



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.

Categorical Exclusion Documentation Form (CE Form)

Project: Curry Village Install Underground Electrical System (YH 2020)

PEPC Project Number: 93008

Description of Action (Project Description):

This project is for the design development and review of the new underground electrical service for Curry Village.

During the 2018/2019 winter storm season the electrical systems in Curry Village sustained excessive damage. Upon evaluation of that damage, it was determined that the entire existing electrical system is out of code creating a safety hazard for guests and employees. With this determination all electrical must now convert from overhead power to underground power. This is a time-sensitive project as the existing system is hazardous.

An electrical engineer has created plans for a new underground electrical service in all of Curry Village. Proposed construction to install electric lines in Curry Village is anticipated to occur in phases in the following areas: - Phase 1: Curry Village South (400-700 Tent Area) - Phase 2: Curry Village North (Boystown Area) - Phase 3: Huff House Area - Phase 4: Cooks "without bath cabins" (WOBs) area and Curry Village Pavilion - Phase 5: Tent cabins behind Registration Building

The project anticipates that there will be approximately 3.5 miles of trenching, with trench widths of 24 inches and depths to 36 inches below ground surface for conduit that will contain the electrical wire. The trenches will include a 2 inches thick layer of sand bedding at the bottom to support the conduit, with 12 inches of sand backfill placed on top. The final 0-12 inches below surface will consist of soils initially excavated from the trench. Due to the addition of sand in each trench, this project will generate a large quantity of soils that will not be backfilled. These spoils are anticipated to be staged at the abandoned Upper River Campground approximately 0.25-mile to the north.

As part of the electric line installation, various precast concrete electrical pull boxes will be installed throughout the project area. These will be up to 48 inches wide and 30 inches deep. Installation will involve excavating up to 4 inches around the box and 12 inches below it to remove existing soils and replace them with compacted pea gravel. Electrical grounding rods will also be used, measuring $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch diameter and 10 feet long, meaning they extend to a maximum depth of 10 feet below ground. Multiple electrical main service panels will also be installed, with trenching for associated posts measuring

approximately 24 inches deep and 6 inches in diameter. Concrete reinforced pads for mounting equipment will also be installed throughout the project area. These will require excavation to accommodate a 6-inch-thick slab that will extend up to 1.5 inches above the surrounding grade. The undertaking will also include removal of some abandoned existing electrical equipment. All exposed and above grade conduits, wiring, pull boxes, outlet boxes, panels, transformers, and electrical equipment will be removed. Abandoned conduits that are below grade will be left in place. All conduit risers will be cut and removed to 12 inches below the ground surface. At the completion of excavation, all surfaces, roadways, sod, walks, and curbs will be restored to their original condition.

Mitigation(s): See Letter of Compliance Completion Form for mitigations.

CE Citation: C.15 Installation of underground utilities in previously disturbed areas having stable soils, or in an existing utility right-of-way.

Decision: I find that the action fits within the categorical exclusion above. Therefore, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No extraordinary circumstances apply.

Superintendent: _____ Cicely Muldoon

Date: _____ October 7, 2021

Cicely Muldoon

*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	
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:	Curry Village Install Underground Electrical System (YH 2020)
PEPC Project Number:	93008
PMIS Number:	
Project Type:	Other Maintenance Activities (MNT)
Project Location:	
County, State:	Mariposa, California
Project Leader:	Joshua 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	Potential	Issue: Ground-disturbing equipment has potential to carry invasive species into the park. Impact: Follow standard mitigations to work with Vegetation and Ecological Restoration staff to inspect and wash, as needed, heavy equipment before entering the park.
Biological Species of Special Concern or Their Habitat	Potential	Issue: The project site is over xxxxx feet from the nearest known xxxxx release or known occupied sites, however the park has radiotracking data that suggests the frogs have been able to make overland journeys over ~xxxxxx feet in Yosemite. Impact: Resource protections will be put in place to protect the frog and fulfill the park's responsibilities to protect the frog, according to the park's BO with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.
Biological Vegetation	Potential	Issue: Ground-disturbing activities if left untreated may result in proliferation of invasive species.

