



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: Bill Rust, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Acting Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2009-112 Wawona Hotel, Install Hand Rail on Main Building Stairs (28290)

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; and
- 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.

//Don L. Neubacher//  
Don L. Neubacher

Enclosure (with attachments)

cc: Statutory Compliance File

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



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## Categorical Exclusion Form

**Project:** 2009-112 Wawona Hotel, Install Hand Rail on Main Building Stairs

**PEPC Project Number:** 28290

**Project Description:** The purpose of this project is to install two hand rails on the front stairs of the main building at the Wawona Hotel. The stairway currently has no center hand-rails on the wide main entrance to the hotel. In years past, hand rails in the middle of the stairs did exist but were removed in 2006 when the front entrance stairs were reconstructed to meet sustainable and historic design criteria. Guests and employees use the entrance stairs throughout the year, including the winter season. The hotel staff has documented a number of guest injuries that have been the result of slipping on wet or icy stairs. Installation of two center hand-rails that will connect to the columns at the top of the stairs will provide visitors a safe way to ascend or descend the steps. Existing railing along the sides of the stairs are constructed of wood planks that do not provide adequate grip for some users. These wood railings may be considered for removal at a future date, in which case two additional metal railings would be installed at that time. Additionally, people who ascend and descend the stairs naturally gravitate to the middle of the wide stairway, where there is no railing to aide their travel.

Delaware North Company (DNC) is requesting installation of two metal hand rails that are the same as the ones currently located on the Wawona Hotel Annex building.

The scope of work includes installation of two hand rails made of galvanized 1 1/2 inch pipe approximately 12 feet in length. The rails will be installed towards the middle of the stairs and connect to the two columns at the top of the stairs. The rails will be primed and painted green to match other railings at Wawona. The top of the hand rails shall be attached to the columns with a threaded flange with wood screws. The bottom of the rails shall be core drilled into the concrete and pour stone product used for the attachment beyond the bottom step. DNC will continue to consult with the park Historic Architect on the style and location of the proposed handrail installation to protect the historic resource.

Project Location:

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):

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

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 or conditions in Section 3-6 apply, and the action is fully described in Section 3-4 of DO-12.

**Park Superintendent** //Don L. Neubacher//

**Date** 6/28/10

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## ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

### DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 02/05/2010

Updated May 2007 - per 2004 Departmental Manual revisions and proposed Director's Order 12 changes

### A. PROJECT INFORMATION

**Park Name:** Yosemite National Park  
**Project Title:** 2009-112 Wawona Hotel, Install Hand Rail on Main Building Stairs  
**PEPC Project Number:** 28290  
**Project Type:** Building safety improvement (OTHER)  
**Project Location:** County, State: Mariposa, California  
**Project Leader:** Bill Rust

**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 or natural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Geologic resources – soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc.	No				
2. From geohazards	No				
3. Air quality	No				
4. Soundscapes	No				
5. Water quality or quantity	No				
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	No				

<b>Identify potential effects to the following physical or natural resources</b>	<b>No Effect</b>	<b>Negligible Effects</b>	<b>Minor Effects</b>	<b>Exceeds Minor Effects</b>	<b>Data Needed to Determine/Notes</b>
federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat					
12. Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites	No				Yosemite National Park is a World Heritage Site.
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)	No				
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.	No				
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources	No				Visitor experience will be enhanced by the added safety measure of the hand rails.
18. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections)	No				
19. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure	No				
20. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.	No				
21. Energy resources	No				
22. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies	No				
23. Resource, including energy, conservation potential, sustainability	No				
24. Urban quality, gateway communities, etc.	No				
25. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity	No				
26. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?	No				

Identify potential effects to the following cultural resources	No Historic Properties Affected	No Adverse Effect	Adverse Effect	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Archeological resources	X			Wawona Archeological District; the assessment of effect is "No Historic Properties Affected."
2. Prehistoric/historic structure		X		Wawona National Historic Landmark.
3. Cultural landscapes		X		Wawona Historic District; the handrail installation will not negatively affect the landscape.
4. Ethnographic resources	X			

### 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?		No		
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		
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?		No		
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		No		
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		No		
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		No		
G. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National		No		

