



IN REPLY REFER TO:  
L7615(YOSE-PM)

## United States Department of the Interior NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yosemite National Park  
P. O. Box 577  
Yosemite, California 95389

### Memorandum

To: Mark Husbands, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park  
From: Acting Superintendent, Yosemite National Park  
Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2009-106 Parkwide Geotechnical Investigation for  
Communication Data Network (28070)

The Management Team has reviewed the proposed project/action and completed its environmental assessment documentation, and we have determined that there:

- Will not be any effect on threatened, endangered, or rare species and/or their critical habitat.
- Will not be any effect on historical, cultural, or archeological resources.
- 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.

For the proposed project actions to be within compliance requirements during construction and/or project implementation, the following mitigations must be adhered to:

- No mitigations identified.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

//Luis Shram// (acting)  
David V. Uberuaga

*The signed original of this document is on file at  
the Environmental Planning and Compliance  
Office in Yosemite National Park.*

Enclosure (with attachments)

cc: Statutory Compliance File



## Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: **2009-106 Parkwide Geotechnical Investigation For Communication Data Network**

PEPC ID: **28070**

Project Description: Up to nine test borings (mechanical) and three site investigations (using hand boring and/or non-destructive methods, such as seismic refraction) are required to support the design and development of the Communication Data Network project. These borings will provide geotechnical information about the anticipated subsurface conditions for the construction of communication sites, including equipment shelters and communication towers. The findings will result in geotechnical recommendations for foundation and utility construction. The nine test borings will be 5-inches in diameter and reach 40 feet deep in soils or until contact with rock and approximately six feet into rock. The three hand borings will reach six feet deep or until contact with rock. Containers at an on-site location will be available to stockpile cuttings (i.e., rock and soil), which will be removed upon completion of boring activity. If space allows, the equipment staging and storage area will be located at or near the drilling location; otherwise, road turnouts or parking areas will be used. Equipment brought in from out-of-park locations will be cleaned and inspected prior to entering the park. This action will ensure that no soil, seeds, or other organic materials that are potentially non-native species or noxious weeds will enter the park. Underground utilities, or structures served by them, will be located prior to boring activities.

Project Locations:

**Mariposa County, CA**

Mitigations:

**No mitigations identified.**

Describe the category used to exclude action from further NEPA analysis and indicate the number of the category (see Section 3-4 of DO-12):

### **E.5 Nondestructive data collection, inventory (including field, aerial, and satellite surveying and mapping), study, research, and monitoring activities.**

On the basis of the environmental impact information in the statutory compliance file, with which I am familiar, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No exceptional circumstances (e.g. all boxes in the ESF are marked "no") or conditions in Section 3-6 apply, and the action is fully described in Section 3-4 of DO-12.

Park Acting Superintendent //Luis Shram// (acting)

Date 10/26/09

*The signed original of this document is on file at the Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in Yosemite National Park.*



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite NP  
Date: 10/14/2009

## ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

### DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: **10/14/2009**

Updated May 2007 - per 2004 DM revisions and proposed DO-12 changes

#### A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: **Yosemite NP**  
Project Title: **2009-106 Parkwide Geotechnical Investigation For Communication Data Network**  
PEPC Project Number: **28070**  
Project Type: **Geotechnical Investigation (OTHER)**  
Project Location: **County, State: Mariposa, California**  
Project Leader: **Mark Husbands**

Preliminary drawings attached? **Yes**

Is project a hot topic (controversial or sensitive issues that should be brought to attention of Regional Director)? **No**

#### B. RESOURCE EFFECTS TO CONSIDER:

Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Geologic resources – soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc.		Negligible			The nine borings include holes five inches in diameter and 40 feet deep.
2. From geohazards	No				
3. Air quality		Negligible			The boring rigs will create temporary emissions; approximately 14 days.
4. Soundscapes		Negligible			There will be temporary noise impacts associated with the drilling.
5. Water quality or quantity	No				All cuttings will be contained in 55 gallon drums and removed upon boring completion.
6. Streamflow characteristics	No				

7. Marine or estuarine resources	No				
8. Floodplains or wetlands	No				
9. Land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use	No				
10. Rare or unusual vegetation – old growth timber, riparian, alpine	No				
11. Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat	No				
12. Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites	No				Yosemite National Park is a World Heritage site; no historic properties would be adversely affected by implementing this project.
13. Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat	No				
14. Unique or important fish or fish habitat	No				
15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)		Negligible			Equipment will be cleaned and inspected prior to entering the park to ensure no soil, seeds, or other organic materials having the potential to bring non-native species or noxious weeds into the park.
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.	No				
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources	No				
18. Archeological resources		Negligible			
19. Prehistoric/historic structure	No				
20. Cultural landscapes		Negligible			
21. Ethnographic resources	No				
22. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections)	No				
23. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure	No				

24. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.	No				
25. Energy resources	No				
26. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies	No				
27. Resource, including energy, conservation potential, sustainability	No				
28. Urban quality, gateway communities, etc.	No				
29. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity	No				
30. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?	No				

Comments:

### C. MANDATORY CRITERIA

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?		N		
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?		N		
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?		N		
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		N		
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		N		

F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		N		
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?		N		
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?		N		
I. Violate a federal law, or a state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		N		
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		N		
K. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?		N		
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)?		N		

For the purpose of interpreting these procedures within the NPS, any action that has the potential to violate the NPS Organic Act by impairing park resources or values would constitute an action that triggers the DOI exception for actions that threaten to violate a federal law for protection of the environment.

