United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:
L7615(YOSE-PM)

Memorandum

To: Lynn Galloway, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2010-004 Yosemite Valley Indian Village Restoration (29029)

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

- Will not be any effect on threatened, endangered, or rare species 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 proposed project, therefore, is now cleared for all NEPA and NHPA compliance requirements as presented above. Project plans and specifications are approved, and construction or project implementation can commence.

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

- Ensure that the park Invasive Plant Specialist is consulted prior to the removal of Himalayan Blackberry. Laura Jones, 379-3292.
- Ensure that any ground disturbing activities include consultation with the park Archeologist, Laura Kirn, 379-1314.

//Stan Austin// (acting)
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.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 02/16/2010

Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: 2010-004 Yosemite Valley Indian Village Restoration

PEPC Project Number: 29029

Project Description: This project would improve visitor safety, enhance interpretive opportunities, and add to the aesthetic nature of the Yosemite Valley Indian Village. The park service proposes to remove invasive plants that have rooted throughout the village. Plant species used by American Indians (and by the park's American Indian Interpreters) would be placed in areas that have been overgrazed by deer or trampled by visitors. They would also remove the unsightly and dysfunctional above-ground sprinklers and replace them with a drip irrigation system. The proposal includes construction of a 30-foot fence to screen and organize the plastic-covered woodpiles. It would also replace a broken metal shed with a new wooden shed, which would match other buildings in the village.

Scope of Work:

- Remove sprinkler heads by capping off the old heads just below ground level.
- Retain anti-siphon valves, located behind the visitor center bathrooms. These valves would be used to install the drip irrigation system. One or two new valves may be needed. The drip system would provide water for establishing the new plants and during drought periods. It would also provide water to the more thirsty plants in the area that was first established as a wildflower garden.
- Remove invasive Himalayan Blackberry and establish new plants referenced on village interpretive signs or used by the American Indian Interpreters.
- Extend the rustic cedar log fence to control trampling.
- Construct a 32-foot grape-stake fence to hide the plastic covered wood piles.
- Construct a 4-foot by 9-foot wooden shed for the interpretive staff to store plant material in a space that is free from water and rodent damage. The shed would sit on top of pier blocks. Minimal digging would be needed for leveling purposes.
- Relocate the mistletoe interpretive sign to a location that faces the mistletoe.

Project Location:

Mariposa County, CA

Mitigations:

- Ensure that the park Invasive Plant Specialist is consulted prior to the removal of Himalayan Blackberry. Laura Jones, 379-3292.
- Ensure that any ground disturbing activities include consultation with the park Archeologist, Laura Kirn, 379-1314.

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.16 Landscaping and landscape maintenance in previously disturbed or developed areas.

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 *//Stan Austin//* (acting)

Date 6/9/10

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 National Park
Date: **2/16/2010**

ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 2/16/2010

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: 2010-004 Yosemite Valley Indian Village Restoration
PEPC Project Number: 29029
Project Type: Facility Rehabilitation (FR)
Project Location: **County, State:** Mariposa, California **District:** Yosemite Valley
Project Leader: Lynn Galloway

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.		Negligible			Drip irrigation requires running line up to 10 inches underground. The fence would require five holes up to 24 inches deep.
2. From geohazards	No				
3. Air quality	No				
4. Soundscapes	No				
5. Water quality or quantity					
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				

Identify potential effects to the following physical or natural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
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.
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				The visitor experience would be enhanced by proper signage and the addition of native vegetation.
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		Yosemite Valley Archeological District
2. Prehistoric/historic structure	X			
3. Cultural landscapes		X		Yosemite Village Historic District
4. Ethnographic resources		X		Yosemite Valley American Indian Traditional Cultural Property

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		

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
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		
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 National Park Service 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 Department of Interior 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

Interdisciplinary Team	**Field of Expertise**
Don L. Neubacher	Superintendent
Kathleen Morse	Chief of Planning
Mark Butler	Chief of Project Management
Katariina Tuovinen	Chief of Administration Management
Ed Walls	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 Chief Ranger
Lynn Galloway	Project Leader
Elexis Mayer	Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager
Jeannette Simons	NHPA Specialist
Renea Kennec	NEPA Specialist

F. SUPERVISORY SIGNATORY

Recommended:

Compliance Specialists	Date
//Renea Kennec// Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec	6/1/10
//Elexis Mayer// Compliance Program Manager – Elexis Mayer	6/2/10
//Mark A. Butler// Chief, Project Management – Mark Butler	6/3/10

Approved:

Superintendent	Date
//Stan Austin// (acting) Don L. Neubacher	6/9/10

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PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: February 16, 2010