<b>Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Comment or Data Needed to Determine</b>
Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?				
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		
I. Violate a federal law, or a state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		No		
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		No		
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)?		No		
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		

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>
Don L. Neubacher	Acting Superintendent
Kathleen Morse	Chief of Planning
Mark Butler	Chief of Project Management
Katariina Tuovinen	Chief of Administration Management
Ed Walls	Acting Chief of Facilities Management
Niki Nicholas	Chief of Resources Management & Science
Marty Nielson	Chief of Business and Revenue Management
Tom Medema	Chief of Interpretation and Education
Charles Cuvelier	Chief of Visitor and Resource Protection
Bill Rust	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>6/23/10</u>
<u>//Renea Kennec// (acting)</u> Compliance Program Manager – Elexis Mayer	<u>6/23/10</u>
<u>//Mark A. Butler//</u> Chief, Project Management – Mark Butler	<u>6/23/10</u>

Approved:

Acting Superintendent	Date
<u>//Don L. Neubacher//</u> Don L. Neubacher	<u>6/28/10</u>

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## PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: **February 5, 2010**

### PROJECT INFORMATION

**Park Name:** Yosemite National Park  
**Project Title:** 2009-112 Wawona Hotel, Install Hand Rail on Main Building Stairs  
**PEPC Project Number:** 28290  
**Project Type:** Building safety improvement (OTHER)  
**Project Location:** County, State: Mariposa, California  
**Project Leader:** Bill Rust

### PARK ESF ADDENDUM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
<b>SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST</b>				
1. Listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (Federal or State)?		No		
2. Species of special concern (Federal or State)?		No		
3. Park rare plants or vegetation?		No		
4. Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above?		No		
<b>NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST</b>				
5. Entail ground disturbance?		No		
6. Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?	Yes			Wawona Archeological District; the assessment of effect is "No Historic Properties Affected."
7. Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?	Yes			The handrails are an addition to the historic structure.
8. Has a National Register form been completed?	Yes			National Historic Landmark #75000223.

<b>ESF Addendum Questions</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Data Needed to Determine/Notes</b>
9. Are there any structures on the park's List of Classified Structures in the area of potential effect?	Yes			List of Classified Structures #7158.
<b>WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST</b>				
10. Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor?	Yes			South Fork of the Merced River.
11. Fall within the bed and banks AND will affect the free-flow of the river?		No		
12. Have the possibility of affecting water quality of the area?		No		
13. Remain consistent with its river segment classification?	Yes			
14. Protect and enhance river ORVs?	Yes			
15. Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River?		No		
16. Will the project encroach or intrude upon the Wild and Scenic River corridor?		No		
17. Consistent with the provisions in the Merced River Plan Settlement Agreement?	Yes			
<b>WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST</b>				
18. Within designated Wilderness?		No		
19. Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?		No		





## ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

### A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park    **Park District:** Wawona

#### 2. Project Description:

a. **Project Name:** 2009-112 Wawona Hotel, Install Hand Rail on Main Building Stairs

b. **Date:** February 5, 2010

c. **PEPC Project ID Number:** 28290

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

No

Yes, Source or reference: **Wawona National Historic Landmark; Wawona Historic 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 Resources:

Historical structures/resources affected?

Name and number(s): **Wawona Hotel National Historic Landmark**

NR status: **1 - Listed in Register and documented**

Cultural landscapes affected?

Name and number(s): **Wawona Historic District (CLI/DOE in prep)**

Location:

**Wawona**

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

Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure

Replace historic features/elements in kind

Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure

Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)

Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape

Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible

Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible

Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources

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:** February 5, 2010 **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:

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Archeologist  
Name: Laura Kirn  
Date: 01/20/2010  
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:

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Historical Architect  
Name: Sueann Brown  
Date: 01/21/2010  
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:

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

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Historical Landscape Architect

Name: David Humphrey

Date: 01/20/2010

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:

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

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No Reviews From: **Curator, Historian, 106 Advisor, Other Advisor, Anthropologist**

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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: PA 1999

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: 6/17/10

**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 //Don L. Neubacher//

Date: 6/28/10

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the Environmental Planning and Compliance  
Office in Yosemite National Park.*