#### **D. OTHER INFORMATION**

Are personnel preparing this form familiar with the site? **Yes**

Did personnel conduct a site visit? **No**

Is the project in an approved plan such as a General Management Plan or an Implementation Plan with an accompanying NEPA document? **No**

Are there any interested or affected agencies or parties? **No**

Has consultation with all affected agencies or tribes been completed? **No**

Are there any connected, cumulative, or similar actions as part of the proposed action? (e.g., other development projects in area or identified in GMP, adequate/available utilities to accomplish project)? **No**

## E. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM SIGNATORIES

<u>Interdisciplinary Team</u>	<u>Field of Expertise</u>
David V. Uberuaga	Acting Superintendent
Dennis Schramm	Acting Deputy Superintendent
Kristina Rylands	Chief of Planning
Mark Butler	Chief of Project Management
Katariina Tuovinen	Chief of Administration Management
Paul Laymon	Chief of Facilities Management
Niki Nicholas	Chief of Resources Management & Science
Marty Nielson	Chief of Business and Revenue Management
Tom Medema	Acting Chief of Interpretation and Education
Steve Shackelton	Chief Ranger
Mark Husbands	Project Leader
Elexis Mayer	Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager
Jeannette Simons	NHPA Specialist
Renea Kennec	NEPA Specialist

## F. SUPERVISORY SIGNATORY

*Based on the environmental impact information contained in the statutory compliance file and in this environmental screening form, environmental documentation for this stage of the subject project is complete.*

### Recommended:

Compliance Specialists	Date
 <u>//Renea Kennec//</u> Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec	 <u>10/19/09</u>
 <u>//Elexis Mayer//</u> Compliance Program Manager – Elexis Mayer	 <u>10/20/09</u>
 <u>//Mark A. Butler//</u> Chief, Project Management – Mark Butler	 <u>10/21/09</u>

### Approved:

Acting Superintendent	Date
 <u>//Luis Shram// (acting)</u> David V. Uberuaga	 <u>10/26/09</u>

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Office in Yosemite National Park.*

## PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: **October 14, 2009**

### PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite NP

Project Number: 28070

Project Type: Geotechnical Investigation (OTHER)

Project Location: County, State: Mariposa, California

Project Manager: Mark Husbands

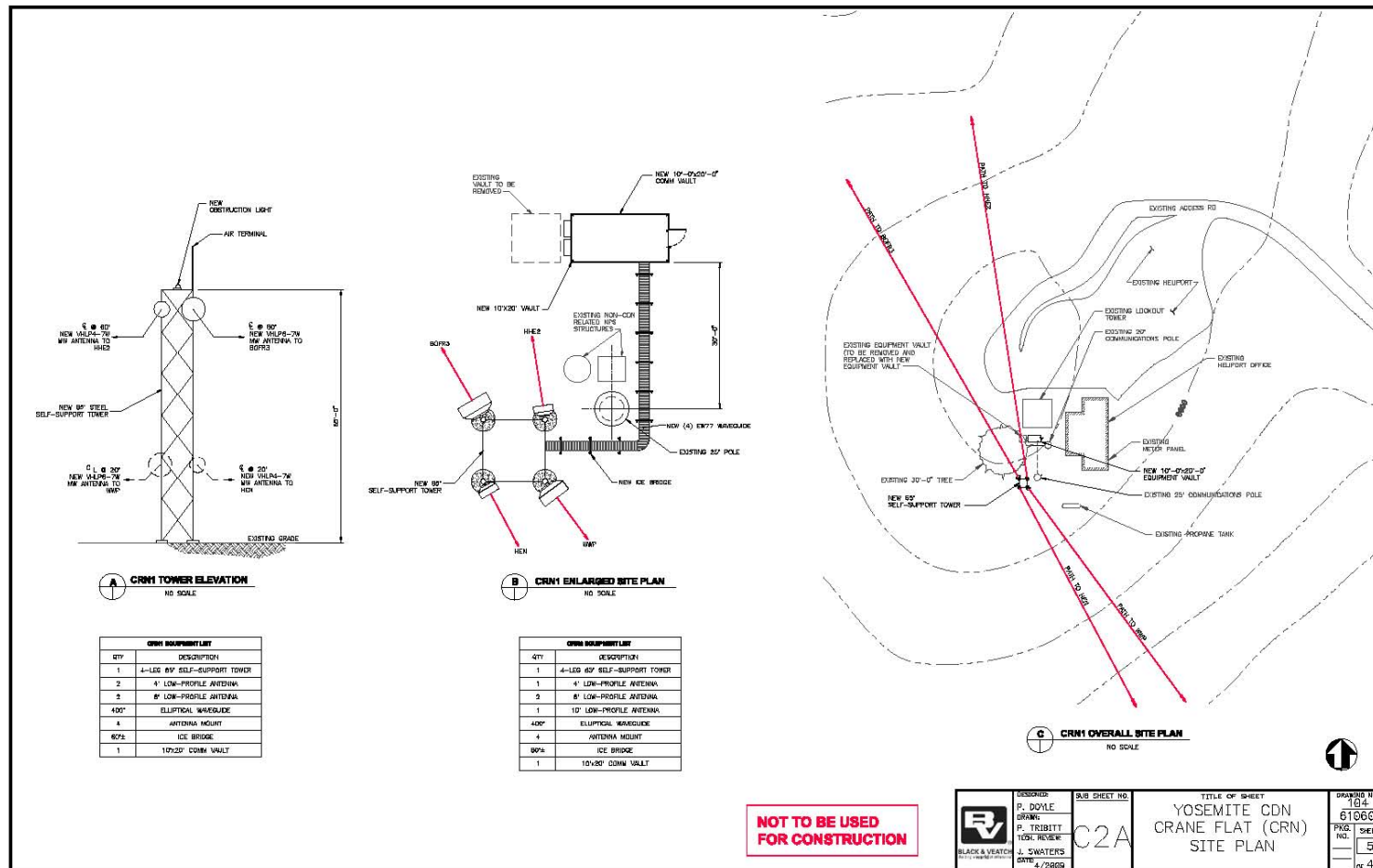
Project Title: 2009-106 Parkwide Geotechnical Investigation For Communication Data Network

