



Letter of Compliance Completion

To: Josh Keyes

From: Cicely Muldoon

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.

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2020_011 Ahwahnee Concierge Redecoration (2018 YH) (PEPC: 81792)

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:

- The SHPO and regional historical architect recommended that the park avoid the use of wall-mount brackets for the installation of televisions and continue to have televisions placed on top of the furniture. While use of wall-mounting brackets would be reversible, avoiding this action would reduce the effects to this National Historic Landmark building by limiting penetrations of the historic plastered walls.
- (From HSR) Consult with a conservator to test methods for removing the paint from the cast stone at the Tudor Lounge and Tresidder Room fireplaces. If the paint can be removed without damaging the cast stone, then remove the paint. If paint removal would cause extensive damage to the cast stone, then repaint to the historic color of the cast stone. Consult with a conservator to test methods for removing the paint from the brick at the Colonial Room fireplace. If the paint can be removed without damaging the brick, then remove the paint. If paint removal would cause extensive damage to the brick, then repaint to the historic color of the brick.

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Superintendent: _____ **Date:** _____
Cicely Muldoon



Categorical Exclusion Documentation Form (CE Form)

Project: Ahwahnee Concierge Redecoration (2018 YH)(YOSE 2020_011)

PEPC Project Number: 81792

Description of Action (Project Description):

JUSTIFICATION: The South Mezzanine Rooms at the Ahwahnee Hotel are typically refurbished when updates are needed to improve the guest experience per the business practices of the current concessioner. Just as the guest rooms were updated in 2017-18, the South Mezzanine rooms are proposed to be updated. The proposed undertaking would include the refurbishment of the spaces consistent with the treatment recommendations in the Ahwahnee Historic Furnishings Report (ARG 2011) and the Ahwahnee Historic Structure Report (ARG 2011). Yosemite Hospitality has contracted with Kollath McCann Creative Services for the design.

SCOPE:

- Carpet - Tudor Lounge custom-designed carpet inspired by the geometric flat-woven Turkish/Persian kilims.
- Paint - Matte ivory walls and ceilings will amplify the available, indirect light, making the space appear brighter and more inviting.
- Casework - The face of the new concierge desk in the Tudor Lounge will repeat the unique baluster design of the adjacent balcony rail. The Tresidder Room was once the hotel's game room. The unique design of the hotel's original ping-pong table is reflected in the customized tea table (fabricated to a standard banquet size), the five console or "sofa" tables, and the bases of both the "Business Center" and concierge storage armoire. Three 8' wide base cabinets each feature locking under-counter refrigeration, offering maximum flexibility for daily tea service, special events, and conferences. Durable granite countertops with backsplash reflect the walls of the valley itself.
- Metalwork - Custom-designed, glass top steel cocktail and coffee tables repeat design motifs from the hotel's original chandeliers. An echo of the basket displays in the Great Lounge, the new custom-designed display case repeats details from the steel tables, capped with a 5-sided acrylic cube which will display a large, open weave Miwok fishing basket, currently in storage. All-season metal tables and chairs on the four balconies will provide new, welcoming spaces for guests.
- Lighting - Steel floor and table lamps with drum shades have the weight and heft of original fixtures. Even outfitted with low-wattage, energy efficient bulbs, the effect of the light from these lamps, combined with a fresh coat of paint, will be transformative. All reserve property lamps that are currently in the possession/keep of YH are in use in the first floor open spaces. No candelabras are in the 6th floor Library Suite as stated in the HFR/HSR.
- Upholstery - Because the large kilim-pattern on the floor will dominate, a solid color, textured, high-performance (stain and abrasion resistant) upholstery goods in colors that complement the carpet design will be installed. When upholstered furniture "fails," armrests are the first to stain and fray. Since the wooden arms of the

Stickley wingbacks dramatically increase the life of the upholstery, sofa and lounge chairs for the Tresidder Room with exposed wooden frames and arms have been selected.

- Windows - The lined, fringed draperies added to the windows in the early 90s block light and views. These will be removed along with the valances, repairing plaster holes, and adding simple light-filtering sheers with baton pulls (similar to the sheers added to the hotel's guest rooms).
- Fireplaces - Fireplaces will be retained for future study to determine original style and to be addressed in a larger restoration project.

Colors, patterns, and textures proposed are consistent with the period of significance.

Mitigation(s):

- The SHPO and regional historical architect recommended that the park avoid the use of wall-mount brackets for the installation of televisions and continue to have televisions placed on top of the furniture. While use of wall-mounting brackets would be reversible, avoiding this action would reduce the effects to this National Historic Landmark building by limiting penetrations of the historic plastered walls.
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CE Citation: C.4 Routine maintenance and repairs to cultural resource sites, structures, utilities and grounds under an approved Historic Structures Preservation Guide or Cyclic Maintenance Guide; or if the action would not adversely affect the cultural resource.

CE Justification:

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.

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Superintendent:

Date:

Cicely Muldoon

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 13007)?	No	
L. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?	No	



ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

Updated Sept 2015 per NPS NEPA Handbook

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Ahwahnee Concierge Redecoration (2018 YH)
PEPC Project Number:	81792
Project Type:	Routine Maintenance (ROU)
Project Leader:	Josh Keyes

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

See Categorical Exclusion Form.

