



# 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: Greg Stock, Project Manager, Resources Management and Science, Yosemite National Park

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: Notice to Proceed, 2007-100 Yosemite Valley Ahwahnee Hotel Rockfall Monitoring Camera Installation

Your proposed project 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 E (6) - *Non-destructive data collection, inventory (including field, aerial, and satellite surveying and mapping), study, research, and monitoring activities.*

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 any conditions that may be stipulated in the enclosed *Categorical Exclusion Form* and associated documents when implementing this project.

//R. Kevin Cann// Acting

Michael J. Tollefson

09/28/07

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.*

## Categorical Exclusion

(Version: OCT06)

Compliance Tracking Number: 2007-100

PEPC Project Number: 19688

### A. PROJECT INFORMATION

**Title:** Yosemite Valley Ahwahnee Hotel Rockfall Monitoring Camera Installation

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

**Project Manager:** Greg Stock, Resources Management and Science, Yosemite National Park

### B. COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION

This project 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 (NEPA) analysis under Categorical Exclusion: DO12 3.4 E (6) - *Non-destructive data collection, inventory (including field, aerial, and satellite surveying and mapping), study, research, and monitoring activities.*

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 negligible 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):

- Environmental Screening Form*
- Preservation Assessment Form (YOSE-XXX)*
- Wilderness Minimum Requirement Analysis*
- Wild and Scenic River Section 7 Determination*
- 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.*

//R. Kevin Cann// Acting

Michael J. Tollefson, Superintendent

09/28/07

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.*

## Environmental Screening Form

(Version: NOV06)

Compliance Tracking Number: 2007-100

PEPC Project Number: 19688

### A. PROJECT INFORMATION

**Title:** Yosemite Valley Ahwahnee Hotel Rockfall Monitoring Camera Installation

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

**Project Manager:** Greg Stock, Resources Management and Science, Yosemite National Park

### B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND

This project proposes to install a camera at the top of the Ahwahnee Hotel to monitor rockfalls from the cliffs below Glacier Point and above Curry Village. These cliffs have produced numerous rockfalls in the past decade that have injured park employees and visitors (including one fatality) and have damaged structures at Curry Village. The Yosemite Valley Plan identifies rockfall monitoring as an important component in managing exposure to geologic hazards. In support of this goal, this project would install a video camera that would constantly monitor the cliffs below Glacier Point. Although still photographs exist of rockfalls in Yosemite Valley, there are very few video clips of these events. More importantly, there are none that capture the full event, particularly the moments just before and during rockfall release. In the event of a rockfall from Glacier Point, the resulting image and audio data captured by the camera would be used to fully document the rockfall, including the release point location, mode of failure, volume of material released, and, possibly, the rockfall triggering mechanism. The data could also be used to quickly and safely assess the area(s) subjected to rockfall impact.

The camera type would very likely be similar to existing web cameras in Yosemite Valley. It would be housed in a weatherproof container roughly 30 x 10 x 10 inches. The camera would feed data to a hard drive located in the building via a data cable, and the hard drive in turn would be connected to the park intranet via an ethernet connection that would be password protected. The data would be stored for ~5-7 days, after which time it would be overwritten, i.e., there would be no long-term data storage. Camera image and audio data would be for internal use only. Although the primary purpose of the camera would be to monitor rockfall activity, it could also be used to monitor processes such as air quality, smoke dispersal, etc. The resolution of the camera would not be high enough to identify individuals at Glacier Point.

Requirements for the installation site include an unobstructed view of Glacier Point, AC power, a high-speed internet connection, a protective structure, and relative security. A small outside landing at the top of the Ahwahnee Hotel (near the top of the elevator shaft) meets all of these requirements. This area is very secure behind a locked door. The landing at the top of the Ahwahnee presently houses two large antennas and a small satellite dish used by Delaware North. The landing has large eaves that overhang and would provide protection for the camera from rain and snow. The northeastern corner of the landing underneath the eaves presents the best setting for the camera, as it is protected and has an unobstructed view of Glacier Point.

