

## **United States Department of the Interior**

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Yosemite National Park P. O. Box 577 Yosemite, California 95389

### Memorandum

To: Kinzie Gordon

From: Acting Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2009-016 Yosemite Village Lost Arrow Temporary

Employee Housing (23951)

The Management Team has reviewed the proposed project 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:

- Avoid removal of the manzanita bush on the southwest side of the Lost Arrow housing area near the post office garage.
- Ensure that all equipment and materials brought into the park are free of non-native, invasive plants and animals, and noxious weeds. All staff working on site shall be informed of and follow best management practices for preventing the introduction and spread of non-native, invasive species as described in Division 1 Specifications, Section 1335.
- Ensure American Indian participation to assist park in protection and preservation of traditional cultural properties and resources.
- Ensure archeological monitoring accompanies ground disturbance (trenching, drilling)

- and is designed to retrieve archeological data.
- No Adverse Effect determination is contingent upon removal of temporary housing units upon implementation for permanent housing determined in the Revised Merced River Comprehensive Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement/Record of Decision.

//David V. Uberuaga// 3/15/09 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



# National Park Service

## **Categorical Exclusion Form**

**Project**: 2009-016 Yosemite Village Lost Arrow Temporary Employee Housing

**PIN**: 23951 **Date**: May 18, 2010

**Project Description:** This project proposes to temporarily locate 6 units of portable housing for park concessionaire (DNC) employees from Curry Village to the existing 40 units of Lost Arrow temporary employee housing area at Yosemite Village, which was created subsequent to the 1997 Flood that destroyed existing employee housing at other valley locations. Rockfall events at Curry Village in October 2008 resulted in the permanent closure of the Terrace tent cabin employee housing area and other hard sided structures located in the geohazard zone at Curry Village, as revised and expanded based on analysis conducted after the October rock fall. Prior to the October 2008 rock fall, Yosemite Institute had use of tent cabins and hard-sided structures at Curry Village for student and teacher lodging. Subsequent to the closure of tent cabins and other hard sided structures within the revised geohazard zone, the former Boys Town tent cabin employee housing was converted to student and teacher lodging for Yosemite Institute, leaving a deficit of DNC employee housing. Of the 293 Curry Village employee beds lost to closure or conversion as a result of the October 2008 rock fall, relocation of housing for DNC employees is essential to support visitor use. DNC needs to replace approximately 243 to 273 employee beds. This proposed temporary solution was developed in consultation with Friends of Yosemite as part of a litigation settlement that also includes preparation of the Revised Merced Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This action would provide temporary lodging for 12 employees, and is needed to help meet immediate short-term housing needs for NPS's concessioner (DNC) until permanent employee housing is available. The temporary employee housing planned at the subject location will be consistent with the existing temporary structures and compatible to the extent practicable with the character defining features of the Yosemite Village Historic District and the Yosemite Valley Historic District, portable and fully removable. Permanent employee housing requirements will be studied and analyzed in the Revised Merced River Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). All temporary employee housing will be removed upon implementation of the CMP as stated in the final Record of Decision (ROD) for the CMP/EIS, unless such housing is determined to be needed in the new CMP. In such case, the CMP/EIS would address all NEPA and NHPA compliance for any necessary future employee housing. The No-Action alternative to be evaluated in that EIS will acknowledge the existence of temporary employee housing, but will not include any temporary housing as part of the environmental baseline in the assessment of the No Action alternative. Should the CMP/EIS/ROD determine that the temporary housing units will be retained, that decision could result in an adverse effect, which would be resolved in accordance with Stipulation VIII of the 1999 PA.

The Lost Arrow temporary employee housing area was developed in 1999 to house 80 employees in 40 cabins without baths (WOBs). The area also has temporary modular shared bathroom and kitchen facilities. This site is located on a paved parking lot at the eastern edge of Yosemite Village Historic

District within the Yosemite Valley Historic District, and the Yosemite Valley American Indian Traditional Cultural Property. The pavement overlies a prehistoric archaeological site, CA-MRP-56/61, a contributing element of the Yosemite Valley Archeological District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Archeological monitoring would accompany ground disturbance (trenching, drilling) and would be designed to retrieve archeological data. In this manner, potential adverse effects would be avoided.

