



Letter of Compliance Completion

A PDF text file of the project's approved environmental compliance package containing the letter of compliance completion, categorical exclusion form, environmental screening form, and any other associated environmental clearance forms, as applicable (e.g., Wilderness Minimum Requirement Analysis, Wild and Scenic River Section 7 Analysis). The signed originals of the package are on file in the Environmental Planning and Compliance Office at Yosemite National Park.

To: Rick Hall, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Cicely Muldoon, Acting Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2020_063 FM Yosemite Valley Generator Hub (PEPC: 94223)

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 to historic properties.
- 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.

Required Mitigations - For the proposed project actions to be within compliance requirements during construction and/or project implementation, the following mitigations must be adhered to:

- A tribal monitor is required during any digging including installation of connection lines and footings.
- Measures shall be taken to prevent the introduction of exotic species in the project area and staging areas. All earth moving equipment must enter the park free of dirt, dust, mud, seeds, or other potential contaminant. Examples of equipment that require inspection are excavators, skid steers, or boring equipment. Passenger vehicles do not need inspection but should be clean prior to entry in the park. Equipment exhibiting any dirt or other material attached to frame, tires, wheels, or other parts shall be thoroughly cleaned by the Contractor before entering the park. Areas inspected shall include, but not be limited to, tracks, track guard/housings, belly pans/under covers, buckets, rippers, and other attachments. Equipment that does not pass inspection will be turned around to the nearest cleaning facility outside the park. The Contractor shall notify the Construction manager at least two workdays (not including weekends) prior to bringing any equipment into the park. Equipment found to have entered the park with potential contaminants will be removed from the park at the direction of the Contracting Officer at Contractor's sole expense.
- If previously unknown archeological resources are discovered during construction, all work in the immediate vicinity (600 feet) of the discovery shall be halted until the resources are identified and documented and an appropriate mitigation strategy developed, if necessary, in accordance with pertinent laws and regulations, including the stipulations of the 2008 Programmatic Agreement Among the National Park Service (U.S.

Department of the Interior), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers.

Acting Superintendent: Cicely Muldoon **Date:** July 14, 2020

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Categorical Exclusion Documentation Form (CE Form)

Project: Yosemite Valley Generator Hub

PEPC Project Number: 94223

Description of Action (Project Description):

The proposed project is to create a generator hub in order to provide backup electrical power service to the Yosemite Valley when a power outage occurs. Currently, when commercial power is lost in Yosemite Valley establishing backup power is extremely costly and time consuming. Delays restoring power negatively impact emergency communications, government housing, park offices, and guest services.

The proposed project will create one central space for one large mobile generator to be trucked into the park and connected to a switch gear box and step-up transformer (situated on new concrete pad) to restore power. The hub will be located between the existing Valley substation and the building immediately to the east (current park offices). This area has been extensively impacted by previous construction and utility trenching. Equipment and materials staging for this construction effort is anticipated to occur in the vicinity of the job site on existing paved surfaces.

Project scope: • New concrete pad approximately 4-feet by 8-feet by 6-inches deep • Removal of four pine trees ranging in diameter from 12-inches to 24-inches • Installation of underground electrical conduits. Trenching estimate: 18-24 inches deep spanning 2-3 feet across running from new transformer and switch to substation • Removal of existing storage shed (contents to be relocated to other existing storage facilities in the Valley) • Switch Gear Box, metal enclosure approx. 3'x4'x3', painted green or grey • Step-Up Transformer, metal enclosure approx. 3'x4'x3', painted green or grey.

All repairs and improvements shall be completed in accordance with the California Public Utilities Commission General Order 95, Rules for Overhead Electric Line Construction (https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/gos/GO95/go_95_startup_page.html).

