



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.

Letter of Compliance Completion

To: Michael Pieper, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Cicely Muldoon, Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: PG&E Exchequer-Yosemite 70kV Reliability Project (PEPC: 98407)

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:

- Only work described in PEPC 94807 is approved for implementation. Any changes to the scope of work or deviations from the attached approved plans requires additional review and approval from the Yosemite Environmental Planning and Compliance Office.

Helicopter Use Protocols:

- A safety plan and helicopter flight path must be submitted to the park at least 15 business days prior to work commencement. Contact the Park Aviation Manager a week before the flight to assure all potential emergency responding units are aware of the flight operations. Park dispatch must be notified the day of the flight to give an ETA of when the flight will be in park (ECC 209.379.1998). All helicopters used during project work must report identification number, color, and ownership information prior to air flight over park.
- The project should avoid helicopter use outside of the landing zone and project area. Any helicopter use within 400 m of the Arch Rock entrance is not approved during the Peregrine Falcon LOP (March 15th - August 1st).
- Both helicopter landing zone D and #11 have large infestations of invasive species. Contact David Campbell (david_m_campbell@nps.gov) 2 weeks prior to the use of this site so NPS spray crews can treat invasive plants before project activities requiring helicopter operations begin.

Wildlife:

- Trees must be nest searched for migratory birds prior to removal if work occurs between March 1st and August 15th. Any nests found should have an appropriate nest buffer applied based on the corresponding species. Please communicate any findings with Park Service Wildlife Biologists.
- Compliance with food-storage and garbage disposal requirements must be achieved at all times.

Vegetation Management:

- There is a mapped infestation of yellow star thistle at pull site E (PSE). PG&E shall notify David Campbell (David_M_Campbell@nps.gov) two weeks prior to activities at PSE so that NPS invasive plant crews can treat the yellow star thistle before project activities begin. Ensure equipment is cleaned when leaving the site so yellow star thistle seed is not transported elsewhere.
- 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 work days (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. All staff working on site shall be informed of and follow best management practices for preventing the introduction and spread of non-native, invasive species as described in Division 1 Specifications, Section 1335. Contact Garrett Dickman at garrett_dickman@nps.gov to arrange inspection.
- Locations 039/232 and 039/233 are within a mapped historical occurrence of *Eriophyllum congdonii* and *Lewisia congdonii* (perennial, CNPS 1B.3), and ground disturbance will occur at both sites. PG&E shall survey for *E. congdonii* in April - May and for *Lewisia congdonii* when vegetative plants are detectable. If *E. congdonii* is found, salvage the top 4" of soil. If *L. congdonii* is found, salvage plants that cannot be avoided.
- Several patches of *Carex tompkinsii* (perennial, CNPS 4.3) occur near project sites 039/232 and 039/233. PG&E shall survey for this perennial species before ground-disturbing activities. If rare plants are found, the PG&E biologist will flag individuals and a PG&E biological monitor will ensure disturbance to these plants is avoided during project activities. If it is not possible to avoid disturbance, PG&E will consult with the NPS Plant Ecologist (Kimiora Ward at kimiora_ward@nps.gov) about options for salvaging plants.
- Pull site E (PSE) is located within a mapped population of *Diplacus douglasii* (NPS-sensitive). Ground disturbance here will not include grading. PG&E shall survey for *D. douglasii* in mid-March - April prior to the start of the project. If rare plants are found, the PG&E biologist will flag all plants prior to any work activities and ensure avoidance measures are followed (e.g., biological monitor, fencing, flagging).
- Project site 038/222 is within a mapped occurrence of *Eriophyllum congdonii* (annual, CNPS 1B.2). Work shall be conducted after seed set and the top 4" of topsoil shall be salvaged and replaced after construction.

Cultural Resources:

- PG&E shall provide an archeological monitor during ground-disturbing work at tower replacement site 39/233 to sample excavated sediments and address any inadvertent discoveries.