Under this action, six additional dual-occupancy, approximately 12' x 14' x 10.5' WOBs (12 additional employees) would be placed at the Lost Arrow temporary housing area, as indicated on the attached site map and WOB plans and fire/life safety code requirements (see attached Fire Marshall input). The WOBs, which are portable, kiosk-like structures, will conform with the previously approved specifications for the existing Lost Arrow temporary WOBs; exterior finishes will match the prevailing colors and materials of the existing WOBs (see supporting information in Project Internal Documents) to assure compatibility with the historic setting. The WOBs will be placed on temporary 2' tall, on-grade concrete piers foundations in previously disturbed/developed areas. WOBs to be placed off of the paved area will be sited to avoid existing trees; no vegetation will be removed. Electrical power will be provided to the new WOBs via overhead lines from new and existing onsite power poles. New power poles will be installed in 5'-deep, 18"-diameter holes; approximate pole locations are indicated on the site map. The existing electrical service and bathroom and kitchen facilities at Lost Arrow are adequate to support the proposed additional 12 employees. Each WOB will be equipped with a lockable, bear-proof food locker. Details on the bear lockers are provided in the supplemental information provided under the Project Internal Documents.

The Lost Arrow temporary employee housing area is not located within the Merced River 100-year floodplain, and there are no wetlands near the site. No threatened or endangered species or critical habitats for such species are known to occur at the site. Placement of the proposed six temporary WOBs and new power poles will have no adverse effect on the cultural landscape in the eastern part of the Yosemite Village Historic District or the Yosemite Valley American Indian Traditional Cultural Property. Installation of new power poles will have no adverse effect on subsurface archeological remains, and the extent of disturbance will be limited to approximately 10 square feet. Archeological monitoring will be conducted during excavation of the power pole holes. There may be a moderate short-term negative impact on traditional cultural resources and cultural and religious practices that will be mitigated when the temporary housing is removed.

## **Project Locations:**

Mariposa County, CA

## **Mitigations:**

- Avoid removal of the manzanita bush on the southwest side of the Lost Arrow housing area near the post office garage.
- Ensure that all equipment and materials brought into the park are free of non-native, invasive plants and animals, and noxious weeds. All staff working on site shall be informed of and follow best management practices for preventing the introduction and spread of non-native, invasive species as described in Division 1 Specifications, Section 1335.
- Ensure American Indian participation to assist park in protection and preservation of traditional cultural properties and resources.

- Ensure archeological monitoring accompanies ground disturbance (trenching, drilling) and is designed to retrieve archeological data.
- No Adverse Effect determination is contingent upon removal of temporary housing units upon implementation for permanent housing determined in the Revised Merced River Comprehensive Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement/Record of Decision.

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):

C.8. Replacement in-kind of minor structures and facilities with little or no change in location, capacity, or appearance--for example, comfort stations, pit toilets, fences, kiosks, signs, and campfire circles.

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.

//David V. Uberuaga//

3/15/09

**Park Superintendent** 

**Date** 

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



# National Park Service

## ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF) DO-12 APPENDIX 1

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

Today's Date: March 16, 2009 Date Form Initiated: 03/13/2009

### A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite NP

Project Title: 2009-016 Yosemite Village Lost Arrow Temporary Employee Housing

PEPC Project Number: 23951

Project Type: **Temporary Housing (OTHER)** 

Project Location: County, State: Mariposa, California District: Yosemite Valley

Project Leader: Kinzie Gordon

Administrative Record Location: Environmental Planning and Compliance Office

Administrative Record Contact: Mark Butler

### **B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

This project proposes to temporarily locate 6 units of portable housing for park concessionaire (DNC) employees from Curry Village to the existing 40 units of Lost Arrow temporary employee housing area at Yosemite Village, which was created subsequent to the 1997 Flood that destroyed existing employee housing at other valley locations. Rockfall events at Curry Village in October 2008 resulted in the permanent closure of the Terrace tent cabin employee housing area and other hard sided structures located in the geohazard zone at Curry Village, as revised and expanded based on analysis conducted after the October rock fall. Prior to the October 2008 rock fall, Yosemite Institute had use of tent cabins and hardsided structures at Curry Village for student and teacher lodging. Subsequent to the closure of tent cabins and other hard sided structures within the revised geohazard zone, the former Boys Town tent cabin employee housing was converted to student and teacher lodging for Yosemite Institute, leaving a deficit of DNC employee housing. Of the 293 Curry Village employee beds lost to closure or conversion as a result of the October 2008 rock fall, relocation of housing for DNC employees is essential to support visitor use. DNC needs to replace approximately 243 to 273 employee beds. This proposed temporary solution was developed in consultation with Friends of Yosemite as part of a litigation settlement that also includes preparation of the Revised Merced Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This action would provide temporary lodging for 12 employees, and is needed to help meet immediate short-term housing needs for NPS's concessioner (DNC) until permanent employee housing is available. The temporary employee housing planned at the subject location will be consistent with the existing temporary structures and compatible to the extent practicable with the character defining features of the Yosemite Village Historic District and the Yosemite Valley Historic District, portable and fully removable. Permanent employee housing requirements will be studied and analyzed in the Revised

