

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: Tom Richie, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Cicely Muldoon, Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2021-001 Arch Rock Entrance Station Wireless Bridge (PEPC: 98403)

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 project actions described in Planning and Environmental and Public Comment (PEPC) 98403 are approved for implementation. Modifications to plans or additional actions require additional review and approval from the Yosemite National Park Environmental Planning and Compliance Office.
- Please contact the park Plant Ecologist (Kimiora Ward, (209) 379-3293) to conduct a rare plant survey at Elephant Rock at least 2 weeks prior to work commencing at this location.
- During any ground disturbing work (e.g. trenching and post-hole digging) spray water at the project site to suppress dust.
- All new elements should be painted brown or black to minimize visual impact, including dishes, metal poles, and frames of solar panels.
- All equipment, particularly the new installation at Elephant Rock, should be easily removable in the event that the Arch Rock Entrance Station is relocated or a long-term connectivity solution is implemented in the future.

Cuna	uintar	dont	Signa	t
Supe	rınter	ıaent	Signa	ture:

Cicely Muldoon

Date:

April 16, 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: Arch Rock Entrance Station Wireless Bridge

PEPC Project Number: 98403

**Description of Action (Project Description):** 

The implementation of a temporary reservation system for park entry in 2020 significantly increased the importance of network connectivity at the park entrance stations. Intermittent network connection has made it difficult for gate staff to access a visitor's reservation information to confirm their entry and has caused delays at the park's four entry stations. In addition to the reservation system, credit card transactions using a new point-of-sale system, gate staff access to network-based systems such as SharePoint and email, VoIP phone systems, and camera servers all rely on dependable network connectivity at the park's entrance stations.

The park is proposing to create a wireless bridge between the Arch Rock Entrance Station and the Turtleback Dome Telecommunications facility to improve network connectivity at the entrance station. This will be accomplished by removing an existing wooden utility pole northeast of the Arch Rock Entrance Station and installing a new pole of the same size and appearance approximately 27 feet closer to the Merced River. The park is also proposing to install a wireless link at Elephant Rock, within line of sight of this relocated pole and the Turtleback Dome Telecommunications facility.

The equipment at both sites will consist of a single 24" parabolic antenna. New equipment at both locations (poles, antennas, solar panel frames) will be painted brown or black to the extent possible to minimize visual impact. The location and expected ground disturbance associated with these sites is summarized below:

#### Arch Rock:

37.68632, -119.72999

Equipment: 24" parabolic antenna mounted on wooden monopole buried in hole  $\sim$ 8" in diameter and  $\sim$ 5' deep. Power will be trenched from the current pole location to the proposed location (27' long x 18" wide x 18" deep).

#### Elephant Rock:

37.71294 -119.71122

Equipment: 24" parabolic antenna and 3 solar panels mounted on a 4" steel pole buried ~6' in new location. The pole may be moved within a few feet of the proposed location if bedrock is encountered before reaching 6'.

This project is estimated to take 4-5 weeks to implement. This entrance station connectivity solution will use unlicensed frequencies.

#### Mitigation(s):

See Letter of Compliance Completion Form for mitigations.

CE Citation: C.5 Installation of signs, displays, kiosks, etc.

CE Justification:			
Decision: I find that the action fits excluding the described project fr	8		, ,
Superintendent Signature:	Cicely Muldoon	Date:	April 16, 2021

# **Extraordinary Circumstances:**

1	Notes
t	None
No	None
No	None
No	None
No	None
n/a	No longer applicable
	per the updated 2020
	CEQ NEPA regulations
	and DOI direction.
No	None
No	None
No	None
No	None
110	
No	None
No	None
	No No n/a