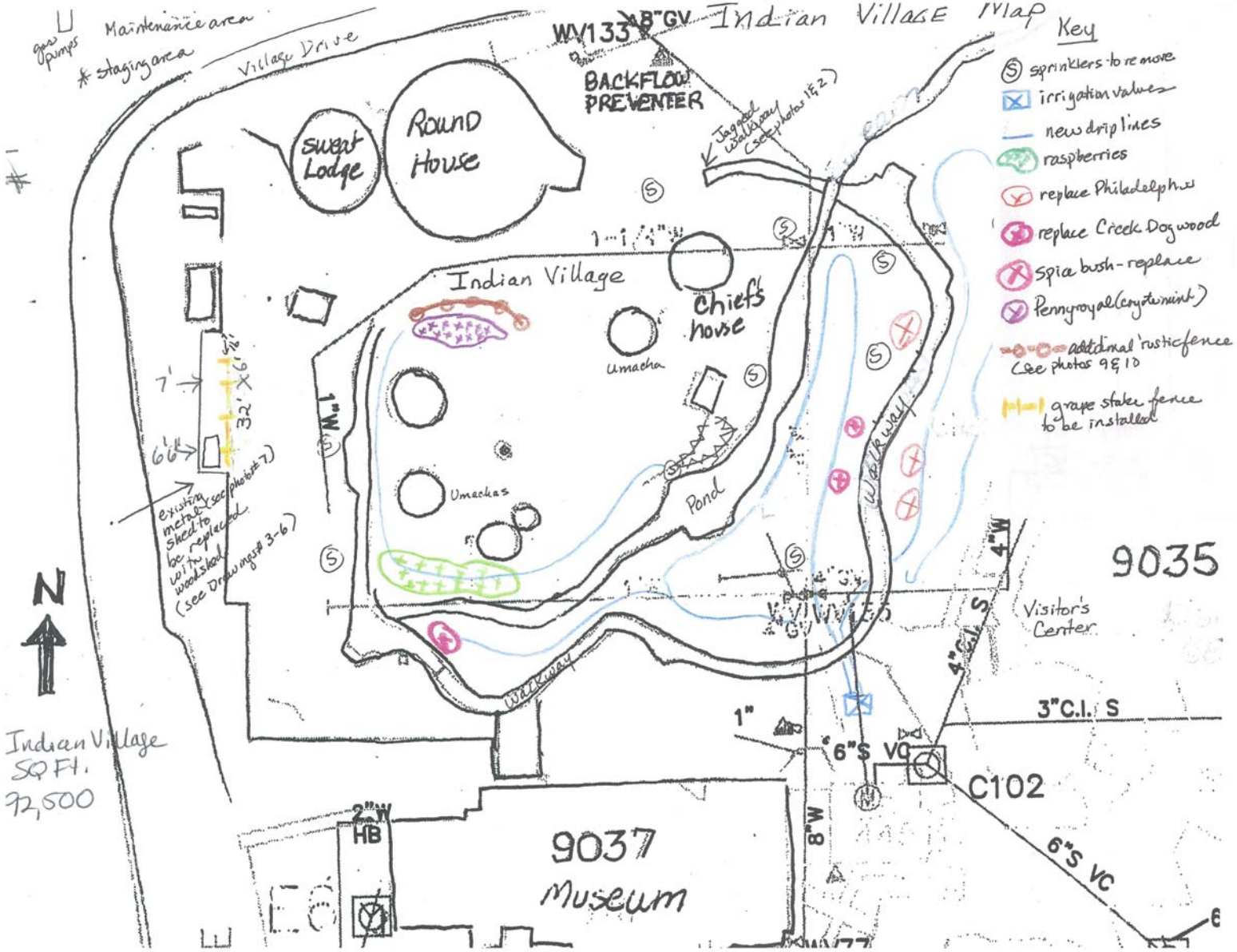
PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
Project Title: 2010-004 Yosemite Valley Indian Village Restoration
PEPC Project Number: 29029
Project Type: Facility Rehabilitation (FR)
Project Location: County, State: Mariposa, California District: Yosemite Valley
Project Leader: Lynn Galloway