Merced River Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). All temporary employee housing will be removed upon implementation of the CMP as stated in the final Record of Decision (ROD) for the CMP/EIS, unless such housing is determined to be needed in the new CMP. In such case, the CMP/EIS would address all NEPA and NHPA compliance for any necessary future employee housing. The No-Action alternative to be evaluated in that EIS will acknowledge the existence of temporary employee housing, but will not include any temporary housing as part of the environmental baseline in the assessment of the No Action alternative. Should the CMP/EIS/ROD determine that the temporary housing units will be retained, that decision could result in an adverse effect, which would be resolved in accordance with Stipulation VIII of the 1999 PA.

The Lost Arrow temporary employee housing area was developed in 1999 to house 80 employees in 40 cabins without baths (WOBs). The area also has temporary modular shared bathroom and kitchen facilities. This site is located on a paved parking lot at the eastern edge of Yosemite Village Historic District within the Yosemite Valley Historic District, and the Yosemite Valley American Indian Traditional Cultural Property. The pavement overlies a prehistoric archaeological site, CA-MRP-56/61, a contributing element of the Yosemite Valley Archeological District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Archeological monitoring would accompany ground disturbance (trenching, drilling) and would be designed to retrieve archeological data. In this manner, potential adverse effects would be avoided.

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## Preliminary drawings attached? Yes

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

## C. RESOURCE EFFECTS TO CONSIDER:

following physical, natural, or cultural resources  1. Geologic resources — soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc.  2. From geohazards 3. Air quality  Effects  Project includes installation of approximately two power poles in 18" x 5' deep holes.  Construction of tempora	ntify potential	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
natural, or cultural resources  1. Geologic resources — X Project includes installation of streambeds, etc.  2. From geohazards X 3. Air quality X  Project includes installation of approximately two power poles in 18" x 5' deep holes.		Effect	Effects	Lifects		Determine/Notes
or cultural resources  1. Geologic resources – X Project includes installation of approximately two power poles in 18" x 5' deep holes.  2. From geohazards X Construction of temporary and the poles in 18" x 5" deep holes.	0 1 1				Effects	
1. Geologic resources – X Project includes installation of approximately two power poles in 18" x 5' deep holes.  2. From geohazards X Construction of temporary and the solution of tempo	,					
soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc.  2. From geohazards  3. Air quality  soils, bedrock, installation of approximately two power poles in 18" x 5' deep holes.  Construction of temporary approximately two power poles in 18" x 5' deep holes.						
streambeds, etc.  approximately two power poles in 18" x 5' deep holes.  2. From geohazards X  3. Air quality X Construction of temporary	eologic resources –		X			Project includes
poles in 18" x 5' deep holes.  2. From geohazards X  3. Air quality X Construction of tempora						
3. Air quality X Construction of tempora	ambeds, etc.					
	rom geohazards	X				
			X			Construction of temporary WOBs will cause temporary air emissions.
4. Soundscapes X Temporary construction noise is associated with this project.	oundscapes		X			
5. Water quality or X	Vater quality or	X				
quantity	ntity					
6. Streamflow X	treamflow	X				
characteristics	racteristics					
7. Marine or estuarine X resources		X				
8. Floodplains or X		X				
wetlands						
9. Land use, including X		X				
occupancy, income,	_					
values, ownership, type of						
use	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,					
10. Rare or unusual X	Rare or unusual	X				
vegetation – old growth						
timber, riparian, alpine						
11. Species of special X		X				
concern (plant or animal;						
state or federal listed or	••					
proposed for listing) or						
their habitat						
		X				Yosemite National Park is
	•					a World Heritage site; no
						historic properties would
						be adversely affected by
						implementing this project
13. Unique or important X	Unique or important	X				
wildlife or wildlife habitat						
14. Unique or important X		X				
fish or fish habitat						
			X			See Comment 1, below.
non-native species (plant						,

