



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: Joshua Keyes, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Cicely Muldoon, Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2021-086 El Portal Market Generator and HVAC (CFF 2021)
(PEPC: 92882)

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:

- To the extent practical, work shall be scheduled to avoid construction activity and construction related delays during peak visitation times. No holiday or night time work shall be allowed. Weekend work (Friday through Sunday) shall not be allowed unless authorized in writing by the park's Superintendent.
- If there are any holes as a result of electrical and plumbing work, these shall be filled so that there shall be no pathways for mice, to aid in Hantavirus prevention.
- New wall penetrations will be minimized.

Superintendent Signature: _____ Cicely Muldoon **Date:** _____ September 9, 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: 2021-086 El Portal Market Generator and HVAC (CFF 2021)

PEPC Project Number: 92882

Description of Action (Project Description):

The El Portal Market is a year-round concessioner-operated facility in El Portal, California within the administrative site for Yosemite National Park. It is the only grocery store in the area and provides valuable service to the local community and park visitors.

The current ducted heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system has reached the end of its useful life and it is necessary to install a more reliable and energy-efficient system. The scope of work is proposed to include the following:

- Recover refrigerant gas and demo and remove (3) existing air conditioning units, including duct, duct insulation, dampers, registers, grilles, refrigerant piping, pipe insulation, associated hardware and hangers, and electrical system to existing HVAC system.
- Install (1) new variable refrigerant flow condensing unit, (1) new branch circuit controller unit, (1) new ceiling cassette unit, copper refrigerant piping, pipe insulation, aluminum jacket, hanger, and associated hardware.
- Install (4) new ducted fan coil units and (1) new energy recovery ventilator unit, duct, duct insulation, dampers, registers, grilles, copper refrigerant, piping, pipe insulation, hanger and associated hardware.
- Install (5) new copper condensate drains, hanger and associated hardware to new fan coils.
- Install thermostats.
- Install associated electrical to new variable refrigerant flow system.
- Complete necessary drywall and siding patching and paint touch-ups.

A permanent backup generator is required to keep the market functional during power outages. El Portal is subject to frequent and prolonged power outages caused by weather, wildfire, and public safety power shutoffs by PG&E (the local utility company) when high winds and potential wildfires are predicted. The town of El Portal is also frequently isolated by road closures caused by weather, rockfall, wildfire, and floods, which can strand residents and visitors for days at a time.

The project will provide and construct all necessary components and connections to provide full standby power to the electrical loads at the market. It will include a 125 KW propane generator with weatherproof and sound attenuated enclosure; an above ground 1000-gallon propane tank; 80 feet of trenching for electrical conduits and propane fuel lines; wire and terminations to connect to the existing manual transfer switch, generator, and propane tank foundations. The work will occur on the north side of the building. The scope of the generator work is proposed to include the following:

- Demo of Existing Manual Transfer Switch and Tap box.

- Install of new 125 KW Propane power generator and new 400 amp automatic transfer switch.
- Install grounding for new generator.
- Block heater and Battery charger circuits to generator.
- Install underground gas piping from propane tank to generator complete with regulators and flexible connection requiring 80 feet of trenching measuring 18 inches wide by 24 inches deep.
- Install a 6" Concrete Slab for Generator requiring very minor leveling of an area measuring 10 feet by 6 feet.

Mitigation(s):

See Letter of Compliance Completion Form for mitigations.

CE Citation: C.4 Routine maintenance and repairs to cultural resource sites, structures, utilities and grounds under an approved Historic Structures Preservation Guide or Cyclic Maintenance Guide; or if the action would not adversely affect the cultural resource.

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 Signature: _____ **Cicely Muldoon** **Date:** _____ **September 9, 2021**

Extraordinary Circumstances:

If implemented, would the proposal...	Yes/No	Notes
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?	No	None
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	None
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?	No	None
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	No	None
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	No	None
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	None
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	None
I. Violate a federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	No	None
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898)?	No	None
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	None
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	None



ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

Updated Sept 2015 per NPS NEPA Handbook

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: 2021-086 El Portal Market Generator and HVAC (CFF 2021)

PEPC Project Number: 92882

Project Type: Capital Improvement/New Construction (CI)

Project Location: County, State: Mariposa, CA

Project Leader: Joshua Keys

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

See Categorical Exclusion Form.

