



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: Howard Kaufmann, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Cicely Muldoon, Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2021-092 CHP Low Band Antenna (PEPC: 98061)

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) 98061 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.
- No ground disturbance is authorized.

Superintendent Signature: _____ Cicely Muldoon

Date: _____ October 27, 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: CHP Low Band Antenna

PEPC Project Number: 98061

Description of Action (Project Description):

The NPS proposes to issue a 10-year Right of Way permit to the California Highway Patrol to install and operate Radio Communications equipment at an existing communications tower at the El Portal Administrative Complex/Warehouse. The Merced River Canyon Highway 140 is a heavily traveled road and may be dangerous at certain times of the year due to snow, ice, rock falls, and other hazards. There is a "dead zone" for CHP radio communication around the NPS Warehouse location that creates a safety risk for travelers on Highway 140 as well as for CHP officers. This project will allow CHP improved communications along the Merced river corridor.

The project proposal is to:

- Mount a small low band antenna on the existing NPS tower located at the SE corner of the Warehouse property.
- Install rack-mounted equipment inside the existing NPS communications hut located near the tower.
- Install a new 14Kw emergency generator in place of the current NPS generator to handle all the existing loads within the hut as well as the new CHP equipment in the event of a power failure. Will include a new ATS sized for the new generator.

No ground disturbance is proposed.

Mitigation(s):

See Letter of Compliance Completion form for mitigations.

CE Citation: C.12 Upgrading or adding new overhead utility facilities to existing poles, or replacement poles which do not change existing pole line configurations.

CE Justification:

Proposal to issue a ROW permit to CHP to install overhead utilities to an existing NPS communications tower with no ground disturbance.

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:** _____ **October 27, 2021**

Extraordinary Circumstances:

If implemented, would the proposal...	Yes/No	Notes
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?	No	Implementation will improve public safety by providing CHP radio coverage in an area without current coverage.
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 130007)?	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: CHP Low Band Antenna
PEPC Project Number: 98061
Project Title: CHP Low Band Antenna
Project Type: Special Use Permit (SUP)
Project Location:
County, State: Mariposa, CA
Project Leader: Howard Kaufmann

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
Cultural Archeological Resources	Potential	Issue: The project site is located near a known archeological site. Impact: The project does not involve any ground disturbance and will not impact the archeological site.

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Cultural Cultural Landscapes	None	None
Cultural Ethnographic Resources	Potential	Issue: Ethnographic resources have been identified near the project area. Impact: The project does not involve any ground disturbance and will not impact ethnographic resources. The park provided project details to tribes and did not receive any comments or concerns.
Cultural Museum Collections	None	None
Cultural Prehistoric/historic structures	None	None
Geological Geologic Features	None	None
Geological Geologic Processes	None	None
Lightscares	None	None
Other Human Health and Safety <i>Visitor Safety</i>	Potential	Issue: Dangerous conditions may exist along Highway 140 at certain times of year. There is currently a "dead zone" for CHP radio communications in the corridor surrounding the El Portal admin complex. Impact: This project will provide radio communication coverage to this area of Highway 140, allowing CHP to respond more quickly to incidents and improve public safety.
Other Operational <i>Officer Safety and Operations</i>	Potential	Issue: See Human Health and Safety, above. Impact: This project will also improve operations and safety for CHP officers.
Other	None	None
Socioeconomic Land Use	None	None
Socioeconomic Minority and low-income populations, size, migration patterns, etc.	None	None
Socioeconomic	None	None
Soundscapes	None	None
Viewsheds	Potential	Issue: Project will add antennas to an existing tower. Impact: The El Portal admin complex is a highly developed area and additional antennas will not add a significant new visual impact.

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Visitor Use and Experience Recreation Resources	None	None
Visitor Use and Experience	None	None
Water Floodplains	None	None
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: The project area is within Segment 4 (El Portal) of the Merced Wild and Scenic River. This segment is classified as "recreational".</p> <p>Impact: Project does not occur within the bed and banks of the Merced Wild and Scenic River, will not jeopardize ORVs for this segment, and will not add significant visual contrasts along the corridor.</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: CHP Low Band Antenna

Prepared by: Ninette Daniele **Date Prepared:** 11/09/2020 **Telephone:** (209) 379-1457

PEPC Project Number: 98061

Locations:

County, State: Mariposa, CA

Describe project:

See Categorical Exclusion Form

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

Project would add CHP equipment onto an existing tower at the El Portal Maintenance Building. No ground disturbance is proposed.

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

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

Archeological Resources Present: Yes

Archeological Resources Notes: Project will occur within the boundaries of archeological site CA-MRP-0183/H, which is a contributing element of the El Portal Archeological District. However, archeological materials have not been identified in this location and the project area has been extensively disturbed by various existing modern structures, buried utility lines, and a graveled road. No ground disturbance is proposed.