There would be no structural modifications to the Ahwahnee Hotel associated with this project. The camera could either be clamped to an existing handrail that extends around the landing, or placed on a small tripod that could be similarly secured. Wires connecting the camera to the hard drive would join cables associated with the satellite dish and enter the building through existing holes. The hard drive could be situated in the old kitchen on the sixth floor, joining existing satellite dish equipment. The camera would not be easily seen from the ground near the Ahwahnee or from Glacier Point. As

recommended by the park's Historical Architect, the camera housing would be painted brown and be installed as low as possible to decrease visibility.

The Park History, Architecture and Landscape (HAL) staff have reviewed this proposal and conducted a site visit. They do not recognize any potential impacts to the Ahwahnee Hotel structure or its historic values. HAL staff would be involved in the installation. DNC management have also indicated their support of this project. The camera would be in place for a pilot phase of 3 years.

**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"/>	History, Architecture and Landscape staff.
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ahwahnee Hotel map; 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"/>	Photos of the proposed site; 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Water quality or quantity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Stream flow characteristics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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 National Park is a World Heritage site; no historic properties would be adversely affected by implementing this project; see Section F, National Historic Preservation Act Checklist, below.
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"/>	The assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see Section F, National Historic Preservation Act Checklist, below.
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"/>	Long term management of resources includes rockfall monitoring.
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: the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see Section F, National Historic Preservation Act Checklist, below.
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; the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see Section F, National Historic Preservation Act Checklist, below.
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:**

1. 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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 there a historic property (a building, structure, feature, or all or any part of an archeological district or site, or a historic district or site, or any associated landscape element) that is listed or eligible for listing on the <i>National Register</i> ?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Ahwahnee Hotel; the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see the attached XXX.
5. Is there a National Historic Landmark?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Ahwahnee Hotel National Historical Landmark; this project will not affect the historic fabric or have any visual impact.
6. Is there a structure(s) on the park's <i>List of Classified Structures</i> ?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Ahwahnee Hotel.
7. Is there any cultural resource requiring an evaluation of eligibility as a historic property under NHPA, Section 106, before an affect determination can be made?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8. Would there be alteration of any historic property or associated landscape element covered by 2-7, above?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
If "yes" to <u>any</u> of the above, then an Assessment of Effects form (YOSE-XXX) must be completed and attached.				
<b>Mitigations and Conditions:</b>				
1. None				

**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"/>	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. Diminish or other wise change the values for which the river was designated as a Wild and Scenic River? If "yes", explain.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5a. Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5b. If 5a is "yes", will the project affect the Wild and Scenic River corridor?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
5c. If 5a 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, 5b, or 5c, 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:**

DO12 3.4 E (6) - *Non-destructive data collection, inventory (including field, aerial, and satellite surveying and mapping), study, research, and monitoring activities.*