on onimal)	1	1		
or animal)	v	1	+ +	
16. Recreation resources,	X			
including supply,				
demand, visitation,				
activities, etc.				
17. Visitor experience,	X			
aesthetic resources				
18. Archeological resources		X		Yosemite Valley Archeological District and site CA-MRP-56/51; the assessment of effect is No Adverse Effect with
				monitoring of power pole installation
19. Prehistoric/historic	X			
structure				
20. Cultural landscapes		X		Yosemite Village Historic District, Yosemite Valley Historic District, and Yosemite Valley American Indian Traditional Cultural Property; mitigated with the conditions in the attached assessment of effects.
21. Ethnographic		X		Yosemite Valley
resources				American Indian Traditional Cultural Property.
22. Museum collections	X			
(objects, specimens, and				
archival and manuscript				
collections)				
23. Socioeconomics,	X			
including employment,				
occupation, income				
changes, tax base,				
infrastructure				
24. Minority and low	X			
income populations,				
ethnography, size,				
migration patterns, etc.				
25. Energy resources	X			
26. Other agency or tribal	X			
land use plans or policies				
27. Resource, including	X			
energy, conservation				
potential, sustainability				
28. Urban quality,	X			
	1	i	1	

gateway communities,			
etc.			
29. Long-term	X		
management of resources			
or land/resource			
productivity			
30. Other important	X		
environment resources			
(e.g. geothermal,			
paleontological			
resources)?			

## Comments:

1. Ensure that all equipment and materials brought into the park are free of non-native, invasive plants and animals and noxious weeds. All staff working on the project shall be informed of and follow best management practices for preventing the introduction and spread of nonnative, invasive species as described in Division 1 Specifications, Section 1355.

## D. 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?		X		
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?		X		Mitigated, the assessment of effects is "No Adverse Effect."
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?		X		
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		X		
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		X		

F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	X				
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?	X				
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?	X				
I. Violate a federal law, or a state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	X				
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?	X				
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)?	X				
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)?	X	NIDC		dh ad h a	

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.

## E. 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?  $\mathbf{No}$ 

Are there any interested or affected agencies or parties? Yes

Did you make a diligent effort to contact them? Yes

Has consultation with all affected agencies or tribes been completed? Yes, the tribes that are culturally

associated with the project area.

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** 

## F. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM SIGNATORIES

Interdisciplinary Team	Field of Expertise
David V. Uberuaga	Acting Superintendent
Larry Harris	Acting Deputy Superintendent
Linda Dahl	Chief of Planning
Mark Butler	Acting Chief of Project Management
Katariina Tuovinen	Acting Chief of Administration Management
Dennis Mattiuzzi	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
Kinzie Gordon	Project Leader
Teri Tucker	Acting Environmental Planning and Compliance
	Program Manager
Jeannette Simons	NHPA Specialist
Renea Kennec	NEPA Specialist

## G. 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 Specialist	Date
//Renea Kennec// Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec	<u>3/16/09</u>
//Mark A. Butler// Compliance Program Manager – Mark Butler	3/16/09
//Mark A. Butler// Acting Chief, Project Management – Mark Butler	<u>3/16/09</u>

## Approved:

Acting Superintendent	Date
//David V. Uberuaga// David V. Uberuaga	3/16/09

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

## PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: March 16, 2009

## **PROJECT INFORMATION**

Park Name: <u>Yosemite NP</u> Project Number: <u>23951</u>

Project Type: <u>Temporary Housing (OTHER)</u>

Project Location: County, State: Mariposa, California District, Section: Yosemite Valley,