Historical Structures/Resources Present: No

Cultural Landscapes Present: No

Ethnographic Resources Present: Yes

Ethnographic Resources Notes:

However, the project area is extensively disturbed and no archeological materials have been identified in this location. The project was included in the December 2020 tribal spreadsheet and no comments, concerns, or identification of any properties of traditional religious and cultural significance were received.

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:

[X] 106 Advisor

Name: Hope Shear

Date: 10/13/2021

Comments: Compliance completed under streamlined review YOSE PA 8f. No HA/HLA required

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: ___No Potential to Cause Effect ___No Historic Properties Affected X No Adverse Effect ___Adverse Effect ___Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: Please follow all specialists recommendations.

Doc Method: Park Specific or Other Programmatic Agreement

[X] Anthropologist

Name: Wesley Wills

Date: 12/08/2020

Comments:

However, the project area is extensively disturbed and no cultural materials have been identified in this location. Tribes were invited to consult through the Tribal Spreadsheet on 12/24/2020. The park did not receive a response to our consultation request within 30-days

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: ___No Potential to Cause Effect ___No Historic Properties Affected X No Adverse Effect ___Adverse Effect ___Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method: Park Specific or Other Programmatic Agreement

[X] Anthropologist

Name: Liz Williams

Date: 10/12/2021

Comments: Tribes were invited to consult through the TSS on 12/24/2021.

The park did not receive a response to our consultation request within 30-days.

No comments, concerns, or objections have been received by the park within 30-days.

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: Park Specific or Other Programmatic Agreement

[X] Archeologist

Name: Wesley Wills

Date: 12/08/2020

Comments: The project area has been archeologically surveyed in 1975, 1998, 2011, and 2020, with test excavations completed in 1981 and construction monitoring in 1998. The project will occur within the boundaries of archeological site CA-MRP-0183/H, which is a contributing element of the El Portal Archeological District (listed on the National Register of Historic Places). However, archeological materials have not been identified in the project area and it has been extensively disturbed by various existing modern structures, buried utility lines, and a graveled road. The small amount of ground disturbance would occur entirely in these heavily disturbed deposits and no further archeological work is recommended.

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: Park Specific or Other Programmatic Agreement

[X] Archeologist

Name: Erin Davenport

Date: 10/05/2021

Comments: REVISION OF EARLIER ARCHEOLOGIST COMMENTS: The project area has been archeologically surveyed in 1975, 1998, 2011, and 2020, with test excavations completed in 1981 and construction monitoring in 1998. The project will occur within the boundaries of archeological site CA-MRP-0183/H, which is a contributing element of the El Portal Archeological District (listed on the National Register of Historic Places). However, archeological materials have not been identified in the project area and it has been extensively disturbed by various existing modern structures, buried utility lines, and a graveled road. No ground disturbance is anticipated and no further archeological work is recommended.

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: Park Specific or Other Programmatic Agreement

No Reviews From: Curator, Historical Architect, Historian, 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:

☐ 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: No

SHPO Sent:

SHPO Received:

THPO Required: Yes

THPO Sent: December 24, 2020

THPO Received: No responses received after 30 days

SHPO/THPO Notes:

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:

- No ground disturbance is authorized.

6. Assessment of Effect Notes:

Project is covered by the 2020 Yosemite Parkwide Programmatic Agreement category 8f.

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

Section 106 Coordinator Hope Schear **Date:** October 25, 2021
Signature: _____

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:** _____ October 27, 2021



Other Compliance/Consultations Form

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
PEPC Project Number: 98061
Project Title: CHP Low Band Antenna
Project Type: Special Use Permit
Project Location:
County, State: Mariposa, CA
Project Leader: Howard Kaufmann

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: Daniel Sharon

Date: October 5, 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:
E. Tribal Water Quality Permit?	No	None
F. CZM Consistency determination needed?	N/A	N/A

Question	Yes/No	Details
G. Erosion & Sediment Control Plan Required?	No	None
H. Any other permits required?	No	Permit Information:
Other Information:	No	None

Data Entered by: Daniel Sharon

Date: October 5, 2021

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	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: Daniel Sharon

Date: October 5, 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

Question	Yes/No
G. Other:	No

Other Information:

The project area is within Segment 4 (El Portal) of the Merced Wild and Scenic River. This segment is classified as "recreational". Project does not occur within the bed and banks of the Merced Wild and Scenic River, will not jeopardize ORVs for this segment, and will not add significant visual contrasts along the corridor.

Data Entered by: Daniel Sharon

Date: October 5, 2021