Cicely Muldoon
Cicely Muldoon, Superintendent

Date: 6/25/2021

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



Categorical Exclusion Documentation Form (CE Form)

Project: PG&E Exchequer-Yosemite 70kV Reliability Project

PEPC Project Number: 98407

Description of Action (Project Description):

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is requesting authorization from the National Park Service (NPS) to conduct maintenance activities on the electrical transmission line that PG&E owns and operates within lands administered by Yosemite National Park (YNP). The project's goal is to improve the reliability of electrical transmission in Mariposa County. In addition, PG&E is addressing known conductor height discrepancies to meet standards set by California Public Utilities Commission General Order (GO) 95 and North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), which is part of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. This maintenance work is required to bring existing lines into compliance. Project actions include the replacement of four existing lattice-steel towers with new lattice-steel poles (LSPs), maintenance activities on eleven existing towers, and the replacement of approximately two miles of electrical transmission wire (conductor) with new conductor.

Tower Replacement: Each of the four tower replacements will require site preparation work within a 50-x-50-foot area at both the new structure locations and around the existing towers to be replaced. Site preparation may include activities such as vegetation trimming and removal, and limited surface blading, grading, and filling to create a stable and level work pad for equipment and vehicle staging. Work areas will be returned to original surface contours at the completion of work.

The new LSPs require micropile foundations that consist of up to 12 composite piles within a 5 to 6-foot diameter square array. Individual piles are cylindrical and less than 1 foot in diameter and will be embedded up to 30 feet below ground. The resulting array will project a minimum of approximately 1-foot above ground. Following the installation of foundations, the new LSP will be assembled at a nearby landing zone, and a helicopter will fly the new LSP to the work site and set it on the foundation. The new structures will be approximately 75 to 90-foot-tall structures, approximately 20 feet to 30 feet taller than the existing towers.

Once the conductor has been transferred to the new structure, the existing tower will be dismantled and removed from the site by helicopter. Remaining tower foundations will be chipped and removed to approximately 2-3 feet below grade then capped with native soil to match existing surface contours.

Vegetation Management: A work area approximately 50-foot by 50-foot will be cleared of vegetation at each of the four new LSP sites in order to employ proper and safe construction methods. The size of the work area provides a defensible work area for construction crew safety in the event of a potential wildfire in the area. In addition, the clearing will also bring the new LSP location in compliance with vegetation management safety standards with the removal of any tree and woody or vine material 10 feet around each planned LSP and the removal of any dead, dying, or leaning tree that poses a safety hazard to the planned LSP or new conductor. Sixteen trees and 4 brush units have been identified for removal. Every effort will be made to retain any healthy tree that does not pose a safety hazard and that does not interfere with the safe and proper installation of the micropile foundations.

Maintenance Activities: Routine maintenance activities proposed at eleven towers include installation of structural reinforcements and/or cross arm replacement, replacement of existing insulators with new ceramic insulators made of glass or porcelain, installation of anti-climb guards, and installation of bird spikes to deter nesting activities on

the towers. No ground disturbance is associated with the maintenance work, it is to be accomplished above-ground on the towers. Crew and equipment will be transported to each tower location by helicopter.

Conductor Replacement: The existing conductor will be replaced (reconductored) between towers 037/219 - 039/236. Reconductoring will occur after all tower replacements, described above, are complete. To replace the conductor, the existing conductor will be detached from its support structure and temporarily lifted. Rollers will then be installed at the conductor's attachment point, and the conductor will be placed onto the rollers. The rollers will allow the new conductor to be pulled through each structure. Installing rollers and detaching the existing conductor will be completed by construction crews accessing each structure by helicopter. Once the rollers are in place for an entire section of conductor being replaced, the existing conductor will be pulled out of place, and the new conductor pulled in.

Equipment at pull site E will feed the conductor along the previously installed rollers while maintaining tension on the line so that it does not sag to the ground. Once the new conductor is in place, a helicopter will then be used to remove the rollers and clip the conductor to new insulators on the tower. Pull site E is 295 feet by 85 feet encompassing approximately 0.68 acres.