# **ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)**

**Updated Sept 2015 per NPS NEPA Handbook** 

# A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Arch Rock Entrance Station Wireless Bridge

**PEPC Project Number:** 98403

**Project Type:** Communications (CM)

Project Location: County, State: Mariposa, California

Project Leader: Tom Richie

# **B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

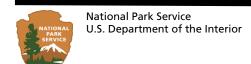
See Categorical Exclusion form

# C. RESOURCE IMPACTS TO CONSIDER:

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Air Air Quality Dust	Potential	Issue: Post hole digging and power trenching may produce dust.  Impact: Dust generation will be minimal, highly localized, and short-term during installation.
Biological Nonnative or Exotic Species	None	None
Biological Species of Special Concern or Their Habitat	None	None
Biological Vegetation Rare plants	Potential	Issue: There are known populations of rare plants in the vicinity of Elephant Rock, though their extent within the project area is unknown.  Impact: The park Plant Ecologist will be contacted to conduct rare plant surveys at Elephant Rock before work commences at that location.
Biological Wildlife and/or Wildlife Habitat including terrestrial and aquatic species	None	None
Cultural Archeological Resources	None	None

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Cultural Cultural Landscapes Merced Canyon Travel Corridor Historic District	Potential	Issue: The pole to be moved at the Arch Rock Entrance Station is within the Merced Canyon Travel Corridor Historic District. The existing pole was installed circa 2007, outside of the District's period of significance.  Impact: The Cultural Resource Management Team has reviewed the project and determined that moving the pole will result in no adverse effects to the Historic District.
Cultural Ethnographic Resources	None	None
Cultural Museum Collections	None	None
Cultural Prehistoric/historic structures Arch Rock Entrance Station, Arch Rock Retaining Wall	Potential	Issue: The Arch Rock Entrance Station and Arch Rock Retaining Wall are recommended as contributing structures to the Merced Canyon Travel Corridor Historic District and are visible from the project area.  Impact: The Cultural Resource Management Team has reviewed the project and determined that moving the pole will result in no adverse effects to the Historic District.
Geological Geologic Features	None	None
Geological Geologic Processes	None	None
Lightscapes Lightscapes	None	None
Other Human Health and Safety	None	None
Other Operational Network Connectivity	Potential	Issue: The implementation of this project is expected to improve network connectivity at the Arch Rock Entrance Station.  Impact: Improved network access will allow the NPS to check reservations and move visitors through the entrance station more quickly.
Other Other	None	None
Socioeconomic Land Use	None	None
Socioeconomic Minority and low- income populations, size, migration patterns, etc.	None	None

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Socioeconomic Socioeconomic	None	None
Soundscapes Soundscapes	None	None
Viewsheds Viewsheds	Potential	Issue: The Elephant Rock repeater will be a new structure located along the rim of Yosemite Valley  Impact: The Elephant Rock repeater is a small structure and will not be visible from any road or established trail.
Visitor Use and Experience Recreation Resources	None	None
Visitor Use and Experience Visitor Use and Experience	Potential	Issue: See Network Connectivity, above.
Water Floodplains	None	Issue: The proposed Arch Rock Pole location is within the 1% chance of annual flooding zone. The existing pole location is within this same flood zone.  Impact: There will be no net gain in flood level rise as a result of this project.
Water Marine or Estuarine Resources	None	None
Water Water Quality or Quantity	None	None
Water Wetlands	None	None
Water Wild and Scenic River Merced Wild and Scenic River Corridor	Potential	Issue: The Arch Rock portion of the project area is within Segment 3 (the Gorge) of the Merced Wild and Scenic River. This segment is classified as "scenic".  Impact: There will be no net gain in visual contrasts or development for the Arch Rock portion of the project. The project is not expected to significantly impact the scenic values of this river segment.
Wilderness Wilderness	None	No new equipment will be visible from Wilderness.



# ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

#### A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. Park: Yosemite National Park

#### 2. Project Description:

Project Name: Arch Rock Entrance Station Wireless Bridge

Prepared by: Daniel Sharon Date Prepared: 11/13/2020 Telephone: (209) 379-1038

PEPC Project Number: 98403

**Locations:** 

County, State: Mariposa, CA

**Describe project:** 

See Categorical Exclusion form.

