobs// acting deputy

**Date:** 11/20/17

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