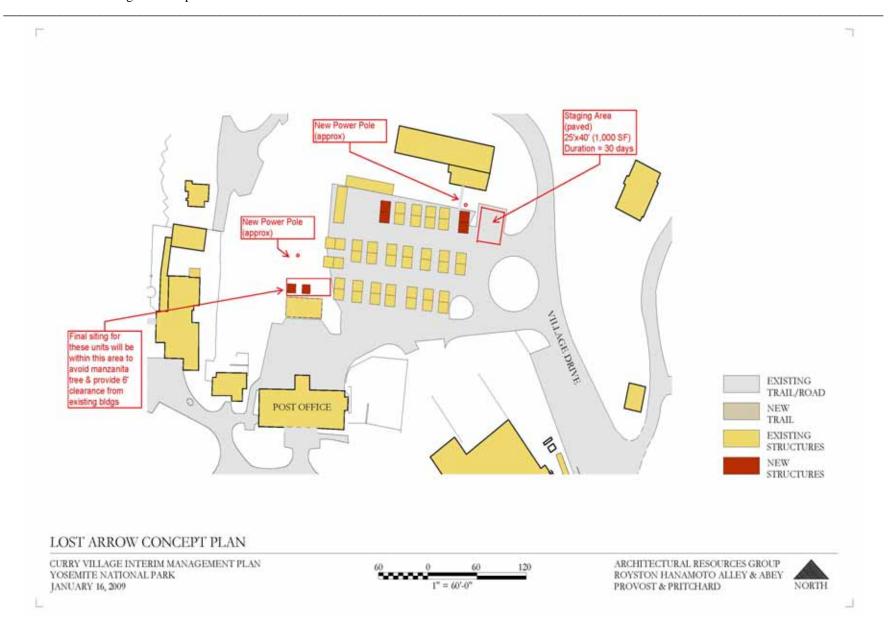
Project Manager: Kinzie Gordon

Project Title: 2009-016Yosemite Village Lost Arrow Temporary Employee Housing

## 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		X		
(Federal or State)?				
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	X			
7. Entail ground disturbance?	X			Project includes installation of approximately two new power poles in holes measuring approximately 18' in diameter by 5' deep.
8. Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?	X			Yosemite Valley Archeological District and prehistoric site CA- MRP-51/56. Mitigated via archeological monitoring during power pole installation.
9. Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?	X			Yosemite Village Historic District & Yosemite Valley Historic District; the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect."
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?	X			Merced River.
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			X	
Zoning?				
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			



Compliance Tracking Number: 2009-016

Fire Code Compliance

## PROJECT SPECIFIC COMMENTS, Don Coffman, Fire Marshall

## YOSEMITE VILLAGE LOST ARROW TEMPORARY EMPLOYEE HOUSING #23951

- IBC Table 803.5 calls for Class C classification minimum for R-2/R-3 rooms and enclosed spaces. Heartland Industries specs for Highlander (Based on Statesman model) cabins calls for interior walls to be surfaced with L-P SmartSide Panel. This product is generally intended for exterior use as indicated by product literature and ICC Evaluation. I could not find documentation of interior wall evaluation or Interior finish of class C or better for this product. This data needs to be provided or alternative for interior finish planned. In speaking to Don Evans on 3/6/09 he stated interior surfaces to WAB structures would be drywall which would meet class C or better.
- Smoke detectors and Carbon Monoxide detection is required for all structures where sleeping occurs. Potential for CO poisoning with use of propane heating. Concessionaire to continue exploring best detector combination to meet this need prior to occupancy.

Page 1 of 2

From: "Devon Rothell" <drothell@dncinc.com>

To: <kinzie\_gordon@contractor.nps.gov>, "Kinzie Gordon"

<Kinzie\_Gordon@URSCorp.com>

cc: <Don McLarty@contractor.nps.gov>, "Brian Fulce" <bfulce@dncinc.com>,

<jim\_vandenberg@nps.gov>, "Donald McLarty" <Donald\_McLarty@URSCorp.com>

Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 02:15PM

Subject: Additional Information for the CVIMP CE Packages

#### Kinzie,

I have additional information to inform the CE packages. I apologize for the delay. This is the final version.

#### ELEVATIONS

10X12 and 12X14 tent cabins have an approximate height of 9 feet at the center and 5ft at the sides. Platforms are approx. 2ft tall so a tent cabin is 11 feet at its tallest from the ground.

WOBs will be constructed per the previously approved specs for temporary WOBs at Lost Arrow. The exteriors will be painted to match the other structures at each location with previously approved exterior colors.

Trailer - I believe you have the specs for the trailer but just in case the current trailers are approximately 9 feet tall with a 2.5 foot foundation height for a total of 11.5 feet. However, the proposed trailers have pitched roofs so there is an additional 4 feet of height at center for proper shedding. Total height is approx 15.5 feet.