Access Routes: Project construction and access to towers will be accomplished primarily using helicopter operations. Construction vehicles are anticipated to access work areas using a combination of existing paved, unpaved roads that are currently used for ongoing transmission line operations and maintenance, and overland travel off existing roads.

Portions of some of the access road may need to be reestablished and maintained through tree trimming, vegetation clearing, the addition of substrate, and some minor grading/blading. Typical construction equipment required for road repairs includes a grader, bulldozer, compactor, and haul trucks. No new roads will be constructed as part of the project.

Overland access from existing access roads or along the existing easement is required at pull site E, tower 037/221 and tower 039/232. The terrain in these areas is relatively flat and grassy. These overland routes are not expected to require grading or filling; however, mowing and trimming of vegetation may be required.

Helicopter Landing Zones: Two helicopter landing zones (HLZ) have been identified for the project. HLZ #11 is located in a previously disturbed, graded area used for aggregate storage between the Merced River and Highway 140 on NPS land in the vicinity of the NPS warehouse and El Portal. HLZ #11 is 200 feet by 200 feet encompassing approximately 0.7 acres. HLZ D is 350 feet by 250 feet encompassing approximately 2 acres in Foresta.

Both helicopter landing zones will be used to support helicopter operations (e.g., transport crew and materials to and from the tower), as well as facilitate other project activities, including but not limited to, staging and storing construction materials and equipment, refueling, and assembling construction materials. Site preparation, including grading is not expected to be required at the landing zones. The sites are previously disturbed, flat areas that has been rough graded and/or graveled and used for equipment staging and helicopter landing previously. Ground access to the helicopter landing zones will occur over existing roads. Large matting can be placed on the ground to minimize disturbance if needed.

Mitigation(s): See Letter of Compliance Complete.

CE Citation: C.3 Routine maintenance and repairs to non-historic structures, facilities, utilities, grounds and trails.

CE Justification: The project's goal is to improve the reliability of electrical transmission in Mariposa County. In addition, PG&E is addressing known conductor height discrepancies to meet standards set by California Public Utilities Commission General Order (GO) 95 and North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), which is part of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. This maintenance work is required to bring existing lines into compliance.

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.

Cicely Muldoon

Date: _____ 6/25/2021

Cicely Muldoon, Superintendent

*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
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. [Repealed per DOI] Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		No longer applicable per the updated 2020 CEQ NEPA regulations and DOI direction.
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	



ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

Updated Sept 2015 per NPS NEPA Handbook

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	PG&E Exchequer-Yosemite 70kV Reliability Project
PEPC Project Number:	98407
PMIS Number:	
Project Type:	Construction Permit (CONP)
Project Location:	
County, State:	Mariposa, California District, Section: El Portal Administrative Site,
Project Leader:	Rick Hall

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 <i>Invasive species</i>	Potential	<p>Issue: Construction equipment may transmit invasive species material into the park. All earth moving equipment must enter the Park free of dirt, dust, mud, seeds, or other potential contaminant. The Contractor shall notify the Construction manager at least two work days (not including weekends) prior to bringing any equipment into the Park. Contact Garrett Dickman at garrett_dickman@nps.gov to arrange inspection.</p> <p>Impact: No impact if mitigation measures are followed.</p>
Biological Nonnative or Exotic Species <i>Invasive species</i>	Potential	<p>Issue: The helicopter landing zone has multiple infestations of invasive species. Contact David Campbell (david_m_campbell@nps.gov) 2 weeks prior to the use of this site so NPS spray crews can treat invasive plants before project activities begin.</p> <p>Impact: Nonnative or exotic species could be introduced into other areas of the park. No impact if mitigation measures are followed.</p>
Biological Species of Special Concern or Their Habitat		
Biological Vegetation <i>Rare plants</i>	Potential	<p>Issue: Locations 039/232 and 039/233 are within a mapped historical occurrence of <i>Eriophyllum congdonii</i> and <i>Lewisia congdonii</i> (perennial, CNPS 1B.3), and both will have ground disturbance). Please survey for <i>E. congdonii</i> in April - May and for <i>Lewisia congdonii</i> when vegetative plants are detectable. If <i>E. congdonii</i> is found,</p>