C. RESOURCE IMPACTS TO CONSIDER:

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Air Air Quality	None	None
Biological Nonnative or Exotic Species	None	None
Biological Species of Special Concern or Their Habitat	None	None
Biological Vegetation	None	None
Biological Wildlife and/or Wildlife Habitat including terrestrial and aquatic species	None	None

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Cultural Archeological Resources	Potential	Issue: The work is within the El Portal Archeological District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The ground here has been heavily disturbed for construction of the market, existing propane tank, service station, adjacent roads, and utilities. The area was archeologically surveyed in 1975, 2000, and 2014 with no sites identified. Impact: No additional archeological survey or monitoring is required for this project.
Cultural Cultural Landscapes	None	None
Cultural Ethnographic Resources	None	None
Cultural Museum Collections	None	None
Cultural Prehistoric/historic structures	Potential	Issue: This building has been determined eligible for the NRHP and may constitute a small historic district with the nearby cabin cluster and building 10901, the Old Hotel. Impact: There will be no additional holes being opened (at the interior/exterior - Don Faxon). The HVAC system will utilize the existing returns and vents the patchwork is mainly in reference to repairing the existing holes that will no longer be required in vicinity of the existing HVAC unit and electrical panel to the rear of the building currently behind the fence.
Geological Geologic Features	None	None
Geological Geologic Processes	None	None
Lightsapes	None	None
Other Human Health and Safety <i>Parking Lot Safety</i>	Potential	Issue: The parking lot sees high volumes of visitor traffic with high turn-over. Impact: The site of the propane tank was selected to minimize potential for impacts from cars in this parking lot.

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Other Operational <i>Continuous operations of the store during power outages</i>	Potential	Issue: None Power outages can result from weather incidents, fire or rock slide, and now public safety power shut offs. The no action alternative would shut down the store and result in lost revenue and food waste. A generator allows the store to protect assets and food products while providing an essential service to the local community during a power outage. Impact: The generator and updated HVAC system would improve operational conditions for visitors and staff.
Other	None	None
Socioeconomic Land Use <i>Concessioner Land Assignment</i>	Potential	Issue: The propane tank would be located adjacent to the garage propane tank. This is in the primary concessioner's land assignment which may not always be the concessioner with the store contract. Impact: Considerations were made to minimize the impacts to land use and land assignments.
Socioeconomic Minority and low-income populations, size, migration patterns, etc.	None	None
Socioeconomic Socioeconomic	None	None
Soundscapes Soundscapes <i>Generator Noise near Residential Area</i>	Potential	Issue: Permissible noise levels range from 45 decibels to 55 decibels at night in commercial and residential areas. An 8,000V is not expected to exceed this level, no additional baffling or sound shelter is necessary. The proposed HVAC unit will be quieter than the existing equipment.
Viewsheds	None	None
Visitor Use and Experience Recreation Resources	None	None
Visitor Use and Experience Visitor Use and Experience	None	None
Water Floodplains	None	None

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Water Marine or Estuarine Resources	None	None
Water Water Quality or Quantity	None	None
Water Wetlands	None	None
Water Wild and Scenic River <i>Merced Wild and Scenic River</i>	Potential	<p>Issue: This project is being proposed within the Merced Wild and Scenic River corridor. The store has been determined to be a necessary public facility within the river corridor. There is no other logical location for the generator or propane tank.</p> <p>Impact: The impacts of this project would not have direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts on the river or its values.</p>
Wilderness	None	None



ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

2. **Project Description:**

Project Name: 2021-086 El Portal Market Generator and HVAC (CFF 2021)

Prepared by: Erin Davenport **Date Prepared:** 07/09/2021 **Telephone:** (209) 379-1067

PEPC Project Number: 92882

Locations:

County, State: Mariposa, CA

Describe project:

See Categorical Exclusion form.

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

The area of potential effect (APE) is bounded to the north by the covered storage shed, to the east by the El Portal Gas Station building, to the south by Highway 140 (the El Portal Road), and to the west by the Motor Inn cabins. The vertical APE is 24-inches below grade, and 4-feet above grade.

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

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

Archeological Resources Present: Yes

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

Historical Structures/Resources Present: Yes

Property Name: El Portal Historic District

Location: Old El Portal

Historical Structures/Resources Notes: The current El Portal Market was previously an expansion of the El Portal hotel constructed in 1948. It has been used as offices, shops, and temporary housing until its renovation into a retail space in 2009. It is mentioned in the 2005 Cultural Landscape Inventory and the 2011 El Portal Admin Site Historic Resource Study. The 2011 report includes the building in the proposed historic district and recommends that a determination of eligibility should be conducted.

