



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: Big Trees Lodge Pool Fence Replacement (YH 2018)

PEPC Project Number: 80464

Description of Action (Project Description):

The swimming tank (pool) at the Big Trees Lodge (formerly the Wawona Hotel) was installed in 1917. The tank is a 30 by 70 foot rectangular reinforced cast concrete basin painted blue with "Wawona 1918" stenciled on the southern face. An 8-inch concrete edge (bond beam) extends above the 30-inch wide concrete deck that surrounds the tank.

Historically, the swimming tank did not have a fence around it. In 1981/1982 a 3-foot tall white picket fence was added around the pool to address safety concerns. While there were other picket-style fences on the property during the historic period of significance, the visual effect of the white pickets around the tank is quite noticeable and unnecessarily detracts from the historic hotel buildings and grounds. The existing white picket fence does not meet current health and safety codes. The California Department of Health has determined that the Big Trees Lodge swimming tank requires a fence that is 60" or higher to comply with safety regulations.

The 2012 Cultural Landscape Report recommended replacing this fence: "The existing fence interrupts the once open feeling surrounding the swimming tank, but is required by code for safety. The existing fence does not meet the 6-foot code requirement and the fence design is not compatible with the historic character of the site."

The concessioner will replace the existing non-historic white picket fence surrounding the swim tank at the Big Trees Lodge with one that will be less conspicuous and consistent with the guidance provided in the CLR. The frame structure for the fence would be 1.5-inch steel with black matte powder coat finish (enclosure 3: fence design). The vertical posts would be a maximum interval of 60-inches and would require concrete footings of 30-inches deep by 12-inches in diameter. Concrete footings would be below grade to avoid the appearance of exposed concrete. The bottom rail of the fence would be no higher than 3-inches above grade. The top rail of the fence would be 72-inches (6-feet) to comply with safety standards. The fence would be infilled with a forest green matte powder-coat ¼-inch wire mesh on a 2-inch grid. Approximately 55 posts would need to be placed in the 60-foot by 100-foot perimeter fence.

Two gates would be installed in the fence. The gates would look like the fence but would be a 36-inch-wide version of the main fence panels. The gates would use a hydraulic closing device due to speed of closing allowing for accessibility and a positive latch for additional safety. The existing pedestrian trails to the swim tank will not be modified at this time.

Mitigation(s):

See Letter of Compliance Completion form for list of mitigations.

CE Citation: C.16 Landscaping and landscape maintenance in previously disturbed or developed areas.

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.

Signature Superintendent:

Michael T. Reynolds

Date:

5/3/2019

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? | Yes | Fence is required per Health and Safety Code ARTICLE 2.5. The Swimming Pool Safety Act Section 115923 |
| 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 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

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|-----------------------------|--|
| Project Title: | Big Trees Lodge Pool Fence Replacement (YH 2018) |
| PEPC Project Number: | 80464 |
| PMIS Number: | |
| Project Type: | Equipment Replacement (EQR) |
| Project Location: | |
| County, State: | Mariposa, California |
| Project Leader: | Josh Keyes |

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

See Categorical Exclusion form for project description.

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 | Potential | Issue: Ground disturbance may inadvertently affect subsurface archeological resources that were previously undocumented |

| | | |
|---|-----------|--|
| <i>Archeological Resources</i> | | Impact: Inadvertent discoveries of archeological materials will be immediately reported to park archeological staff |
| Cultural Cultural Landscapes <i>Non-historic feature in a historic landscape</i> | Potential | Issue: Non-historic feature must be compatible with the historic cultural landscape Impact: The design of the fence has been vetted with subject matter specialists to ensure that it is compatible with the historic cultural landscape of the national historic landmark. |
| 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 <i>Visitor Safety During Construction</i> | Potential | Issue: Visitors and guests of the hotel will be near the construction site Impact: Prevent safety issues by maintaining a construction fence during construction |
| Other Operational <i>Impacts to hotel operations</i> | Potential | Issue: Construction may impact hotel operations Impact: YH will coordinate the timing of this construction to minimize impacts to guest experience in and around the hotel. |
| Other | None | |
| Socioeconomic Land Use | None | |
| Socioeconomic Minority and low-income populations, size, migration patterns, etc. | None | |
| Socioeconomic | None | |
| Soundscapes | None | |
| Viewsheds <i>Fence visibility</i> | Potential | Issue: The presence of a fence where historically there was not a fence has potential to impact views of the pool and across the lawn of the historic cultural landscape |

| | | |
|---|-----------|--|
| | | Impact: The design for the fence was specifically selected to be inconspicuous on the landscape |
| Visitor Use and Experience Recreation Resources | None | |
| Visitor Use and Experience <i>Visitor use of the hotel pool</i> | Potential | Issue: Visitor use of the hotel pool will be affected by the construction and design of the fence Impact: The pool fence gate will be accessible to visitors with mobility impairment. The construction will be scheduled to minimize conflicts with visitor use. |
| 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 | None | |