		<p>salvage the top 4" of soil. If <i>L. congdonii</i> is found, salvage plants that cannot be avoided.</p> <p>Impact: Disturbance and or loss of rare plant species. No impact if mitigation measures are followed.</p>
Biological Vegetation <i>Rare plants</i>	Potential	<p>Issue: Several patches of <i>Carex tompkinsii</i> (perennial, CNPS 4.3) occur near 039/232 and 039/233. Survey for this perennial species before ground-disturbing activities. If rare plants are found, PG&E will salvage any individuals that would be destroyed by project activities.</p> <p>Impact: Disturbance and or loss of rare plant species. No impact if mitigation measures are followed.</p>
Biological Vegetation <i>Rare plants</i>	Potential	<p>Issue: 038/222 (ground disturbance) is within a mapped occurrence of <i>Eriophyllum congdonii</i> (annual, CNPS 1B.2). Please conduct work after seed set and salvage/replace the top 4" of topsoil.</p> <p>Impact: Disturbance and or loss of rare plant species. No impact if mitigation measures are followed.</p>
Biological Vegetation <i>Rare plants</i>	Potential	<p>Issue: Pull station E is located within a mapped population of <i>Diplacus douglasii</i> (NPS-sensitive). Ground disturbance here will not include grading, so it will be possible to flag and avoid this species. Survey for <i>D. douglasii</i> in mid-March - April prior to ground disturbance. If rare plants are found, the PG&E biologist will flag all plants prior to any work activities and ensure avoidance measures are followed (e.g., biological monitor, fencing, flagging). There is also a mapped infestation of yellow star thistle at PSE. Please notify David Campbell (David_M_Campbell@nps.gov) two weeks prior to activities at PSE so that NPS invasive plant crews can treat the yellow star thistle before project activities begin. Ensure equipment is cleaned when leaving the site so yellow star thistle seed is not transported elsewhere.</p> <p>Impact: Disturbance and or loss of rare plant species. No impact if mitigation measures are followed.</p>
Biological Wildlife and/or Wildlife Habitat including terrestrial and aquatic species <i>Peregrine Falcon</i>	Potential	<p>Issue: The project should avoid helicopter use outside of the LZ and project area. Any helicopter use within 400 m of the Arch Rock entrance is not approved during the Peregrine Falcon LOP (March 15th - August 1st).</p> <p>Impact: Disturbance to Peregrine Falcon during LOP. No impacts anticipated if mitigation measures are followed.</p>
Cultural Archeological Resources	Potential	<p>Issue: Know archeological resources at tower replacement 39/233.</p> <p>Impact: There is a low potential for impact to the site. Archeological monitor shall be present to sample excavated sediments and address any inadvertent discoveries.</p>
Cultural Cultural Landscapes	None	
Cultural Ethnographic Resources	None	

Cultural Museum Collections	None	
Cultural Prehistoric/historic structures	None	
Geological Geologic Features	None	
Geological Geologic Processes	None	
Lightscares	None	
Other Human Health and Safety	None	
Other Operational	None	
Other	None	
Socioeconomic Land Use	None	
Socioeconomic Minority and low- income populations, size, migration patterns, etc.	None	
Socioeconomic	None	
Soundscapes	None	
Viewsheds <i>Historic Property</i> <i>Viewshed</i>	None	<p>Issue: The Rancheria housing area is being considered as eligible for its Mission 66 area qualities. The Exchequer line was visible within the period of significance for the El Portal Administrative Site and the Mission 66 Rancheria housing area. This project proposes to retain the line in place and modify only the height and tower composition. The setting shall remain the same and the project will not diminish the significance of the structures that are being treated as historic for the purposes of this undertaking.</p> <p>Impact: It has been determined that the project will not result in an adverse effect to built environment historic properties.</p>
Visitor Use and Experience Recreation Resources	None	
Visitor Use and Experience Visitor Use and Experience	None	