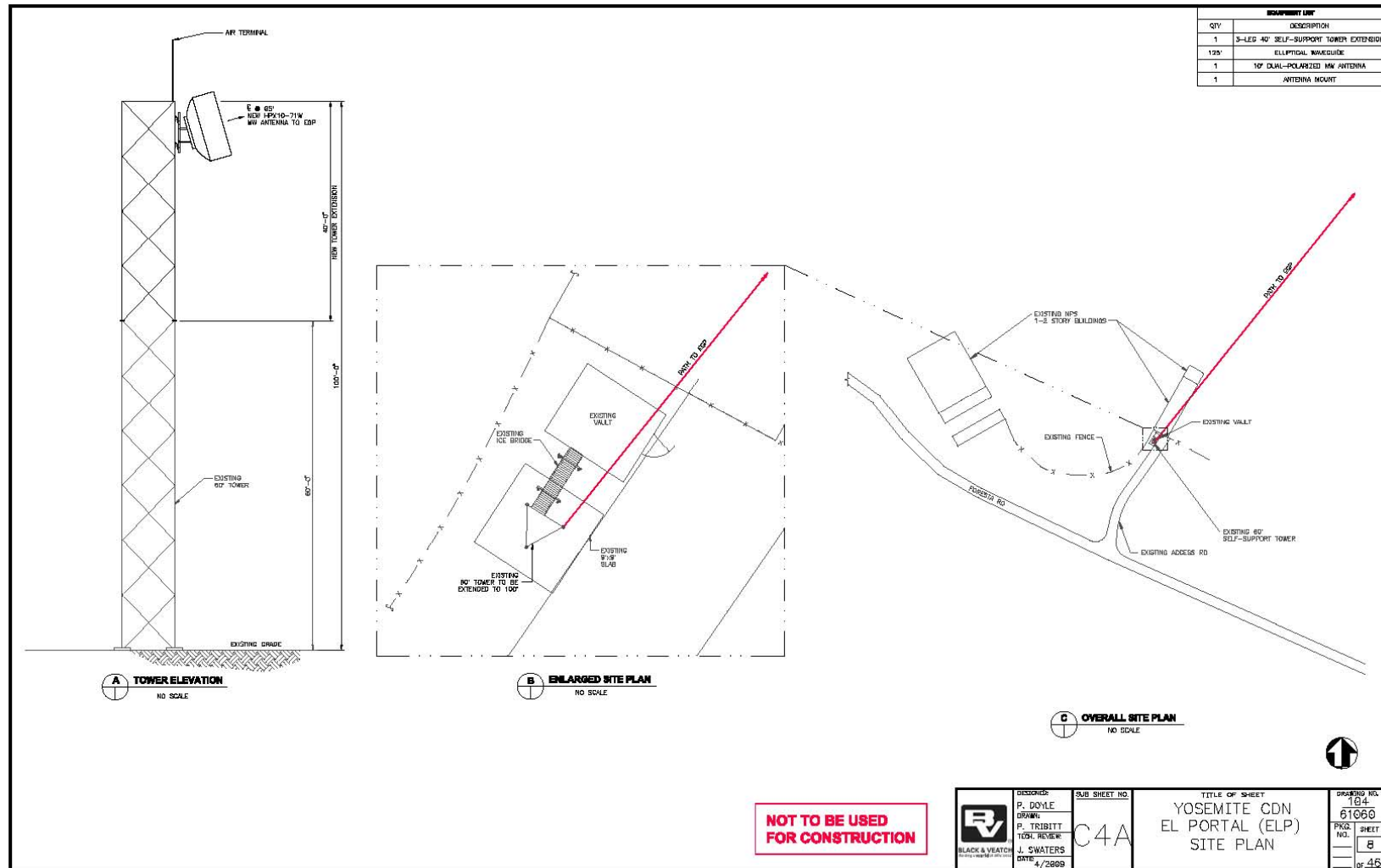
### PARK ESF ADDENDUM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

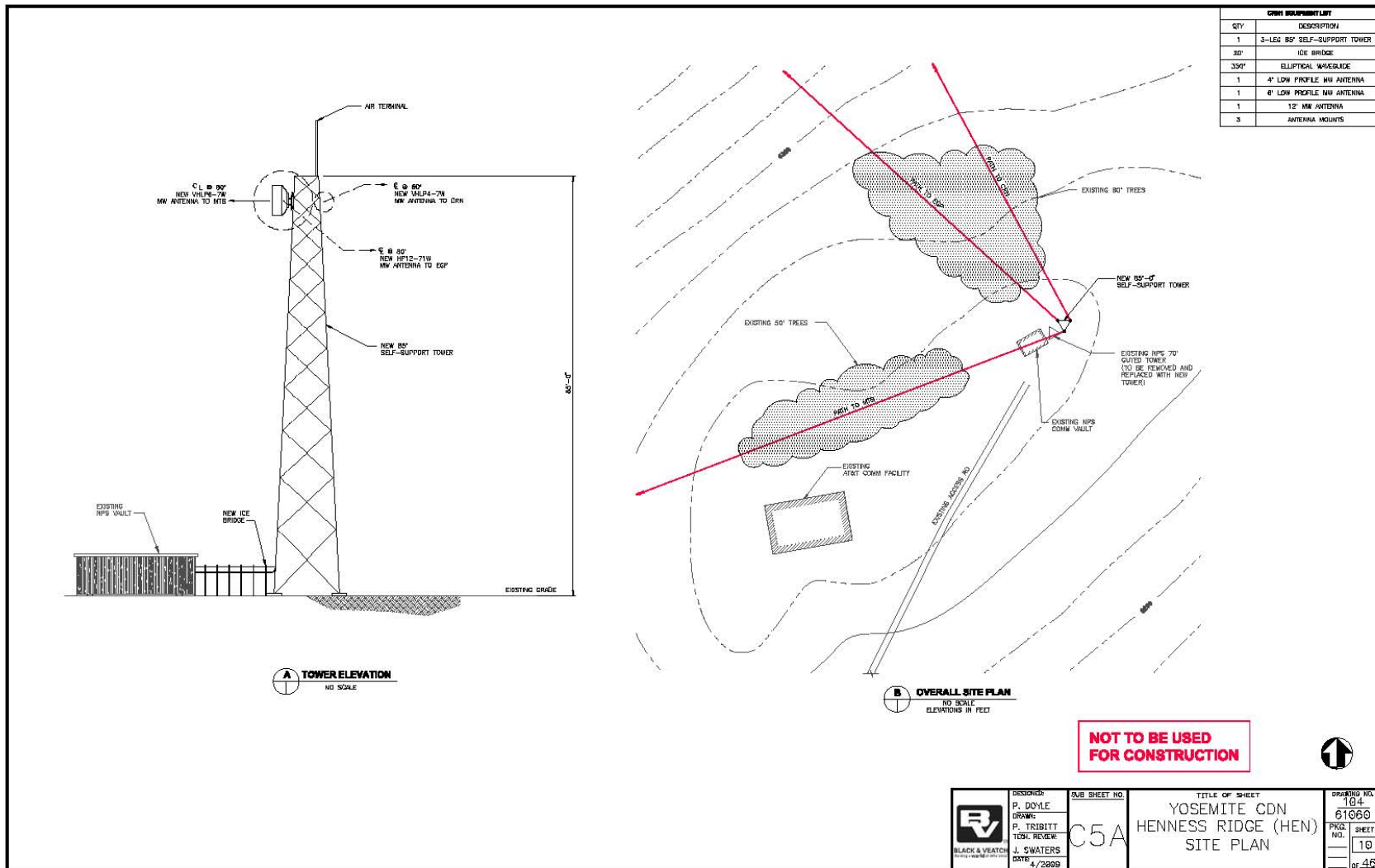
ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1.SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST		X		
2. Listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (Federal or State)?		X		
3. Species of special concern (Federal or State)?		X		
4. Park rare plants or vegetation?		X		
5. Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above?		X		
6.NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST				
7. Entail ground disturbance?	X			The nine borings include holes five inches in diameter and 40 feet deep.
8. Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?	X			
9. Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?		X		
10. Has a National Register form been completed?		X		
11. Are there any structures on the park's List of Classified Structures in the area of potential effect?		X		
12.WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST				
13. Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor? (Name the river corridor)	X			Merced and Tuolumne Wild and Scenic Rivers.
14. Fall within the bed and banks AND will affect the free-flow of the river?		X		
15. Have the possibility of affecting water quality of the area?		X		
16. Remain consistent with its river segment classification?			X	
17. Protect and enhance river ORVs?			X	