Mitigation(s):

- A tribal monitor is required during any digging including installation of connection lines and footings.
- Measures shall be taken to prevent the introduction of exotic species in the project area and staging areas. All earth moving equipment must enter the park free of dirt, dust, mud, seeds, or other potential contaminant. Examples of equipment that require inspection are excavators, skid steers, or boring equipment. Passenger vehicles do not need inspection but should be clean prior to entry in the park. Equipment exhibiting any dirt or other material attached to frame, tires, wheels, or other parts shall be thoroughly cleaned by the Contractor before entering the park. Areas inspected shall include, but not be limited to, tracks, track guard/housings, belly pans/under covers, buckets, rippers, and other attachments. Equipment that does not pass inspection will be turned around to the nearest cleaning facility outside the park. The Contractor shall notify the Construction manager at least two workdays (not including weekends) prior to bringing any equipment into the park. Equipment found to have entered the park with potential contaminants will be removed from the park at the direction of the Contracting Officer at Contractor's sole expense.
- If previously unknown archeological resources are discovered during construction, all work in the immediate vicinity (600 feet) of the discovery shall be halted until the resources are identified and documented and an appropriate mitigation strategy developed, if necessary, in accordance with pertinent laws and regulations, including the stipulations of the 2008 Programmatic Agreement Among the

National Park Service (U.S. Department of the Interior), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers.

CE Citation: C.18 Construction of minor structures, including small improved parking lots, in previously disturbed or developed areas.

CE Justification: Hub is being located in previously disturbed, developed “back of house” area of the park.

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.

Acting

Superintendent: Cicely Muldoon

Date: July 14, 2020

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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	



ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

2. **Project Description:** See Categorical Exclusion form.

Project Name: Yosemite Valley Generator Hub

Prepared by: Laura Stevens **Date Prepared:** 04/13/2020 **Telephone:** (209) 379-1303

PEPC Project Number: 94223

Locations:

County, State: Mariposa, CA

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

The hub will be located between the existing Valley sub-station to the west and the building immediately to the east (current park wildlife offices). To the north is a government and concessionaire-only access road that is bordered by dense vegetation further to the north. The sub-station is a modern building and the building to the east is a resources management office that was constructed in approximately 1946 but was not determined to be a contributing building to the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The next closest building is the Concessionaire Warehouse, which is 60 feet to the southeast and is being proposed as a contributing building to the historic district amendment in process. The project area has been extensively impacted by previous construction and utility trenching. Equipment and materials staging for this work is anticipated to occur within the job site on existing paved surfaces.

The estimated horizontal and vertical extent of ground disturbance varies based on the type of work involved, with a maximum of 24 inches deep for trenching underground conduit:

- New rectangular concrete pad approximately 4 feet by 7 feet by 6 inches deep.
- Switch Gear Box, metal enclosure approx. 3 feet by 4 feet x 3 feet deep.
- Step-Up Transformer, metal enclosure approximately 3 feet by 4 feet by 3 feet deep.
- Removal of four pine trees ranging in diameter from 12-inches to 24-inches, with stumps cut flush with the ground surface.
- Trenching for installation of underground conduits 18-24 inches deep spanning 2-3 feet across running from the new transformer and switch to the substation.
- Removal of existing storage shed with minimal scraping to remove associated components.
- The maximum height of any project component is 6 feet tall, which will be visible from 30-40 feet from the project area due to existing visual obstructions (e.g., buildings, trees).

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 Present: Yes

Property Name: Yosemite Valley Archeological District **LCS:**

Archeological Resources Notes: The project area was archeologically surveyed in 1974, 1985, and 2015, with construction monitoring in 1988 and 2015. The area has been heavily developed with multiple buildings, paved areas, and utilities. This includes construction of the electrical substation in 1988, upgrades to various roads, and installation of multiple storage sheds and a building used by Resources Management and Science. The location is within the ethnographic village of Ah-wah'-ne, which was identified by C. Hart Merriam in 1917 during discussions with native people in Yosemite Valley. The village is thought to be represented by multiple archeological sites, including CA-MRP-0056/61/196/298/299/300/301/1816/H. This site is located approximately 50 m south of the project area.

Historical Structures/Resources Present: Yes

Historical Structures/Resources Notes: The Fort is a contributing building to the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The concessioner warehouse is a proposed contributing building to the draft Yosemite Valley Historic District nomination amendment current in process.

Cultural Landscapes Present: Yes

Property Name: Yosemite Valley Historic District **LCS:**

Ethnographic Resources Present: Yes

Ethnographic Resources Notes: The location is within the ethnographic village of Ah-wah'-ne, which was identified by C. Hart Merriam in 1917 during discussions with native people in Yosemite Valley. The village is thought to be represented by multiple archeological sites, including CA-MRP-0056/61/196/298/299/300/301/1816/H. This site is located approximately 50 meters south of the project area.