#### EXTERIOR FINISHES

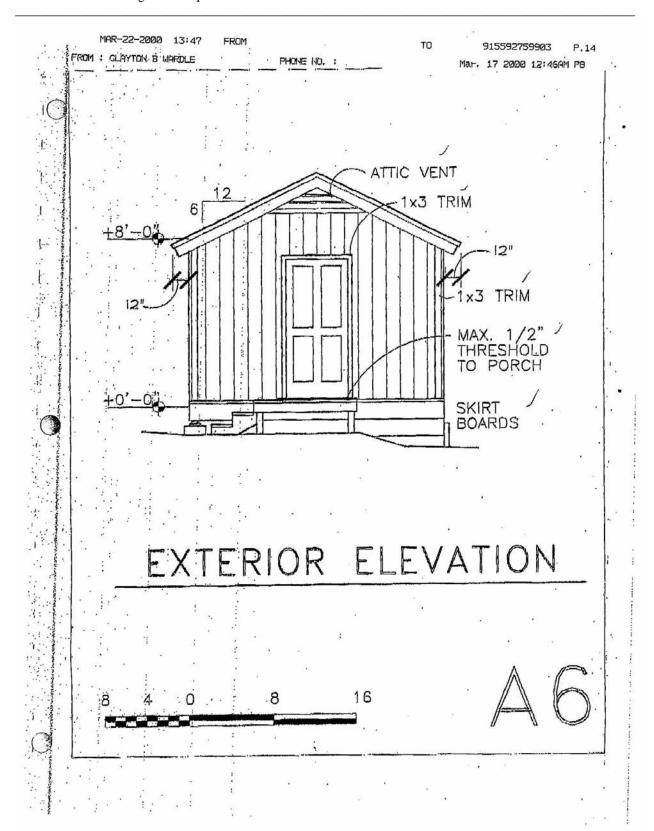
The trailers' exteriors consist of T1-11 siding that will be painted tan with Oxford brown trim, exactly the same as the current common trailers at Huff. The trailers will have skirting to cover the open space at the bottom of the trailer to the ground that will also be T1-11 and painted tan. All colors have been approved colors for existing buildings in Yosemite Valley. Roofing materials will be architectural asphalt three-tab shingles which comply with the architectural guidelines for Yosemite.

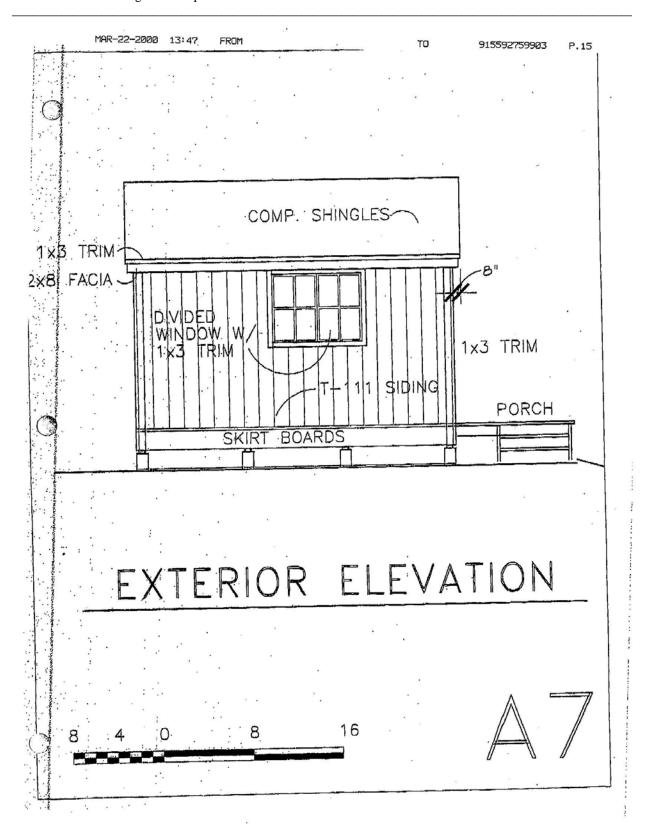
#### BEAR BOXES

One bear box will be installed at each employee housing unit (tents and WOBs). Bear boxes will be relocated from Curry Village and installed at each of the employee housing sites. These bear boxes are approximately 4'WX4'LX2'H and have legs that can be placed directly on ground or on 2X4" pressure treated wood. In addition, other available bear boxes may be used. These are smaller at 2'WX4'LX2'H and do not have legs. These bear boxes are placed on pressure treated 2X4" lumber as well. Bear boxes are placed directly next to tents with circulation patterns considered. Minimal ground leveling may be required for proper use.

If you have any questions Kinzie, please call me. I can clarify any of these descriptions if needed. We do not have drawings for tent cabins.