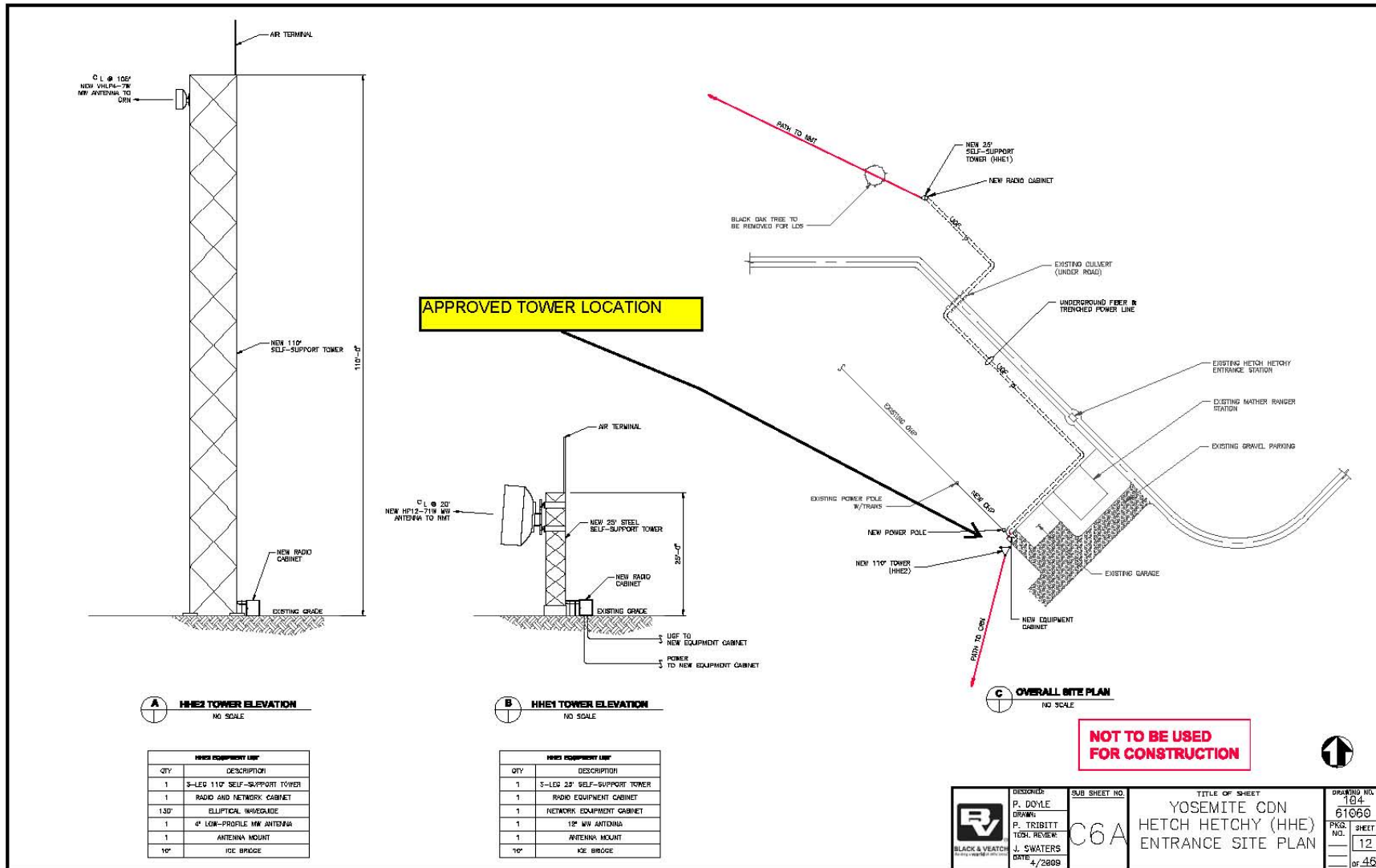


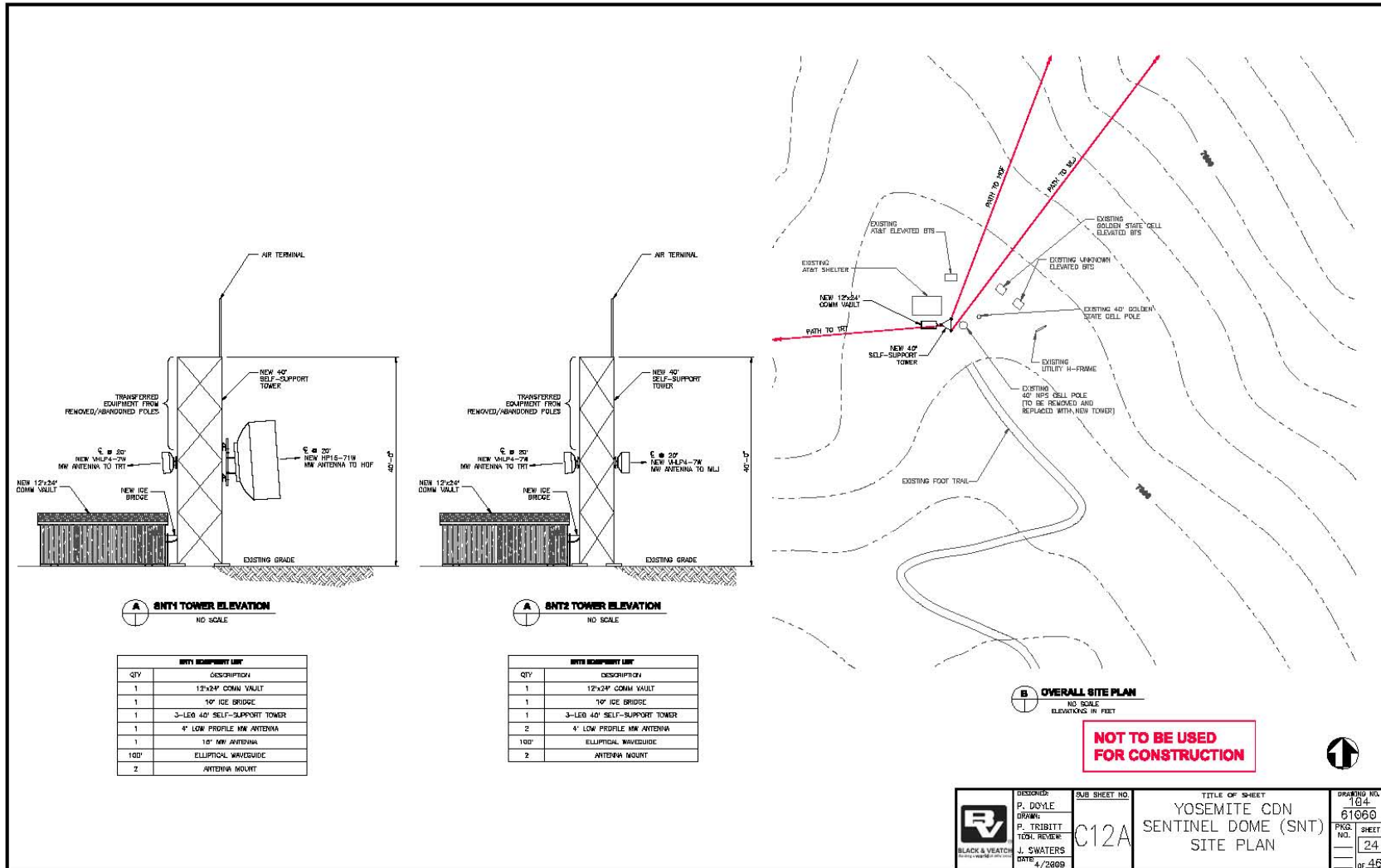
18. Fall within the River Protection Overlay?			X	
19. If Yes, remain consistent with conditions of the River Protection Overlay?			X	
20. Remain consistent with the areas Management Zoning?			X	
21. Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River?		X		
22. Will the project encroach or intrude upon the Wild and Scenic River corridor?		X		
23. Will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values?		X		
100. WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST				
101. Within designated Wilderness?		X		
102. Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?		X		