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)
- 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
- No 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: Madelyn Ruffner

Date: 04/21/2020

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

[X] Anthropologist

Name: Liz Williams

Date: 04/14/2020

Comments: On July 7, 2020, AICMC tribal chair, Bill Leonard, requested a tribal monitor during any digging required for this project including installation of connection lines and footings.

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

[X] Archeologist

Name: Wesley Wills

Date: 03/24/2020

Comments: The project area is within the Yosemite Valley Archeological District. The project area was archeologically surveyed in 1974, 1985, and 2015, with construction monitoring in 1988 and 2015. The area has been heavily developed with multiple buildings, paved areas, and utilities. This includes construction of the electrical substation in 1988, upgrades to various roads, and installation of multiple storage sheds and a building used by Resources Management and Science. The location is within the ethnographic village of Ahwahne, which was identified by C. Hart Merriam in 1917 during discussions with native people in Yosemite Valley. The village is thought to be represented by multiple archeological sites, including CA-MRP-0056/61/196/298/299/300/301/1816/H. This site is located approximately 50 m south of previous construction monitoring in this location found out-of-context refuse from the historic period and no prehistoric materials. Based on the results of this work the CA-MRP-0056/H site boundaries were not extended further north. Since the area has been heavily disturbed in the historic and modern eras, previous archeological construction monitoring in this location did not identify intact cultural materials, and the only identified materials were limited to minimal historical refuse in disturbed contexts, no additional archeological work is planned as part of this undertaking.

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

Historian

Name: Scott Carpenter

Date: 04/14/2020

Comments: Area previously disturbed with trenching, grading, and installation of non-historic structures in close proximity. No direct setting or actions to historic buildings or structures, no Historical Architect review required.

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

Historical Landscape Architect

Name: Vida Germano

Date: 04/21/2020

Comments: The installation is in an area that is not highly visible.

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, Historical Architect, 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:

A. Standard 36 CFR Part 800 Consultation

Further consultation under 36 CFR Part 800 is needed.

B. Streamlined Review Under the 2008 Service wide Programmatic Agreement (PA)

The above action meets all conditions for a streamlined review under section III of the 2008 Service wide PA for Section 106 compliance.

Applicable Streamlined Review Criteria

(Specify 1-16 of the list of streamlined review criteria.)

C. Undertaking Related to Park Specific or Another Agreement

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under another document such as a park, region or statewide agreement established in accord with 36 CFR 800.7 or 36 CFR 800.14.

D. Combined NEPA/NHPA Process

Process and documentation required for the preparation of an EA/FONSI or an EIS/ROD to comply with Section 106 is in accord with 36 CFR 800.8.c.

E. Memo to Project File

3. Consultation Information

SHPO Required: Yes

SHPO Sent: May 5, 2020

SHPO Received: Jun 19, 2020

THPO Required: Yes

THPO Sent: Mar 5, 2020

THPO Received: Jul 7, 2020

SHPO/THPO Notes: On July 7, 2020, AICMC tribal chair, Bill Leonard, requested a tribal monitor during any digging required for this project including installation of connection lines and footings.

Advisory Council Participating: No

Advisory Council Notes:

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.

A tribal monitor shall be present during any digging required for this project including installation of connection lines and footings.

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.)

Required Mitigations - For the proposed project actions to be within compliance requirements during construction and/or project implementation, the following mitigations must be adhered to:

- A tribal monitor is required during any digging including installation of connection lines and footings.
- If previously unknown archeological resources are discovered during construction, all work in the immediate vicinity (600 feet) of the discovery shall be halted until the resources are identified and documented and an appropriate mitigation strategy developed, if necessary, in accordance with pertinent laws and regulations, including the stipulations of the 2008 Programmatic Agreement Among the National Park Service (U.S. Department of the Interior), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers.

6. Assessment of Effect Notes:

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

NHPA Specialist Madelyn Ruffner

July 13, 2020

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 Cicely Muldoon

July 14, 2020

Superintendent: _____ **Date:** _____

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