Devon Rothell





# **National Park Service**

#### ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

### A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

- 1. Park: **Yosemite NP** Park District: **Yosemite Valley**
- 2. Project Description:
- a. Project name <u>Yosemite Village Lost Arrow Temporary Employee Housing</u> Date: <u>March 16, 2009</u> PEPC project ID no. <u>23951</u>
- b. Describe project and area of potential effects (as defined in 36 CFR 800.2[c]).

This project proposes to temporarily locate 6 units of portable housing for park concessionaire (DNC) employees from Curry Village to the existing 40 units of Lost Arrow temporary employee housing area at Yosemite Village, which was created subsequent to the 1997 Flood that destroyed existing employee housing at other valley locations. Rockfall events at Curry Village in October 2008 resulted in the permanent closure of the Terrace tent cabin employee housing area and other hard sided structures located in the geohazard zone at Curry Village, as revised and expanded based on analysis conducted after the October rock fall. Prior to the October 2008 rock fall, Yosemite Institute had use of tent cabins and hard-sided structures at Curry Village for student and teacher lodging. Subsequent to the closure of tent cabins and other hard sided structures within the revised geohazard zone, the former Boys Town tent cabin employee housing was converted to student and teacher lodging for Yosemite Institute, leaving a deficit of DNC employee housing. Of the 293 Curry Village employee beds lost to closure or conversion as a result of the October 2008 rock fall, relocation of housing for DNC employees is essential to support visitor use. DNC needs to replace approximately 243 to 273 employee beds. This proposed temporary solution was developed in consultation with Friends of Yosemite as part of a litigation settlement that also includes preparation of the Revised Merced Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This action would provide temporary lodging for 12 employees, and is needed to help meet immediate short-term housing needs for NPS's concessioner (DNC) until permanent employee housing is available. The temporary employee housing planned at the subject location will be consistent with the existing temporary structures and compatible to the extent practicable with the character defining features of the Yosemite Village Historic District and the Yosemite Valley Historic District, portable and fully removable. Permanent employee housing requirements will be studied and analyzed in the Revised Merced River Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). All temporary employee housing will be removed upon implementation of the CMP as stated in the final Record of Decision (ROD) for the CMP/EIS, unless such housing is determined to be needed in the new CMP. In such case, the CMP/EIS would address all NEPA and NHPA compliance for any necessary future employee housing. The No-Action alternative to be evaluated in that EIS will

acknowledge the existence of temporary employee housing, but will not include any temporary housing as part of the environmental baseline in the assessment of the No Action alternative. Should the CMP/EIS/ROD determine that the temporary housing units will be retained, that decision could result in an adverse effect, which would be resolved in accordance with Stipulation VIII of the 1999 PA.

The Lost Arrow temporary employee housing area was developed in 1999 to house 80 employees in 40 cabins without baths (WOBs). The area also has temporary modular shared bathroom and kitchen facilities. This site is located on a paved parking lot at the eastern edge of Yosemite Village Historic District within the Yosemite Valley Historic District, and the Yosemite Valley American Indian Traditional Cultural Property. The pavement overlies a prehistoric archaeological site, CA-MRP-56/61, a contributing element of the Yosemite Valley Archeological District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Archeological monitoring would accompany ground disturbance (trenching, drilling) and would be designed to retrieve archeological data. In this manner, potential adverse effects would be avoided.

Under this action, six additional dual-occupancy, approximately 12' x 14' x 10.5' WOBs (12 additional employees) would be placed at the Lost Arrow temporary housing area, as indicated on the attached site map and WOB plans and fire/life safety code requirements (see attached Fire Marshall input). The WOBs, which are portable, kiosk-like structures, will conform with the previously approved specifications for the existing Lost Arrow temporary WOBs; exterior finishes will match the prevailing colors and materials of the existing WOBs (see supporting information in Project Internal Documents) to assure compatibility with the historic setting. The WOBs will be placed on temporary 2' tall, on-grade concrete piers foundations in previously disturbed/developed areas. WOBs to be placed off of the paved area will be sited to avoid existing trees; no vegetation will be removed. Electrical power will be provided to the new WOBs via overhead lines from new and existing onsite power poles. New power poles will be installed in 5'-deep, 18"-diameter holes; approximate pole locations are indicated on the site map. The existing electrical service and bathroom and kitchen facilities at Lost Arrow are adequate to support the proposed additional 12 employees. Each WOB will be equipped with a lockable, bear-proof food locker. Details on the bear lockers are provided in the supplemental information provided under the Project Internal Documents.