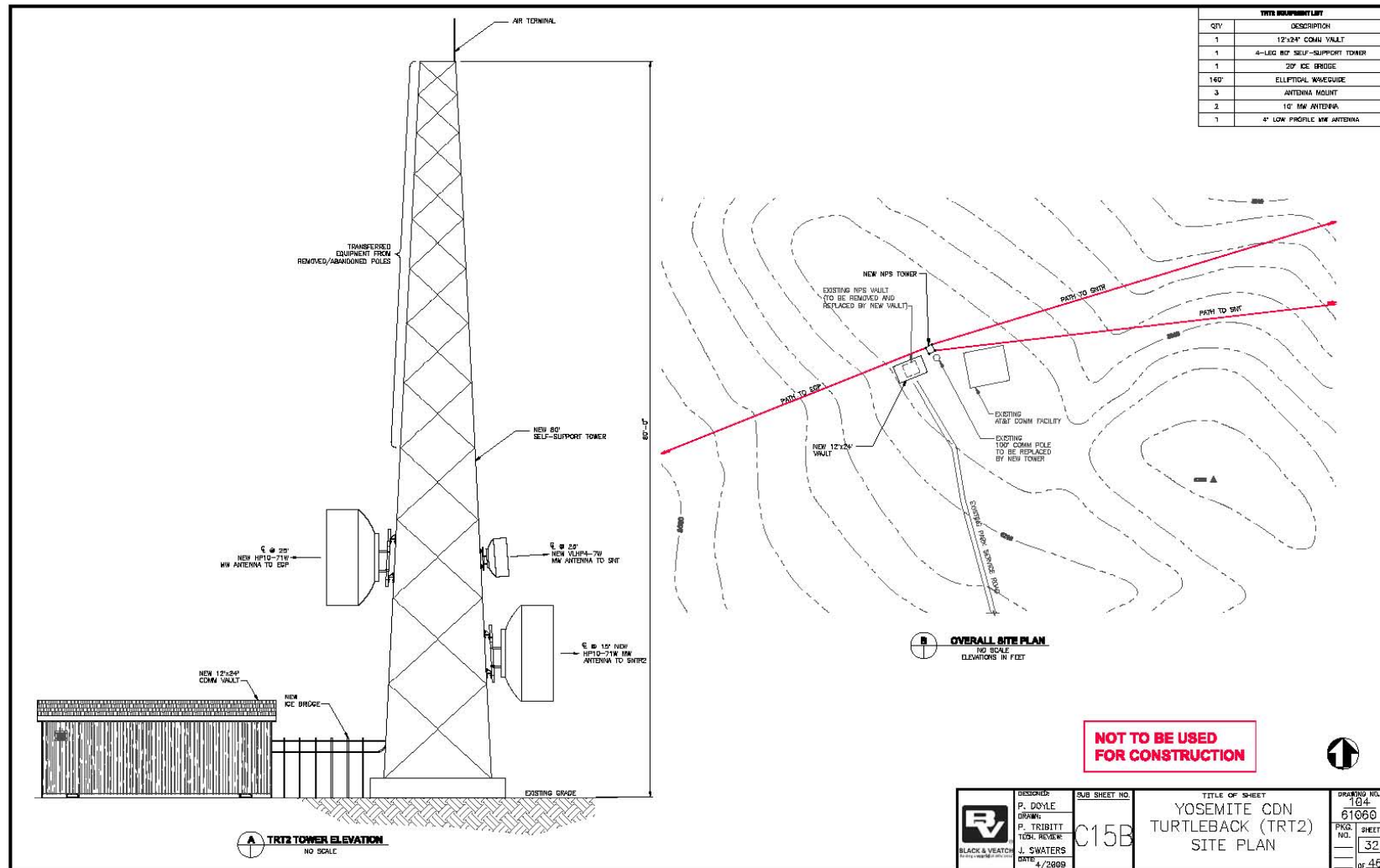




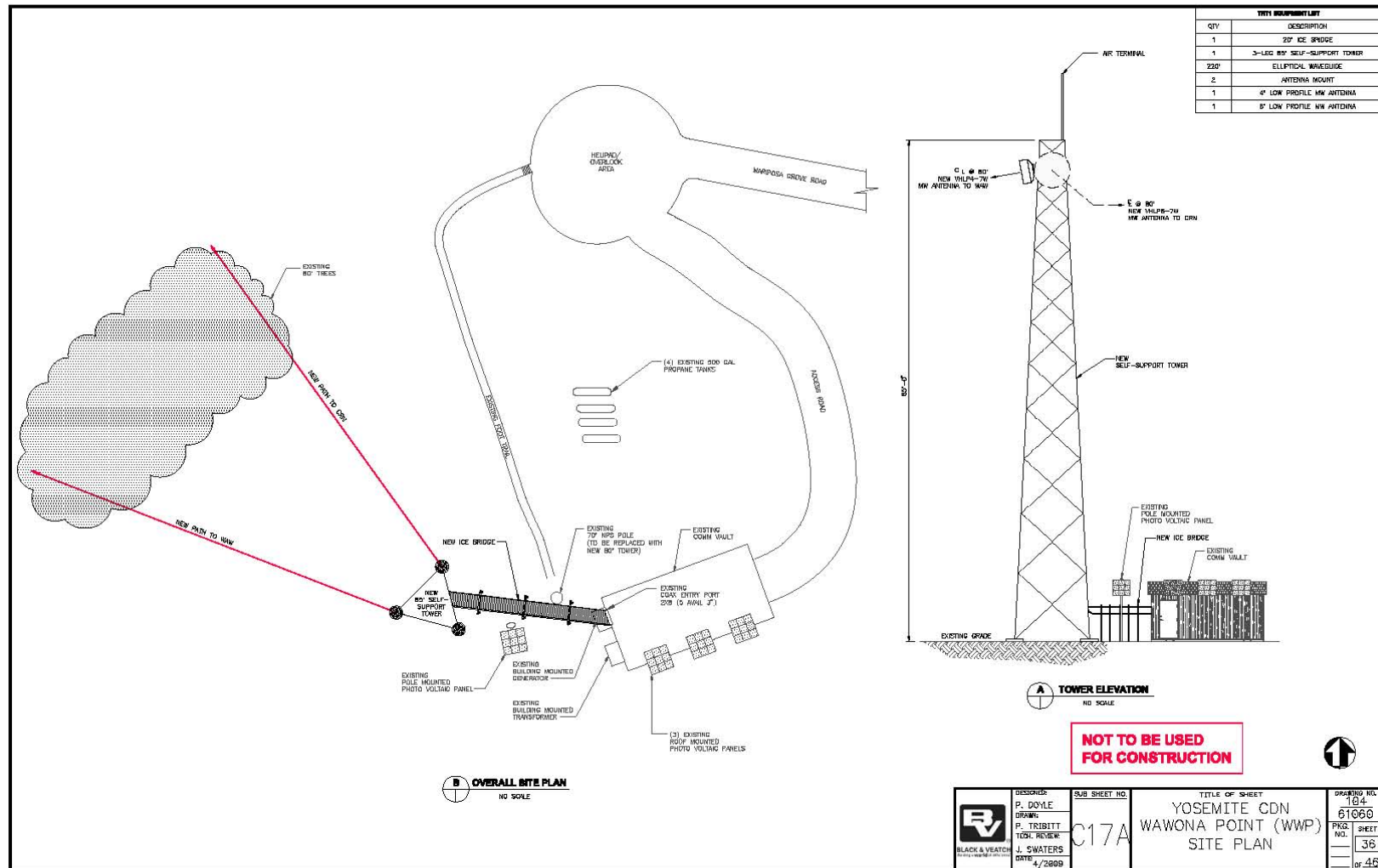




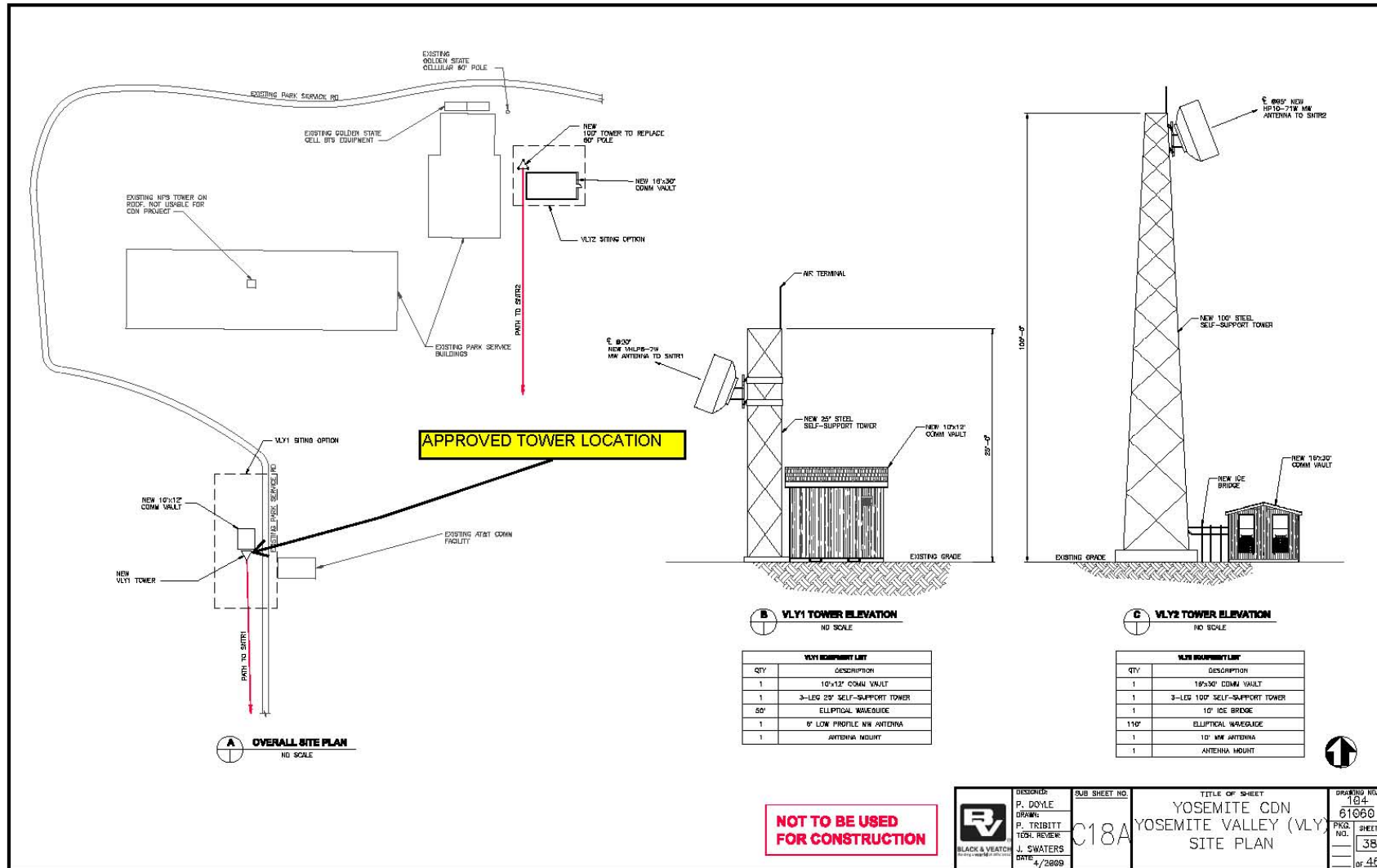


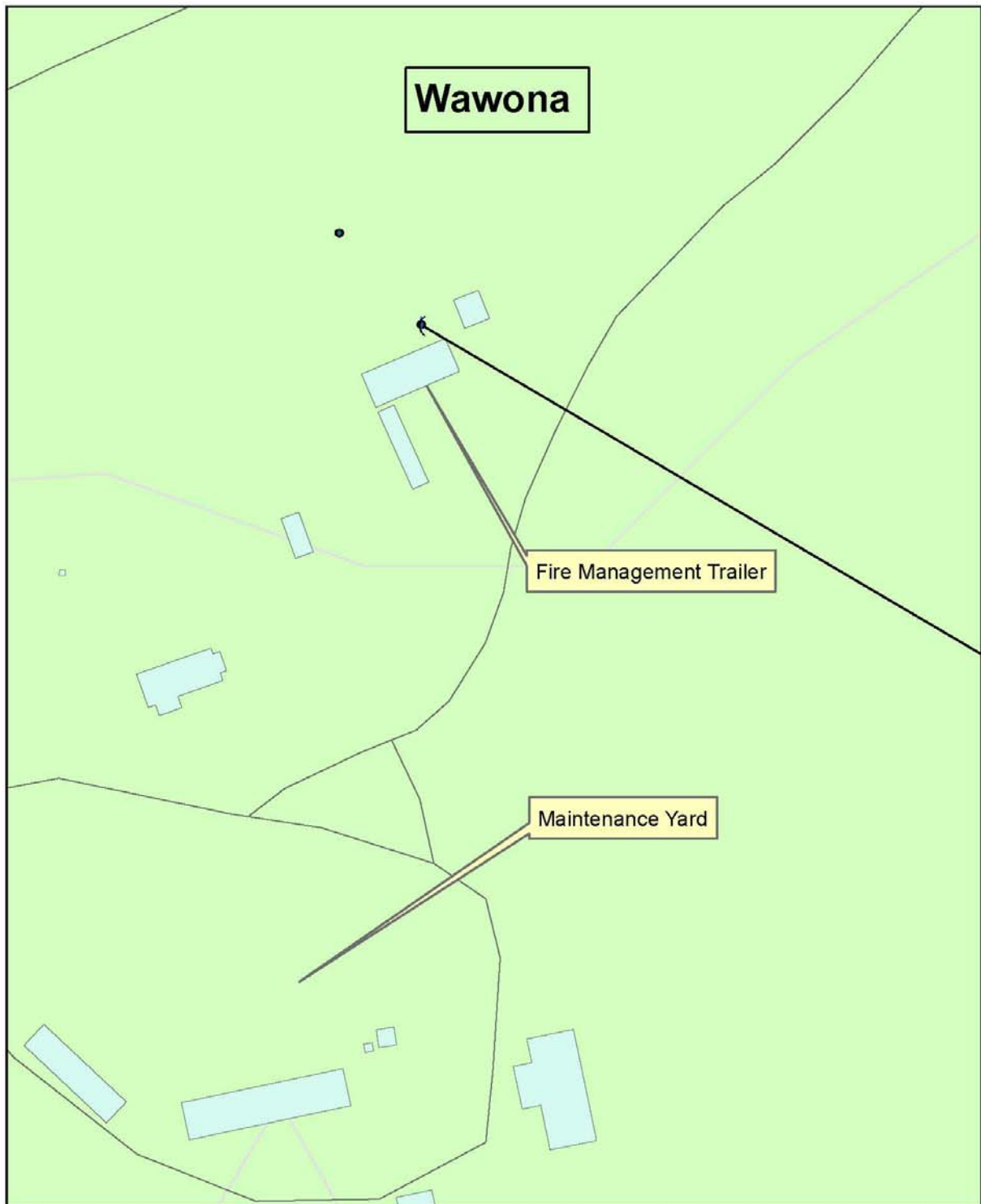














## ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

### A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. Park: **Yosemite NP** Park District: **Parkwide**

2. Project Description:

a. Project Name: **2009-106 Parkwide Geotechnical Investigation for Communication Data Network**

b. Date: **October 14, 2009**

c. PEPC Project ID Number: **28070**

3. Has the area of potential effects been surveyed to identify cultural resources?

   No

**X** Yes, Source or reference: **Parkwide permit; presence or absence of resources determined on a site by site basis.**

   Check here if no known cultural resources will be affected. (If this is because area has been disturbed, please explain or attach additional information to show the disturbance was so extensive as to preclude intact cultural deposits.)

4. Potentially Affected Resources:

Archeological resources affected?

Name and number(s): **Park-Wide permit; presence/absence of resources determined on a site by site basis.**

NR status: **0**

Cultural landscapes affected?

Name and number(s): **Park-Wide permit; presence/absence of resources determined on a site by site basis.**

NR status: **0**

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

**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  
No 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)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other (please specify)

6. Measures to prevent or minimize loss or impairment of historic/prehistoric properties:  
(Remember that setting, location, and use may be relevant.)