Water Floodplains	None	
Water Marine or Estuarine Resources	None	
Water Water Quality or Quantity	None	
Water Wetlands	None	
Water Wild and Scenic River	None	Landing zone (LZ) #11 is within the Merced Wild and Scenic River corridor. The continued use of this LZ is consistent with the management objectives of the Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan.
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: PG&E Exchequer-Yosemite 70kV Reliability Project

Prepared by: Laura Stevens **Date Prepared:** 02/22/2021 **Telephone:** (209) 379-1303

PEPC Project Number: 98407

Locations:

County, State: Mariposa, CA

District, Section: El Portal Administrative Site,

Describe project: See Categorical Exclusion.

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

The APE for this undertaking includes a ground surface work area approximately 50-x-50-foot at both the new structure locations and around the existing towers to be replaced at each of the four towers to be replaced. The below surface vertical APE at each new lattice-steel pole will consist of up to 12 composite piles constructed up to a 5 to 6-foot diameter square array. Individual piles are cylindrical each less than 1 foot in diameter and will be embedded up to 30 feet below the ground. The above ground vertical APE will be approximately 75 to 90-foot-tall structures, approximately 20 feet to 30 feet taller than the existing towers.

The APE at pull site E is 295 feet by 85 feet encompassing approximately 0.68 acres. The vertical APE at pull site E is estimated to be about 2-inches deep.

The APE for helicopter landing zone is 200 feet by 200 feet encompassing approximately 0.7 acres. The vertical APE at the landing zone is estimated to be about 2-inches deep.

The APE for overland access from existing access roads or along the existing easement is required at pull site E (2,000 feet long 12 feet wide) , tower 037/221 (441 feet long, 12 feet wide) and tower 039/232 (60 feet long, 12 feet wide). The terrain in these areas is relatively flat and grassy. These overland routes are not expected to require grading or filling. The vertical APE of the access routes is estimated to be about 2 inches.

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

	No
X	Yes
	Source or reference:

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

Archeological Resources Present: Yes

Property Name: El Portal Archeological District **LCS:**

Property Name: El Portal Resources of Cultural Significance (un-evaluated) **LCS:**

Archeological Resources Notes: Although the project is located within the El Portal Archeological District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and archeological site CA-MRP-0006/H is near-by a pole replacement site, it is not anticipated that work to install the new tower will disturb significant or intact archeological deposits. However, out of context materials are anticipated and an archeological monitor will be present during construction. Vegetation removal in this area is anticipated to be minimal given the extent of surrounding development and the milling feature located approximately 20 feet to the north will not be affected. It has been determined that the project will not result in an adverse effect to archeological historic properties. However, archeological monitoring is planned as part of ground disturbance in this location to address any out of context cultural materials or potential inadvertent discoveries, which existing data suggest are very doubtful.

YOSE 2019 O-01H

This road was constructed in approximately the early 1900s to provide access to a mine shaft located at the northeast end of the road approximately 600 meters away from the project area. The road was later expanded and regraded in 1960-1961 and is regularly maintained by NPS facilities management to provide vehicle access to the water source on Moss Creek, which supplies the Rancheria Flat community below. The road has a simple cut-and-fill design with no associated features or artifacts within the project area. Project work on the road will be limited to driving vehicles to an existing modern pullout where equipment will be staged. The existing road will not be modified to accommodate this work and is sufficient to support the equipment PG&E will need to replace the tower. Disturbance to any part of the historical alignment of the road is not anticipated.