		Impact: Follow standard mitigations and work with Vegetation and Ecological Restoration staff to revegetate and monitor areas of disturbance.
Biological Wildlife and/or Wildlife Habitat including terrestrial and aquatic species	Potential	<p>Issue: California Red Legged Frogs in Yosemite Valley may be impacted by ground-disturbing activities.</p> <p>Impact: Follow standard mitigations to cover open trenches overnight and stop work/report sightings of frogs on the jobsite during construction. Trenching activities should take place between October 15 and August 15th; ideally during the driest months in this window. Trenching activities between August 15 to October 15 are NOT APPROVED. Pre-construction surveys are required.</p> <p>Work crews will be required to undergo a resource protection briefing; the project manager must contact the park Aquatic Ecologist AT LEAST 2 weeks prior to the project to facilitate pre-construction surveys, as well as coordinate the resource protection briefing.</p> <p>If a California red-legged frog is found, work in the surrounding area will be halted and the park Aquatic Ecologist will be immediately contacted. Work cannot resume until the Aquatic Ecologist has approved. Under no circumstance will workers handle a California red-legged frog; only qualified park Wildlife Biologists may handle California red-legged frogs.</p> <p>Project staff will drive slowly on warm, wet nights and remain vigilant of amphibians on the roadway.</p>
Cultural Archeological Resources	Potential	<p>Issue: Trenching in previously undisturbed areas has potential to affect previously undocumented archeological resources.</p> <p>Impact: Archeological and tribal monitoring during construction will be required to prevent impacts to inadvertently discovered previously unrecorded subsurface resources.</p>
Cultural Cultural Landscapes	Potential	<p>Issue: New construction and patching of historic paving, walkways, and landscaped areas has the potential to impact historic cultural landscapes.</p> <p>Impact: All paved roads and walkways will be rehabilitated with in-kind materials. Landscaped areas will be revegetated according to plans developed in collaboration with the Vegetation and Ecological Restoration staff as well as the Cultural Resource Management staff to ensure that the seed mixture is compatible with park standards and the historic district. The park's Design Guidelines and appropriate recommendations from the Curry Village Cultural Landscape Report will be followed.</p>
Cultural Ethnographic Resources	Potential	<p>Issue: Trenching has potential to impact known and unknown resources of cultural importance.</p> <p>Impact: Tribal cultural monitoring is required.</p>

Cultural Museum Collections	None	
Cultural Prehistoric/historic structures	Potential	Issue: Penetrations to historic buildings through original historic fabric results in irreversible impacts. Impact: Penetrations will be minimized and will use existing openings in all possible instances.
Geological Geologic Features	None	
Geological Geologic Processes	None	
Lightscares	None	
Other Human Health and Safety	Potential	Issue: Construction site in a high visitor use area has potential to impact visitor safety. Impact: All construction staging and construction activities will be clearly marked and fenced. Construction will be completed in the low visitation season.
Other Operational	Potential	Issue: Construction activities may impact operation of the Lodge including visitor services, deliveries, vehicle circulation, pedestrian circulation, etc. Impact: Construction will be completed in the low visitation season to minimize impacts to lodge operations.
Socioeconomic Land Use	None	
Socioeconomic Minority and low- income populations, size, migration patterns, etc.	None	
Socioeconomic	None	
Soundscapes	None	
Viewsheds	None	
Visitor Use and Experience Recreation Resources	None	
Visitor Use and Experience	Potential	Issue: Construction has potential to impact visitor recreational use of the Lodge area.

Visitor Use and Experience		Impact: Construction will be completed in the low visitation season to minimize impacts to visitor activities and recreation.
Water Floodplains	None	
Water Marine or Estuarine Resources	None	
Water Water Quality or Quantity	None	
Water Wetlands	None	
Water Wild and Scenic River	Potential	<p>Issue: This project is being proposed within the Merced Wild and Scenic River corridor.</p> <p>Impact: This project will not impact the free-flowing character or outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs) of the river.</p>
Wilderness	None	



Other Compliance/Consultations Form

Park Name: Yosemite National Park

PEPC Project Number: 93008

Project Title: Curry Village Install Underground Electrical System (YH 2020)