**No Assessment of Effect mitigations identified.**

7. Supporting Study Data:

(Attach if feasible; if action is in a plan, EA or EIS, give name and project or page number.)

8. Attachments:

☐ Maps ☐ Archeological survey, if applicable ☐ Drawings ☐ Specifications ☐ Photographs  
☐ Scope of Work ☐ Site plan ☐ List of Materials ☐ Samples ☐ Other:

Prepared by: **Renea Kennec** Date: **October 14, 2009** Title: **Environmental Protection Specialist**  
Telephone: **209-379-1038**

## **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:

---

☒ Archeologist  
Name: **Laura Kirn**  
Date: **09/30/2009**  
Comments:

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* ☐

Assessment of Effect: **X** No Historic Properties Affected ☐ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect ☐ Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method: **No Potential to Cause Effects [800.3(a)(1)]**

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[ ☒ ] Anthropologist

Name: **Jeannette Simons**

Date: **10/15/2009**

Comments: **American Indian Liaison. No potential to impact American Indian traditional cultural properties or resources.**

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* [ ☐ ]

Assessment of Effect: ☒ No Historic Properties Affected ☐ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect ☐ Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

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[ ☒ ] Historical Landscape Architect

Name: **David Humphrey**

Date: **10/08/2009**

Comments: **None.**

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* [ ☐ ]

Assessment of Effect: ☒ No Historic Properties Affected ☐ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect ☐ Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: **None.**