Historical Structures/Resources Present: Yes

Property Name: El Portal Resources of Cultural Significance (un-evaluated) **LCS:**

Property Name: El Portal Administrative Site Cultural Resources **LCS:**

Historical Structures/Resources Notes: The Rancheria housing area is being considered as eligible for its Mission 66 area qualities. The Exchequer line was visible within the period of significance for the El Portal Administrative Site and the Mission 66 Rancheria housing area. This project proposes to retain the line in place and modify only the height and tower composition. The setting shall remain the same and the project will not diminish the significance of the structures that are being treated as historic for the purposes of this undertaking. It has been determined that the project will not result in an adverse effect to built environment historic properties.

Cultural Landscapes Present: No

Ethnographic Resources Present: Yes

Property Name: El Portal Archeological District **LCS:**

Ethnographic Resources Notes: Site CA-MRP-0006/H corresponds with the ethnographic villages of Sal-lah'-to and Sas'-oo-lah described by C. H. Merriam in 1917. Tribal partners have previously identified El Portal as a culturally sensitive location, especially due to the dense concentration of archeological sites. No animal or plant resources that are traditionally gathered have been identified in the project area. The proposed project was conveyed to tribal partners in December 2020 with a request to identify any properties of traditional religious and cultural significance. No comments or concerns have been received.

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

- | | |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>No</u> | Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure |
| <u>No</u> | Replace historic features/elements in kind |
| <u>No</u> | Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure |
| <u>No</u> | Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain) |
| | Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting |
| <u>Yes</u> | 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
Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting, landscape elements,
☐ No 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: Hope Schear

Date: 04/28/2021

Comments: Compliance complete. SHPO concurrence received 4/30/2021. Project sent to tribes on the December 24, 2020 Tribal Spreadsheet for consultation. To date no comments or concerns have been received from tribes.

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: Please follow archaeologist's recommendations.

Doc Method: Standard 4-Step Process

[X] Anthropologist

Name: Liz Williams

Date: 02/23/2021

Comments: Please see archeologist comments.

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: Please see archeologist comments.

Doc Method: Standard 4-Step Process

[X] Archeologist

Name: Wesley Wills

Date: 12/21/2020

Comments: This project areas have all been surveyed using current techniques or are in locations that are hazardous to crew due to significant slope, which significantly reduces the potential for archeological findings. In these unsurveyed areas, it is very likely that any archeological materials would be associated with the Exchequer towers and hardware, which have previously been determined ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places and does not have associated archeological value. The project will occur within the El Portal Archeological District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Archeological site CA-MRP-0006/H at tower replacement 39/233 will involve ground disturbance immediately below the existing tower in a previously disturbed area. This site is a contributing element of the archeological district, though in this location no

significant or intact deposits have been identified. Archeological subsurface survey conducted in 2020 at this location did not uncover cultural materials and the area is previously disturbed for construction of the tower and use of this spot for residential pile burning. Tower replacement 37/221 will require PG&E vehicles to drive on a dirt road documented as site YOSE 2019 O-01H. This road is associated both with late 1800s mining in the area and was improved in 1960-1961 to provide access to Moss Creek, which provides the water used in the Rancheria Flat community. It has not been evaluated, but for this undertaking could be treated as eligible as disturbance will not occur. This road is already regularly in use for utility work by the NPS and is regularly maintained and will not be disturbed by 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: PG&E should provide an archeological monitor during ground-disturbing work at tower replacement 39/233 to sample excavated sediments and address any inadvertent discoveries.

Doc Method: Standard 4-Step Process

[X] Historical Landscape Architect

Name: Vida Germano

Date: 03/01/2021

Comments: There are no cultural landscapes within the APE.

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, Historian, Other Advisor

C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Assessment of Effect:

	No Potential to Cause Effects
	No Historic Properties Affected
X	No Adverse Effect
	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 23, 2021

SHPO Received: Apr 30, 2021

THPO Required: Yes

THPO Sent: Dec 24, 2020

THPO Received: No comments 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:

- PG&E shall provide an archeological monitor during ground-disturbing work at tower replacement site 39/233 to sample excavated sediments and address any inadvertent discoveries.

