



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 Form

Project: El Portal Play Park Renovation & Structure Replacement

PEPC Project Number: 73213

Description of Action (Project Description):

The project would address safety concerns and respond to community requests for an enhanced gathering space at the El Portal Play Park in Old El Portal. The park equipment is replaced on an as-needed basis as it ages; existing playground elements are in various states of disrepair and include the following:

- 1) a multi-level wooden structure with slide, swing bar, and climbing apparatus (deteriorating)
- 2) two steel swing sets (good condition)
- 3) remnants of an abandoned teeter totter (unsafe/unusable)

The objective of this project is to update playground equipment, construct an open shade structure, install hedgerow for safety separation, and remove/replace the existing dilapidated elements with new structures.

IMPROVEMENTS:

- Replace play structure: A new, multi-level, wood and plastic residential-type play structure will be installed in the vicinity of the existing structure. The new structure will be installed in previously disturbed soils and will require minimal ground disturbance, as the support posts do not need to be buried or seated in concrete. The existing structure would be removed (minimal to no ground disturbance; wooden supports buried no more than 12 inches will be removed).
- Remove existing teeter totter: The broken teeter totter framework will be removed, requiring ground disturbance where a concrete pad will be removed (estimated to be 8 inches deep and 10 inches in diameter).
- Improve swing set: The swing set chains and seats will be replaced. Safety improvements: Wood chips would be installed in the playground area that stretches from the swing sets to the area designated for the new play structure (~1,278 square feet). Wood chips will be contained with a 4-inch high plastic-resin border, buried less than 6 inches around the perimeter of the play area. The existing hedgerow would be extended to provide a separation between the play area and the road. An existing high hedge (~70 linear feet) along the south side of the park creates a buffer between the play area and Crane Creek Road. The project would extend the hedge line (25 linear feet) along the southwestern side of the park. The contractor will work with the park botanist to determine landscaping plans. The hedge would be planted and then watered with the existing irrigation system.
- Construct shade structure: The shade structure (20 feet long by 16 feet wide) would be constructed in the southeast corner of the park and include:

- 1) A shed-style metal roof (12 feet high - north side, 8 feet high - south side) supported by four to six wood posts (each 6 inches wide by 6 inches deep) mounted on concrete column bases, which will sit on a concrete slab. The roof material would be supported by wooden beams (6 inches by 8 inches) and wooden rafters (2 inches by 12 inches).
- 2) Installation of a concrete wall (6 feet high) to form the southeast corner of the shade structure to provide a visual barrier of the existing pump shed structure (further to the east), and protection from the brushy area that provides cover for rattlesnakes.
- 3) Installation of a concrete slab under the shade structure (20 feet by 16 feet), extending 4 feet to the south to provide a sunny patio. The slab would be 4 inches thick with four perimeter footings (12 inches by 16 inches wide, 12 inches deep). Under the four footings and the half wall, holes will be dug to 12 inches deep (12 inches by 16 inches wide) for concrete seating. The slab area will be excavated to 4 inches deep.
- 4) An accessible concrete walkway (45 linear feet, 5 feet wide) will connect the shade structure to Oak Road; it will be constructed of concrete and will meet standards for grades for accessible surfaces.

A special use permit will be issued for the project construction after final design/construction document review. A special use permit will be issued to Yosemite Employee Association for the long term operations and maintenance of the improvements.

Mitigation(s):

- Only project actions described in PEPC 73213 are authorized. Actions deviating from those explicitly described here must undergo additional compliance review and approval.
- Vegetation Protections
 - If fill is needed, use local fill. Contact the Vegetation and Restoration Branch (VER) to coordinate fill from a local, park source, or if this is not available from an approved source. Hedge and landscape designer should coordinate with park VER botanist.
 - Contact the Vegetation and Ecological Restoration (VER) Branch Chief to arrange for equipment inspection before entering the park or the El Portal Administrative Site. All equipment must be thoroughly cleaned to minimize the introduction of non-native plants (dirt, mud seeds or other potential contaminant attached to frame, tires, wheels, or other parts shall be thoroughly cleaned before entry into the park). All earth moving equipment will be inspected by VER staff before entering the park. Areas inspected will 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. Re-clean equipment before returning to the project or staging area if it is removed from the general vicinity of the project or staging area.
- Cultural Resource Protections:
 - If previously unknown cultural resources are encountered, the project manager shall temporarily suspend work in the immediate area and contact the Cultural Resource Program Manager who will evaluate and determine appropriate action to protect resources, which could include consultation with appropriate parties (e.g., tribes, SHPO). Although not expected, should previously unknown American Indian burial sites be discovered, the Cultural Resource Program Manager will provide direction to follow provisions Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act requirements.
- General Resource Protections:
 - The project manager shall ensure that personnel attend a resources protection briefing given by the Park Resources Management and Science Division staff (RMS) prior to working on site to become familiar with resource protection measures. Required topics include proper storage and disposal of food/trash, behavior around wildlife, cultural resource protection, prevention of exotic

plants, and protection of sensitive species. The project manager is responsible for coordinating with RMS ahead of the project implementation.

- All personnel will properly store and dispose of food and trash. Food storage and trash systems must follow park regulations. Exceptions, such as open-top dumpsters for construction materials must be approved by park wildlife staff. All personnel will be trained in proper storage and disposal of food and trash by wildlife management staff upon arrival at Yosemite. The project manager is responsible for contacting Wildlife Management well ahead of project implementation to schedule the training.
- Workers shall obey posted speed limits while traveling through the park and the El Portal Administrative site. On-site speed limits shall be limited to 15 miles per hour.
- The project manager is to verify that all final plans have been reviewed and approved by the Park Utilities Engineer and Park Accessibility Coordinator before they are implemented.
- Prior to mobilization, send Health & Safety Plan (HASP) + Accident Prevention Plans (APP) to myron_grissom@nps.gov for acceptance prior to project implementation

CE Citation: C.8 Replacement in kind of minor structures and facilities with little or no change in location, capacity or appearance.

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.

Superintendent: Teri Austin for Michael Reynolds **Date:** 4/7/2019
 Michael T. Reynolds

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. 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:	El Portal Play Park Renovation & Structure Replacement
PEPC Project Number:	73213
Project Type:	Equipment Replacement (EQR)
Project Location:	
County, State:	Mariposa, California District, Section: El Portal,
Project Leader:	Joseph Llewellyn, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

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>Landscaping</i>	Potential	Issue: Landscaping and use of heavy equipment for grading may inadvertently introduce invasive plants. Impact: Follow resource protection measures to prevent the introduction of noxious plants.
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 <i>Archeological District</i>	Potential	Issue: Project is located within El Portal Archeological District. Impact: No known archeological sites occur in the project area. Follow resource protections regarding inadvertent discoveries.

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 Lightscares	None	
Other Human Health and Safety <i>Human Health and Safety</i>	Potential	Issue: Construction in a heavily used area may pose safety risks. Impact: Follow measures to ensure that the safety of staff and the public during construction.
Other Operational	None	
Other Other	None	
Socioeconomic Land Use <i>Land Use</i>	Potential	Issue: Park is used by park employees and park partners in the community. Impact: Beneficial impact on local community.
Socioeconomic Minority and low-income populations, size, migration patterns, etc.	None	
Socioeconomic Socioeconomic	None	
Soundscares Soundscares <i>Soundscape</i>	Potential	Issue: Temporary construction noise may impact surrounding residents. Impact: Follow stipulations regarding minimization of construction noise.
Viewsheds Viewsheds	None	
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	
Wilderness Wilderness	None	