Doc Method: **No Potential to Cause Effects [800.3(a)(1)]**

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No Reviews From: **Curator, Historical Architect, Historian, 106 Advisor, Other Advisor**

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

1. Assessment of Effect:

☒ No Historic Properties Affected ☐ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect

2. Compliance requirements:

[ ☐ ] 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. PLAN-RELATED UNDERTAKING

Consultation and review of the proposed undertaking were completed in the context of a plan review process, in accordance with the 2008 Servicewide PA and 36 CFR Part 800.

Specify plan/EA/EIS: \_\_\_\_\_

☒ D. UNDERTAKING RELATED TO ANOTHER AGREEMENT

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under another document such as a statewide agreement established in accord with 36 CFR 800.7 or counterpart regulations.

Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ E. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS SATISFIED BY USE OF NEPA

Documentation is required for the preparation of an EA/FONSI or an EIS/ROD has been developed and used so as also to meet the requirements of 36 CFR 800.3 through 800.6

☐ F. No Potential to Cause Effects [800.3(a)(1)]

☐ G. STIPULATIONS/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.

Recommended by Park Section 106 coordinator:

Signature of Historic Preservation Officer //Jeannette Simons//

Date: 10-22-09

**D. 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.

Signature of Acting Superintendent //Luis Shram// (acting)

Date: 10/26/09

*The signed original of this document is on file at  
the Environmental Planning and Compliance  
Office in Yosemite National Park.*