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

The APE is limited to the parking lot northeast of the Arch Rock Entrance Station (37.68632, -119.72999) as well as an area ~260 meters east of Elephant Rock. At Arch Rock, an existing wooden monopole will be removed and a new pole of the same size and appearance will be moved 27 feet closer to the Merced River. The APE at Arch Rock is bounded to the west by the El Portal Road, to the east by the Merced River, to the north by the forested edge, and to the south by the entrance office building. At Elephant Rock a new 4" steel pole will be installed. Equipment mounted to the poles will consist of a 24" parabolic antenna at each location and 3 solar panels at the Elephant Rock location. The Elephant Rock pole will not be visible from any road or trail. The APE at Elephant Rock is bounded on all sides by the forested edge.

The vertical APE is limited to the penetrations required to install the new poles and power trenching for the Arch Rock repeater. The hole at Arch Rock will be  $\sim$ 8" in diameter and  $\sim$ 5' deep. The trench for the buried power at this location will be  $\sim$ 27' long,  $\sim$ 18" wide, and  $\sim$ 18" deep. The hole at Elephant Rock will be  $\sim$ 6" in diameter and  $\sim$ 6' deep.

New equipment at both locations (poles, antennas, solar panel frames) will be painted brown or black to the extent possible to minimize visual impact.

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

Select with X	Response
n/a	No
X	Yes
n/a	Source or
	reference:

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

Archeological Resources Present: No

Historical Structures/Resources Present: Yes

**Historical Structures/Resources Notes:** The Arch Rock Entrance Station and Arch Rock Retaining wall are recommended as contributing structures to the Merced Canyon Travel Corridor Historic District and are visible from the project area.

**Cultural Landscapes Present:** Yes

**Property Name:** Merced Canyon Travel Corridor LCS:

Cultural Landscapes Notes: The Arch Rock location is within the Merced Canyon Travel Corridor Historic

District

**Ethnographic Resources Present:** No

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

Yes/No	The proposed action will
No	Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure
No	Replace historic features/elements in kind
No	Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure
No	Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment
	(inc. terrain)
Yes	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)
No	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:** 03/26/2021

Comments: Compliance complete. SHPO concurrence received 3/26/2021

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [ ]  Assessment of Effect:No Potential to Cause EffectNo Historic Properties AffectedX_No Adverse EffectAdverse EffectStreamlined Review  Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: Please follow all specialists recommendations.
<b>Doc Method:</b> Standard 4-Step Process
[X] Anthropologist Name: Liz Williams Date: 12/22/2020 Comments: Project submitted for tribal consultation in Nov 2020 Tribal Spreadsheet emailed to tribes for 30 day review on 11.19.20. No tribal comments received.
Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [ ]  Assessment of Effect:No Potential to Cause EffectNo Historic Properties AffectedX_No Adverse EffectAdverse EffectStreamlined Review  Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:
<b>Doc Method:</b> Standard 4-Step Process
[X] Archeologist Name: Wesley Wills Date: 12/22/2020 Comments: Both project areas were archeologically surveyed in 2020 and no archeological sites were identified Archeological monitoring adjacent to the Arch Rock project area in 2018 indicates that all sediments are previously disturbed and composed largely of construction fill with no associated archeological materials. No further archeological work is recommended.
Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [ ]  Assessment of Effect:No Potential to Cause EffectNo Historic Properties AffectedX_No Adverse EffectAdverse EffectStreamlined Review  Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:
Doc Method: Standard 4-Step Process
[X] Historical Architect Name: Sueann Brown Date: 01/05/2021
Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [ ]  Assessment of Effect:No Potential to Cause EffectNo Historic Properties AffectedX_No Adverse EffectAdverse EffectStreamlined Review  Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: All new elements should be painted brown or black to minimize visual impact, including dishes, metal poles and frames of solar panels.
Doc Method: Standard 4-Step Process
[X] Historical Landscape Architect Name: Vida Germano Date: 01/19/2021
Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [ ]  Assessment of Effect:No Potential to Cause EffectNo Historic Properties AffectedX_No

Adverse Effect \_\_\_Adverse Effect \_\_\_Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

**Doc Method:** Standard 4-Step Process

No Reviews From: Curator, Historian, Other Advisor

#### C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 1. Assessment of Effect:

Select with X	Assessment of Effect:
n/a	No Potential to Cause
	Effects
n/a	No Historic Properties
	Affected
X	No Adverse Effect
n/a	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: Feb 22, 2021 SHPO Received: Mar 26, 2021

THPO Required: Yes THPO Sent: Nov 19, 2020

**THPO Received:** No response received after 30 days

SHPO/THPO Notes: SHPO concurrence with Finding of No Adverse Effect received 3/26/2021.