Cultural Landscapes Present: No

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)
No	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:

106 Advisor

Name: Hope Schear

Date: 08/23/2021

Comments: Compliance complete, no SHPO response received. No tribal concerns received. Please see specialists reviews for any recommendations.

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

106 Advisor

Name: Madelyn Ruffner

Date: 03/10/2020

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

[X] Anthropologist

Name: Scott Carpenter

Date: 03/10/2020

Comments: Project included on February 2020 tribal spreadsheet; no comments or concerns from the tribes were received by the park. No known historic properties with religious and cultural significance in the area are listed in the park's ethnographic database.

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

[X] Archeologist

Name: Wesley Wills

Date: 03/10/2020

Comments: The work is within the El Portal Archeological District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The ground here has been heavily disturbed for construction of the market, existing propane tank, service station, adjacent roads, and utilities. The area was archeologically surveyed in 1975, 2000, and 2014 with no sites identified. No additional archeological work is planned for this location.

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

[X] Historian

Name: Scott Carpenter

Date: 03/10/2020

Comments: No Historical Architect review for the generator project needed since all work is exterior to building. No Historical Landscape Architect review needed because propane tank is proposed at rear of building in previously disturbed area.

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

[X] Historical Architect

Name: Donald Faxon

Date: 08/27/2021

Comments: This building has been determined eligible for the NRHP and may constitute a small historic district with the nearby cabin cluster and building 10901, the Old Hotel.

From John Hampey (8/26/01) in response to questions: There will be no additional holes being opened (at the interior/exterior - DF). The HVAC system will utilize the existing returns and vents the patchwork is mainly in

reference to repairing the existing holes that will no longer be required in vicinity of the existing HVAC unit and electrical panel to the rear of the building currently behind the fence.... the propane tank currently is located in that area to meet the code requirement for the minimum distance that size propane tank can be to an existing structure.

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: All of the project work appears to largely replace the existing system(s) in a similar manner, both inside and out of the building.

Doc Method: Standard 4-Step Process

No Reviews From: Curator, Other Advisor, Historical Landscape Architect

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: Jul 9, 2021
SHPO Received: No SHPO Response Received After 30 Days

THPO Required: Yes
THPO Sent: Feb 4, 2020
THPO Received: No THPO Response Received After 30 Days

SHPO/THPO Notes:

Advisory Council Participating: No
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: See Letter of Compliance Competition Form.

6. Assessment of Effect Notes:

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

Section 106 Coordinator Signature: Hope Schear **Date:** September 7, 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.

Superintendent Signature: Cicely Muldoon **Date:** September 9, 2021



Other Compliance/Consultations Form

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
PEPC Project Number: 92882
Project Title: 2021-086 El Portal Market Generator and HVAC (CFF 2021)
Project Type: Capital Improvement/New Construction
Project Location:
County, State: Mariposa, CA
Project Leader: Joshua Keyes

ESA

Any Federal Species in the project Area? No
If species in area: No Effect
Was Biological Assessment prepared? No
If Biological Assessment prepared, concurred?
Formal Consultation required? No
Formal Consultation Notes:
Formal Consultation Concluded:
Any State listed Species in the Project Area? No
Consultation Information:
General Notes:

Data Entered by: Erin Davenport

Date: July 13, 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	None
D. State Section 401 Permit?	No	Issue Date: Expiration Date:

Question	Yes/No	Details
E. Tribal Water Quality Permit?	No	None
F. CZM Consistency determination needed?	No	Date Review Requested: Date Reply Received: Date State Concurred:
G. Erosion & Sediment Control Plan Required?	No	None
H. Any other permits required?	No	Permit Information:
Other Information:	No	None

Data Entered by: Erin Davenport

Date: July 13, 2021

Floodplains & Wetlands Mitigations

No Floodplains & Wetlands mitigations are associated with this project.

Wilderness

Question	Yes/No	Details
A. Does this project occur in or adjacent to Designated, Recommended, Proposed, Study, Eligible, or Potential Wilderness?	No	None
B. Is the only place to conduct this project in wilderness?	No	None
C. Is the project necessary for the administration of the area as wilderness?	No	None
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	None
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	None
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:	No	None

Data Entered by: Erin Davenport

Date: July 13, 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:	No

Other Information:

This project is being proposed within the Merced Wild and Scenic River corridor. The store has been determined to be a necessary public facility within the river corridor. There is no other logical location for the generator or propane tank. The impacts of this project would not have direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts on the river or its values.

Data Entered by: Erin Davenport

Date: July 13, 2021