The Lost Arrow temporary employee housing area is not located within the Merced River 100-year floodplain, and there are no wetlands near the site. No threatened or endangered species or critical habitats for such species are known to occur at the site. Placement of the proposed six temporary WOBs and new power poles will have no adverse effect on the cultural landscape in the eastern part of the Yosemite Village Historic District or the Yosemite Valley American Indian Traditional Cultural Property. Installation of new power poles will have no adverse effect on subsurface archeological remains, and the extent of disturbance will be limited to approximately 10 square feet. Archeological monitoring will be conducted during excavation of the power pole holes. There may be a moderate short-term negative impact on traditional cultural resources and cultural and religious practices that will be mitigated when the temporary housing is removed.

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

X Yes Source or reference Yosemite Village Historic District nomination form; Yosemite Valley Historic District nomination form; Yosemite Valley American Indian Traditional Cultural Property (in prep; Yosemite Valley Archeological District

\_\_\_ 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 Resource(s):

### **Archeological resources affected?**

Name and number(s): Yosemite Valley Archeological District

NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

### **Cultural landscapes affected?**

Name and number(s): <u>Yosemite Valley Historic District</u> NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

Name and number(s): Yosemite Village Historic District

NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

## **Ethnographic resources affected?**

Name and number(s): <u>Yosemite Valley American Indian Traditional Cultural</u>

**Property** 

NR status: 8 - Within a Register-eligible district

## **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
- <u>No</u> 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.)

- Ensure American Indian participation to assist park in protection and preservation of traditional cultural properties and resources.
- No Adverse Effect determination is contingent upon removal of temporary housing units upon implementation for permanent housing determined in the Revised Merced River CMP/EIS/ROD.

<ul> <li>Ensure American Indian participation to assist park in protection and preservation of traditional cultural properties and resources.</li> </ul>
<b>7. Supporting Study Data:</b> (Attach if feasible; if action is in a plan, EA or EIS, give name and project or page number.)
<b>8. Attachments:</b> [ ] Maps [ ] Archeological survey, if applicable [ ] Drawings [ ] Specifications [ ] Photographs [ ] Scope of Work [ ] Site plan [ ] List of Materials [ ] Samples [ ] Other
Prepared by: Jeannette Simons Date: 3/16/09
Title: <u>Historic Preservation Officer</u> Telephone: <u>209-379-1372</u>
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] ARCHEOLOGIST  Name: Laura Kirn  Date: 03/12/2009  Comments: YOSE 1999 PA, Stipulation VII.C.2.h - archeological monitoring will be conducted during ground disturbance.
Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [] Assessment of Effect: No Historic Properties Affected _x No Adverse Effect Adverse Effect Streamlined Review Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:
[ ] CURATOR Name: Date: Comments:
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:

# Date: 03/16/2009 Comments: American Indian Liaison. Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [] Assessment of Effect: \_\_ No Historic Properties Affected \_x No Adverse Effect \_\_ Adverse Effect \_\_\_ Streamlined Review Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: Ensure American Indian participation to assist park in protection and preservation of traditional cultural properties and resources. [X] HISTORIAN Name: Patrick Chapin Date: 03/16/2009 Comments: None Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [] Assessment of Effect: \_\_ No Historic Properties Affected \_x No Adverse Effect \_\_ Adverse Effect \_\_ Streamlined Review Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: None [X] HISTORICAL ARCHITECT Name: Sueann Brown Date: 03/12/2009 Comments: Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [] Assessment of Effect: \_\_ No Historic Properties Affected \_x No Adverse Effect \_\_ Adverse Effect \_\_ Streamlined Review Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: [X] HISTORICAL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT Name: David Humphrey Date: 03/12/2009 Comments: Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [] Assessment of Effect: \_\_ No Historic Properties Affected <u>x</u> No Adverse Effect \_\_ Adverse Effect Streamlined Review Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

[X] ANTHROPOLOGIST Name: Jeannette Simons

[] 106 Advisor Name: Date: Comments:
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:
C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS
1. Assessment of Effect:
No Historic Properties AffectedX 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:
[ x ] 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. 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: //Jeanette Simons//

Date 3/16/09

## 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 Superintendent // David V. Uberuaga//

Date 3/16/09

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

28appeno.htm 16-Aug-2002