Project Type: Other Maintenance Activities: Replace overhead electric with underground system

Project Location:

County, State: Mariposa, CA

Project Leader: Joshua Keyes

ESA

Any Federal Species in the project Area? Yes

If species in area: Likely to Adversely Affect

Was Biological Assessment prepared? Yes

Sent to FWS:

FWS Response: Dec 18, 2018

Sent to NMFS:

NMFS Response:

If Biological Assessment prepared, concurred? Yes

Formal Consultation required? Yes

Formal Consultation Notes:

The project is covered under a programmatic Biological Opinion (attached). The project area is in potential upland habitat for the California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*). The project site is over xxxxx feet from the nearest known *R. draytonii* release or known occupied sites, however the park has radiotracking data that suggests the frogs have been able to make overland journeys over ~xxxxx feet in Yosemite.

The following resource protections will be put in place to protect the frog and fulfill the park's responsibilities to protect the frog, according to the park's BO with the US Fish and Wildlife Service:

- Trenching activities should take place between October 15 and August 15th; ideally during the driest months in this window. Trenching activities between August 15 to October 15 are NOT APPROVED.
- Trenches must be backfilled at the end of each day or covered. Trenches that have been covered and are open underneath must be inspected for the presence of frogs at least twice a day. All trenches that are open or covered must have wildlife escape ramps installed.
- Pre-construction surveys are required.

- Work crews will be required to undergo a resource protection briefing; the project manager must contact the park Aquatic Ecologist (xxxxx@nps.gov; xxx-xxx-xxxx) AT LEAST 2 weeks prior to the project to facilitate pre-construction surveys, as well as coordinate the resource protection briefing.
- If a California red-legged frog is found, work in the surrounding area will be halted and the park Aquatic Ecologist (xxxxx@nps.gov; xxx-xxx-xxxx) will be immediately contacted. Work cannot resume until the Aquatic Ecologist has approved. Under no circumstance will workers handle a California red-legged frog; only qualified park Wildlife Biologists may handle California red-legged frogs.
- Project staff will drive slowly on warm, wet nights and remain vigilant of amphibians on the roadway.

Formal Consultation Concluded: Dec 18, 2018

Any State listed Species in the Project Area? No

Consultation Information:

General Notes: See mitigations.

Data Entered By:	Ninette Daniele	Date:	Aug 10, 2021
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ESA Mitigations

Mitigation ID	Text
120378	The following resource protections will be put in place to protect the frog and fulfill the park's responsibilities to protect the frog, according to the park's BO with the US Fish and Wildlife Service: Trenching activities should take place between October 15 and August 15th; ideally during the driest months in this window. Trenching activities between August 15 to October 15 are NOT APPROVED. Trenches must be backfilled at the end of each day or covered. Trenches that have been covered and are open underneath must be inspected for the presence of frogs at least twice a day. All trenches that are open or covered must have wildlife escape ramps installed. Pre-construction surveys are required. Work crews will be required to undergo a resource protection briefing; the project manager must contact the park Aquatic Ecologist (xxxxx@nps.gov; xxx-xxx-xxxx) AT LEAST 2 weeks prior to the project to facilitate pre-construction surveys, as well as coordinate the resource protection briefing. If a California red-legged frog is found, work in the surrounding area will be halted and the park Aquatic Ecologist (xxxxx@nps.gov; xxx-xxx-xxxx) will be immediately contacted. Work cannot resume until the Aquatic Ecologist has approved. Under no circumstance will workers handle a California red-legged frog; only qualified park Wildlife Biologists may handle California red-legged frogs. Project staff will drive slowly on warm, wet nights and remain vigilant of amphibians on the roadway.

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:	Melissa Booher		Date: Sep 14, 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:	Melissa Booher	Date:	Sep 14, 2021	

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

Question	Yes	No
C. Wild and scenic river concerns exist?		No
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:		

Other Information:

Project is within the Merced WSR corridor, but will not impact the Outstandingly Remarkable Values or free flowing nature of the river

Data Entered By:	Melissa Booher	Date:	Sep 14, 2021
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