**Project Mitigations and Conditions:**

**1. None**

*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.*

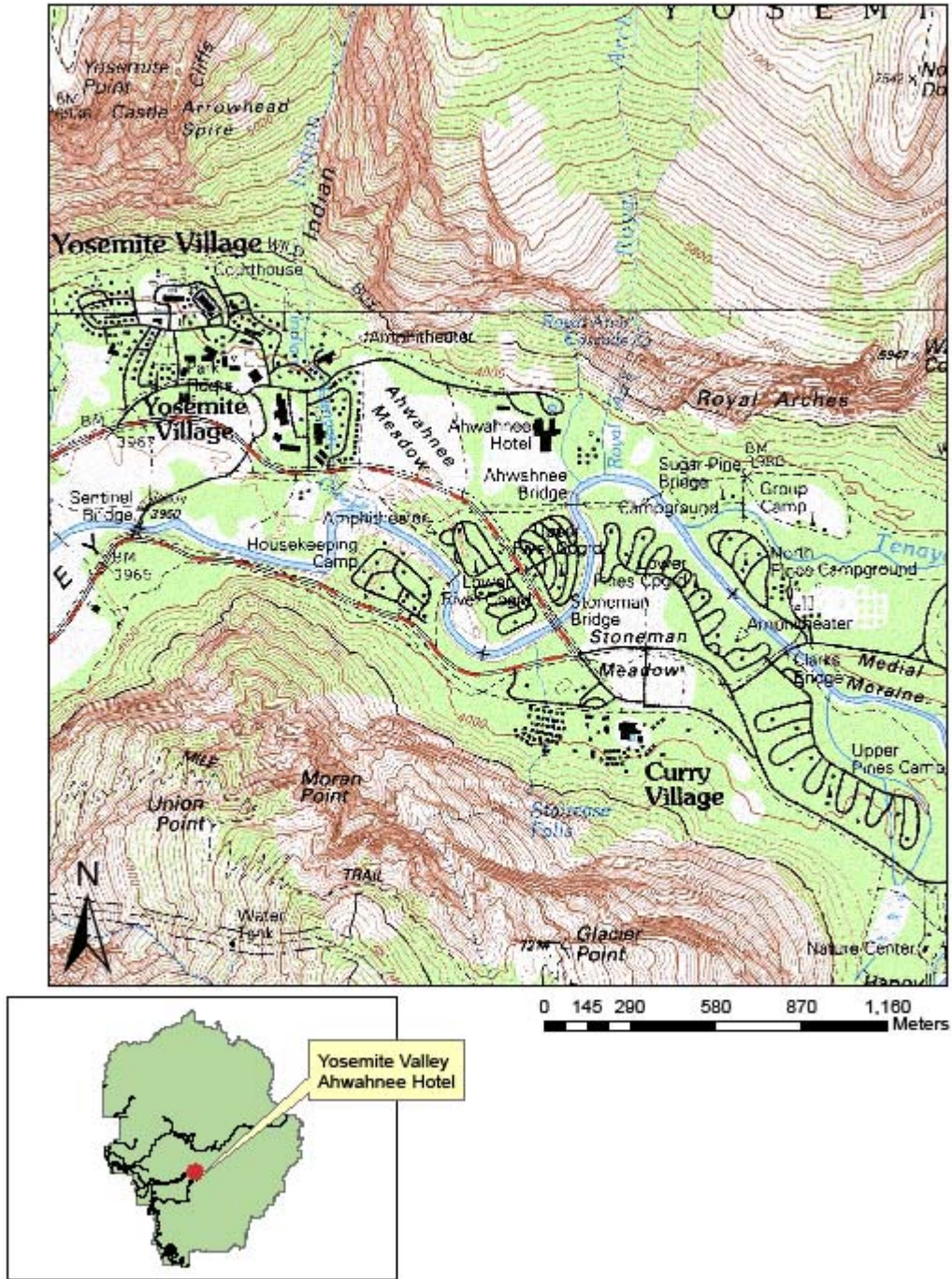
*// Renea Kenmec // Acting* *09/18/07*  
**Compliance Specialist** **Date**

*//Mark A. Butler//* *09/19/07*  
**Compliance Program Manager** **Date**

*//Bill Delaney//* *09/27/07*  
**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



Ahwahnee Hotel

Attachment B



Proposed camera location





## Preservation Assessment Form (YOSE XXX)

(Version: AUG06)

Compliance Tracking Number: 2007-100

PEPC Project Number: 19688

### A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

**Title:** Yosemite Valley Ahwahnee Hotel Rockfall Monitoring Camera Installation

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

Yosemite Valley, Mariposa County, California

Ahwahnee Hotel

**Project Manager:** Greg Stock, Resources Management and Science, Yosemite National Park

**Project Description:** This project proposes to install a camera at the top of the Ahwahnee Hotel to monitor rockfalls from the cliffs below Glacier Point and above Curry Village. These cliffs have produced numerous rockfalls in the past decade that have injured park employees and visitors (including one fatality) and have damaged structures at Curry Village. The Yosemite Valley Plan identifies rockfall monitoring as an important component in managing exposure to geologic hazards. In support of this goal, this project would install a video camera that would constantly monitor the cliffs below Glacier Point. Although still photographs exist of rockfalls in Yosemite Valley, there are very few video clips of these events. More importantly, there are none that capture the full event, particularly the moments just before and during rockfall release. In the event of a rockfall from Glacier Point, the resulting image and audio data captured by the camera would be used to fully document the rockfall, including the release point location, mode of failure, volume of material released, and, possibly, the rockfall triggering mechanism. The data could also be used to quickly and safely assess the area(s) subjected to rockfall impact.

The camera type would very likely be similar to existing web cameras in Yosemite Valley. It would be housed in a weatherproof container roughly 30 x 10 x 10 inches. The camera would feed data to a hard drive located in the building via a data cable, and the hard drive in turn would be connected to the park intranet via an ethernet connection that would be password protected. The data would be stored for ~5-7 days, after which time it would be overwritten, i.e., there would be no long-term data storage. Camera image and audio data would be for internal use only. Although the primary purpose of the camera would be to monitor rockfall activity, it could also be used to monitor processes such as air quality, smoke dispersal, etc. The resolution of the camera would not be high enough to identify individuals at Glacier Point.