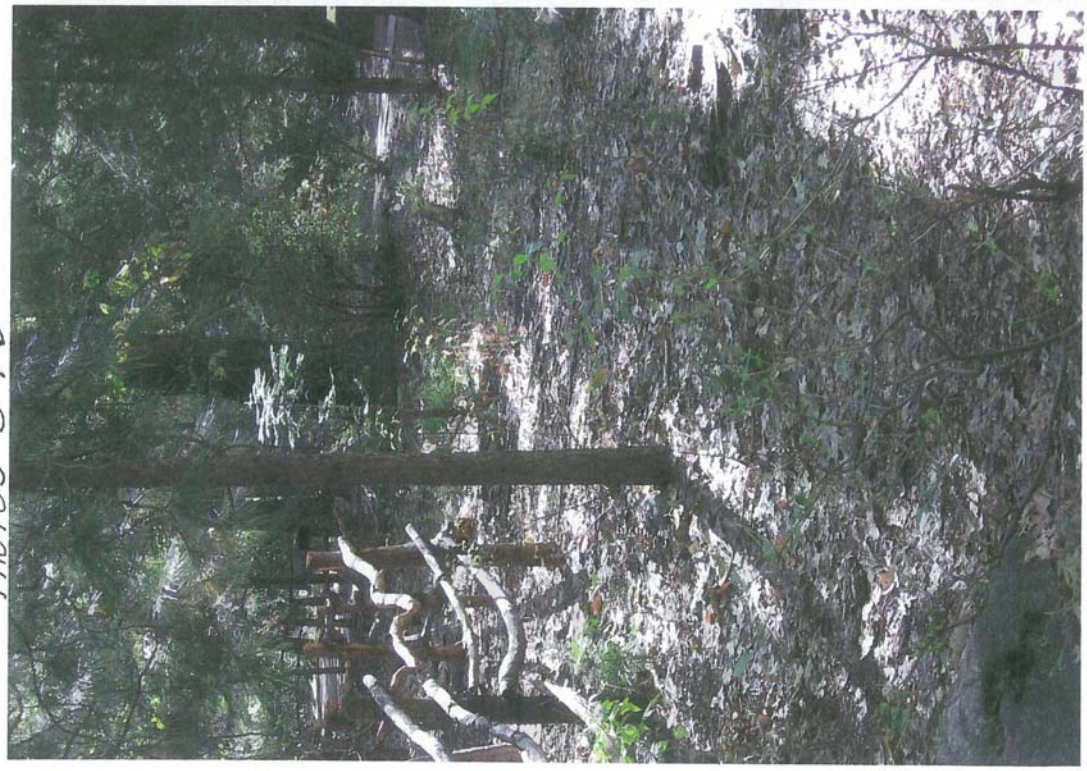
PARK ESF ADDENDUM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST				
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		
NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST				
5. Entail ground disturbance?	Yes			Drip irrigation requires running line up to 10 inches under ground. The fence would require five holes up to 24 inches deep.
6. Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?	Yes			Yosemite Valley Archeological District; the assessment of effect is “No Adverse Effect.”
7. Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?		No		
8. Has a National Register form been completed?		No		

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
9. Are there any structures on the park's List of Classified Structures in the area of potential effect?		No		
WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST				
10. Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor?	Yes			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. Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River?		No		
14. Will the project encroach or intrude upon the Wild and Scenic River corridor?		No		
15. Will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values?		No		
16. Consistent with the provisions in the Merced River Plan Settlement Agreement?			N/A	
WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST				
17. Within designated Wilderness?		No		
18. Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?		No		


Indian Village Map
Key
sprinklers to remove
irrigation valves
new drip lines
raspberries
replace Philadelphus
replace Creek Dogwood
Spiea bush - replace
Pennyroyal (creeping mint)
additional rustic fence (see photos 9 & 10)
grape stake fence to be installed
Maintenance area
staging area
Village Drive
WV133
8"GV
BACKFLOW PREVENTER
Sweat Lodge
Round House
Jagged walkway (see photos 1 & 2)
Indian Village
Chiefs house
Umacha
Umachas
Pond
Walkway
existing metal shed to be replaced with woodshed (see Drawings # 3-6)
32'
19'
7'
6'6"
1"W
4"W
9035
Visitor's Center
4"C.I. S
3"C.I. S
1"
6"S VC
C102
2"W
HB
9037
Museum
8"W
N
Indian Village
SQ FT.
12,500