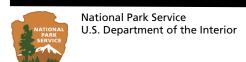
**Advisory Council Participating:** No **Advisory Council Notes: Additional Consulting Parties:** No

- **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:

• All new elements should be painted brown or black to minimize visual impact, including dishes, metal poles and frames of solar panels.

6. Assessment of Effect Notes:					
D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK S	SECTION 106 COORDIN	ATOR:			
106 Coordinator Signature:	Hope Schear	Date:	April 12, 2021		
E. SUPERINTENDENT'S APPRO	VAL				
The proposed work conforms to the I and I have reviewed and approve the form.	O		O	e	
Superintendent Signatures	Ciaaly Muldoon	Data	Amril 16, 2021		



# **Other Compliance/Consultations Form**

Park Name: Yosemite National Park PEPC Project Number: 98403

Project Title: Arch Rock Entrance Station Wireless Bridge

**Project Type:** Communications

**Project Location:** 

County, State: Mariposa, CA Project Leader: Tom Richie

#### **ESA**

Any Federal Species in the project Area? Yes

If species in area: No Effect

Was Biological Assessment prepared? No If Biological Assessment prepared, concurred?

Formal Consultation required? No

**Formal Consultation Notes:** 

The project is in modeled suitable Fisher habitat, though Fisher are not known to inhabit these areas. The park's Compliance Biologist has reviewed the project and determined that there would be no effect to the species.

**Formal Consultation Concluded:** 

Any State listed Species in the Project Area? No

**Consultation Information:** 

**General Notes:** 

Data Enter By: Daniel Sharon Date: February 18, 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?	Yes	Determined to be exempt from compliance with Director's Order #77-2 and no Floodplain Statement of Findings required.
A.2. Is Project in wetlands as defined by NPS/DOI?	No	Not in wetland as defined by NPS/DOI.

Question	Yes/No	Details
B. COE Section 404 permit needed?	No	No placement of fill in waters of the United States.
C. State 401 certification?	n/a	n/a
D. State Section 401 Permit?	n/a	Issue Date: Expiration Date:
E. Tribal Water Quality Permit?	n/a	n/a
F. CZM Consistency determination needed?	n/a	N/A
G. Erosion & Sediment Control Plan Required?	No	n/a
H. Any other permits required?	No	Permit Information:
Other Information:	Yes	The proposed Arch Rock Pole location is within the 1% chance of annual flooding zone. The existing pole location is within this same flood zone, therefore there will be no net gain in flood level rise as a result of this project. The project affects less than 0.1 acre, and would not affect the course, current, or cross section of the floodplain.

Data Enter By: Daniel Sharon Date: December 20, 2020

# Floodplains & Wetlands Mitigations

No Floodplains & Wetlands mitigations are associated with this project.

# Wilderness

Question	Yes/No	Notes
A. Does this project occur in or adjacent to Designated, Recommended, Proposed, Study, Eligible, or Potential Wilderness?	No	n/a
B. Is the only place to conduct this project in wilderness?	n/a	n/a
C. Is the project necessary for the administration of the area as wilderness?	n/a	n/a

Question	Yes/No	Notes
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)	n/a	n/a
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)	n/a	n/a
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.	n/a	Initiation Date: Completed Date: Approved Date:
Other Information:	n/a	n/a

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

Question	Yes	No
C. Wild and scenic river concerns exist?		n/a
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)		n/a
G. Other:	n/a	No

# **Other Information:**

Project does not occur within the bed and banks of the Merced Wild and Scenic River but the pole at Arch Rock will be moved 27 feet closer to the river. Overall, there will be no net gain in contrasts or development along this scenic segment of the river.

Data Entered By: Daniel Sharon Date: December 10, 2020