Requirements for the installation site include an unobstructed view of Glacier Point, AC power, a high-speed internet connection, a protective structure, and relative security. A small outside landing at the top of the Ahwahnee Hotel (near the top of the elevator shaft) meets all of these requirements. This area is very secure behind a locked door. The landing at the top of the Ahwahnee presently houses two large antennas and a small satellite dish used by Delaware North. The landing has large eaves that overhang and would provide protection for the camera from rain and snow. The northeastern corner of the landing underneath the eaves presents the best setting for the camera, as it is protected and has an unobstructed view of Glacier Point.

There would be no structural modifications to the Ahwahnee Hotel associated with this project. The camera could either be clamped to an existing handrail that extends around the landing, or placed on a

small tripod that could be similarly secured. Wires connecting the camera to the hard drive would join cables associated with the satellite dish and enter the building through existing holes. The hard drive could be situated in the old kitchen on the sixth floor, joining existing satellite dish equipment. The camera would not be easily seen from the ground near the Ahwahnee or from Glacier Point. As recommended by the park's Historical Architect, the camera housing would be painted brown and be installed as low as possible to decrease visibility.

The Park History, Architecture and Landscape (HAL) staff have reviewed this proposal and conducted a site visit. They do not recognize any potential impacts to the Ahwahnee Hotel structure or its historic values. HAL staff would be involved in the installation. DNC management have also indicated their support of this project. The camera would be in place for a pilot phase of 3 years.

<b>1. Attached Sensitive Information**</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Explanation/Source/Notes</b>
a. Maps	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
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 Ahwahnee Hotel National Historical Landmark.
a. Would the proposed action affect a known historic property?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

2. List all Historic Properties in the Area of Potential Effect:	Affected?		Explanation/Notes
	Yes	No	
a. Ahwahnee Hotel National Historical Landmark.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This project will not effect the historic fabric or have any visual impacts.
b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

3. List resources in the Area of Potential Effect to which American Indians attach cultural and religious significance:	Affected?		Explanation/Notes
	Yes	No	
a.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	APE is in the National Historic Landmark
b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

4. The proposed action will:	Yes	No	N/A	Explanation/Note
• 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This project will not effect the historic fabric or have any visual impacts.
• Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (including terrain)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Add nonhistoric features/elements (including visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• 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 checked="" 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:

<Enter Information or Delete>

Checklist prepared by: Jeannette Simons

Date: 08/07/07

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 *Service-wide 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: 08/08/07

Comments:

Ground Disturbance Involved      Yes:       No:

Assessment of Effect: **No Effect**

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Archeologist: //Laura Kirn//

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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:

Comments:

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

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Curator: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Historian**

Name: **Charles Palmer**

Date:

Comments:

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

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Historian: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Historical Architect**

Name: **Sueann Brown**

Date: 08/08/07

Comments: Proposed location OK, considered placing lower if possible

Assessment of Effect: **No Adverse Effect**

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Historical Architect: //Sueann Brown//

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**Historical Landscape Architect**

Name: **Dave Humphrey**

Date: 08/08/07

Comments: None

Assessment of Effect: **No Adverse Effect**

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Historical Landscape Architect: //David T. Humphrey//

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**Preservation Specialist**

Name: **Rod Kenec**

Date: 08/08/07

Comments:

Assessment of Effect: **No Adverse Effect**

Recommended Conditions: Recommended Conditions

Signature of Preservation Specialist: //Rod Kenec//

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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's 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:** 08/09/07  
Chief of Resources Management & Science Division

- 2. 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:

<Choose Type of Undertaking>

**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:** <Enter Agreement Information>

**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.

**3. Assessment of Effects: <Choose Effect>**

**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. None, but see Historical Architect comment.

**Recommended by Park Section 106 Coordinator:**

Name: **Jeannette Simons**

Title: **Historic Preservation Officer**

Signature: //Jeannette Simons// Date: 08/13/07

**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:** //R. Kevin Cann// Acting **Date:** 09/28/07

Michael J. Tollefson

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