6. Assessment of Effect Notes:

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

Echo Davenport for Hope Schear
Hope Schear, Section 106 Coordinator

Date: _____ 6/17/2021

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.

Cicely Muldoon, Superintendent

Date: 6/25/2021

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



Other Compliance/Consultations Form

Park Name: Yosemite National Park

PEPC Project Number: 98407

Project Title: PG&E Exchequer-Yosemite 70kV Reliability Project

Project Type: Construction Permit

Project Location:

County, State: Mariposa, CA District, Section: El Portal Administrative Site,

Project Leader: Michael Pieper

ESA

Any Federal Species in the project Area? No			
If species in area:			
Was Biological Assessment prepared?			
If Biological Assessment prepared, concurred?			
Formal Consultation required?			
Formal Consultation Notes:			
Formal Consultation Concluded:			
Any State listed Species in the Project Area?			
Consultation Information:			
General Notes:			
Data Entered By:	Heather Mackey	Date:	Mar 8, 2021

ESA Mitigations: No ESA mitigations are associated with this project.

Floodplains/Wetlands/§404 Permits

Question	Yes	No	Details
A.1. Is project in 100- or 500-year floodplain or flash flood hazard area?		No	Not in floodplain or flash flood hazard area.
A.2. Is Project in wetlands as defined by NPS/DOI?		No	Not in wetland as defined by NPS/DOI.
B. COE Section 404 permit needed?		No	No placement of fill in waters of the United States.
C. State 401 certification?		No	
D. State Section 401 Permit?		No	Issue Date: Expiration Date:
E. Tribal Water Quality Permit?		No	
F. CZM Consistency determination needed?		No	Date Review Requested: Date Reply Received: Date State Concurred:

G. Erosion & Sediment Control Plan Required?		No	
H. Any other permits required?		No	Permit Information:
Other Information:			
Data Entered By:	Laura Stevens	Date:	Mar 8, 2021

Floodplains & Wetlands Mitigations: *No Floodplains & Wetlands mitigations are associated with this project.*

Wilderness

Question	Yes	No	
A. Does this project occur in or adjacent to Designated, Recommended, Proposed, Study, Eligible, or Potential Wilderness?		No	
B. Is the only place to conduct this project in wilderness?		No	
C. Is the project necessary for the administration of the area as wilderness?		No	
D. Would the project or any of its alternatives adversely affect (directly or indirectly) Designated, Recommended, Proposed, Study, Eligible, or Potential Wilderness? (If Yes, Minimum Requirements Analysis required)		No	
E. Does the project or any of its alternatives involve the use of any of the Wilderness Act Section 4(c) prohibited uses: commercial enterprise, permanent road, temporary road, motor vehicles, motorized equipment, motorboats, landing of aircraft, mechanical transport, structure, or installation? (If Yes, Minimum Requirements Analysis required)		No	
If the answer to D or E above is "Yes" then a Minimum Requirements Analysis is required. Describe the status of this analysis in the column to the right.			Initiation Date: Completed Date: Approved Date:
Other Information:			
Data Entered By:	Laura Stevens	Date:	Mar 8, 2021

Other Permits/Laws *Questions A & B are no longer used.*

Question	Yes	No
C. Wild and scenic river concerns exist?	Yes	
D. National Trails concerns exist?		No
E. Air Quality consult with State needed?		No
F. Consistent with Architectural Barriers, Rehabilitation, and Americans with Disabilities Acts or not Applicable? (If N/A check Yes)	Yes	
G. Other:		No

Other Information: Landing zone (LZ) #11 is within the Merced Wild and Scenic River corridor. The continued use of this LZ is consistent with management objectives of the Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan.

Data Entered By:	Laura Stevens	Date:	June 17, 2021
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