C. 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	None	

Cultural Cultural Landscapes	None	
Cultural Ethnographic Resources	None	
Cultural Museum Collections <i>Government assigned property</i>	Potential	Issue: There is government assigned property that is part of the historic furnishings collection in this area of the Ahwahnee. Furthermore, there are historic furnishings that were originally in these spaces that are currently in storage. The project scope did not include refurbishing items in storage. Plans for retention, restoring, and otherwise following the HFR recommendations are included in the following attachment: 08062019 Project Proposal Concierge.pdf
Cultural Prehistoric/historic structures <i>Ahwahnee National Historic Landmark</i>	Potential	Issue: The HFR and HSR were consulted for the development and refinement of this project proposal. In particular, the color pallet for the chairs, carpet, and paint was updated to be more consistent used throughout the rest of the building and in the original historic furnishing design. While carpets are not original to the rooms included in this proposal, the HSR acknowledges that carpets may be necessary to address acoustic requirements for this space. Finally, the change in use for this area from an underused and unspecified purpose to a guest lounge is compatible with the historic use for the area and will have the added benefit of improving the guest experience by providing a more inviting space for necessary services.
Geological Geologic Features	None	
Geological Geologic Processes	None	
Lightsapes Lightsapes	None	
Other Human Health and Safety	None	
Other Operational	None	
Other Other	None	
Socioeconomic Land Use	None	
Socioeconomic Minority and low- income populations, size, migration patterns, etc.	None	

Socioeconomic Socioeconomic	None	
Soundscapes Soundscapes	None	
Viewsheds Viewsheds	None	
Visitor Use and Experience Recreation Resources	Potential	Issue: The South Wing Mezzanine area will be closed to visitors during the renovation. This work will be scheduled for the slow season in early winter to minimize the impact on visitors experiencing the public spaces of the Ahwahnee.
Visitor Use and Experience Visitor Use and Experience <i>Concierge Services</i>	Potential	Issue: Concierge services were removed from the main lobby of the Ahwahnee in 2016. This was not the original location for offering this service and it resulted in congestion in the welcoming and gathering area of the hotel. The coffee and tea services have been offered to guests in the Women's Lounge mezzanine. Non-guests must use this area to access the Women's and family restrooms and the mixture of users resulted in confusion. The separation of hotel guest services from public services will result in less confusion and more privacy for hotel guests seeking concierge services.
Water Floodplains	None	
Water Marine or Estuarine Resources	None	
Water Water Quality or Quantity	None	
Water Wetlands	None	
Water Wild and Scenic River	None	
Wilderness Wilderness	None	



ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

2. **Project Description:**

Project Name: Ahwahnee Concierge Redecoration (2018 YH)

Prepared by: Erin Davenport **Date Prepared:** **Telephone:** 209-379-1067

PEPC Project Number: 81792

Describe project:

See Categorical Exclusion Form.

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

Ahwahnee Hotel

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

4. **Potentially Affected Resource(s):**

Archeological Resources Present: No

Historical Structures/Resources Present: Yes

Property Name: The Ahwahnee Hotel (1977 NR) **LCS:**

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

Property Name: The Ahwahnee Hotel (NHL) **LCS:**

Cultural Landscapes Present: No

Ethnographic Resources Present: No

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

No	Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure
No	Replace historic features/elements in kind
Yes	Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure
No	Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)
No	Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape
No	Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible
No	Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible
Yes	Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources

No	Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources
No	Involve a real property transaction (exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures)
	Other (please specify):

6. Supporting Study Data:

(Attach if feasible; if action is in a plan, EA or EIS, give name and project or page number.)

B. REVIEWS BY CULTURAL RESOURCE SPECIALISTS

The park 106 coordinator requested review by the park's cultural resource specialist/advisors as indicated by check-off boxes or as follows:

[X] 106 Advisor

Name: Madelyn Ruffner

Date: 01/29/2020

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [X]

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: 09/11/2018

Comments: Project all interior to the building.

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:

Doc Method: Standard 4-Step Process

[X] Archeologist

Name: Rachel Reckin

Date: 09/11/2018

Comments: Project is all interior to the building.

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:

Doc Method: Standard 4-Step Process

[X] Historian

Name: Scott Carpenter

Date: 09/11/2018

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] **Historical Architect**

Name: Sueann Brown

Date: 01/24/2020

Comments: The December 2019 proposal is an improvement over the original proposal. It is unfortunate that more of the recommendations of the HFR and HSR are not being implemented at this time. Those recommendations would help to restore historical character and enhance visitor experience. The current proposal will not have those positive benefits but will not have an adverse effect.

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] **Historical Landscape Architect**

Name: Kimball Koch

Date: 09/11/2018

Comments: Project work is interior to the building.

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

1. Assessment of Effect:

<input type="checkbox"/>	No Potential to Cause Effects
<input type="checkbox"/>	No Historic Properties Affected
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No Adverse Effect
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adverse Effect

2. Documentation Method:

[X] **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. 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: Mar 9, 2020

SHPO Received: Apr 15, 2020

THPO Required: No

THPO Sent:

THPO Received:

SHPO/THPO Notes:

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.

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:

- The SHPO and regional historical architect recommended that the park avoid the use of wall-mount brackets for the installation of televisions and continue to have televisions placed on top of the furniture. While use of wall-mounting brackets would be reversible, avoiding this action would reduce the effects to this National Historic Landmark building by limiting penetrations of the historic plastered walls.
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6. Assessment of Effect Notes:

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

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

NHPA Specialist

**Madelyn
Ruffner**

Date:

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.

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Superintendent:

Date:

Cicely Muldoon