#6



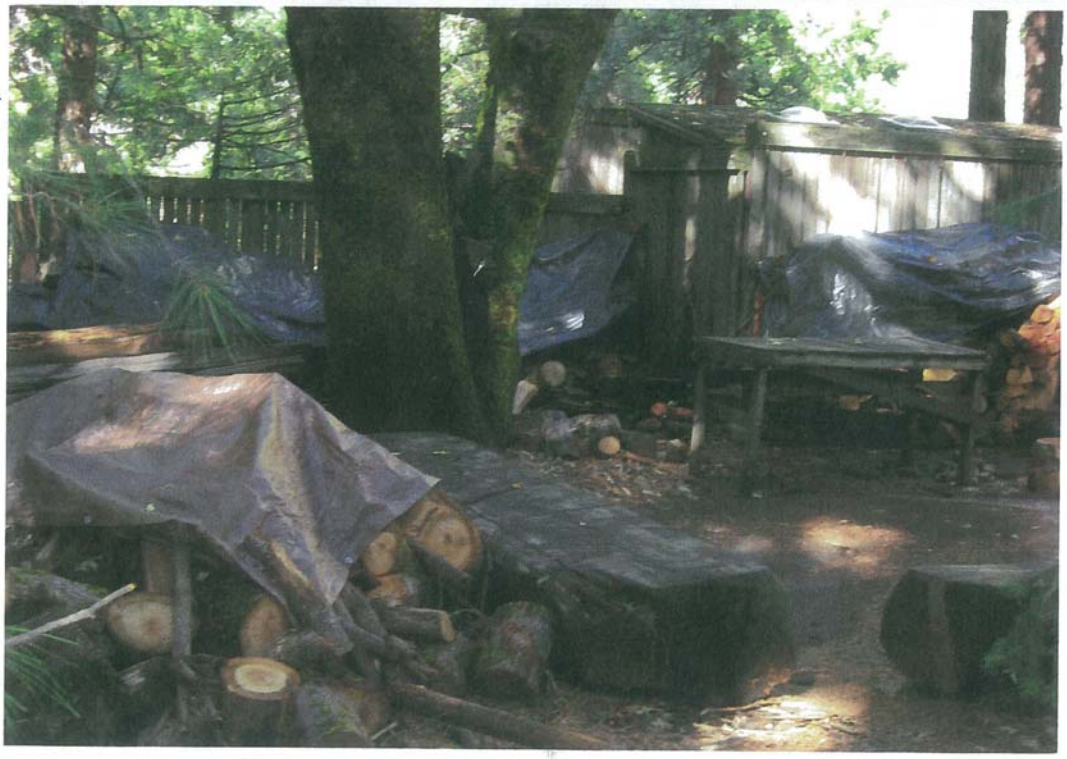
PHOTOS 5 & 6

#5

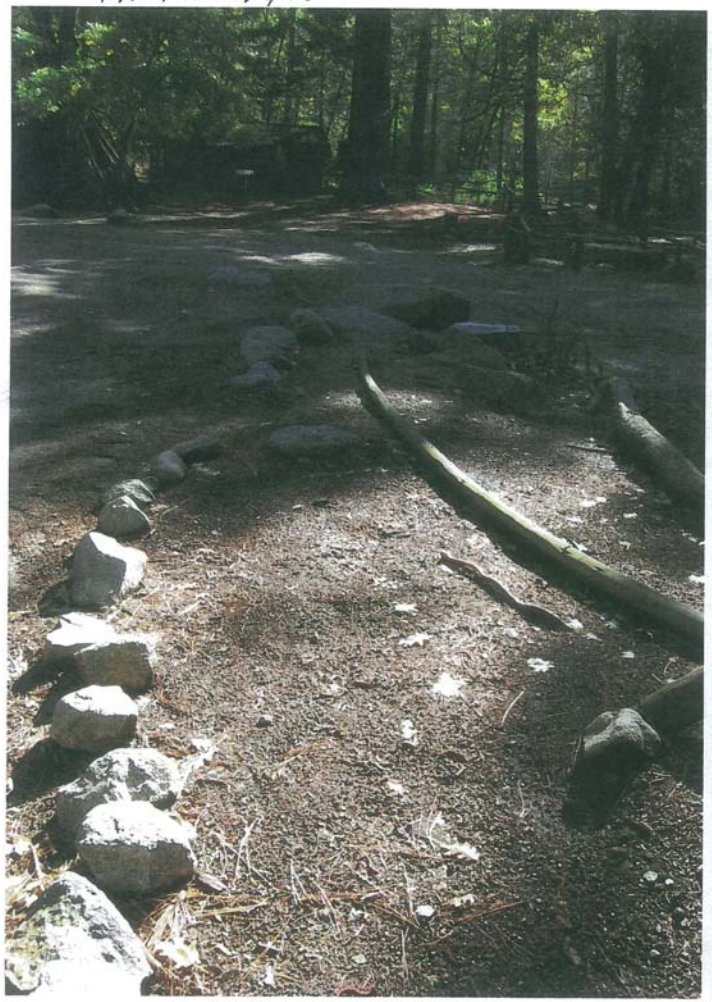
PHOTOS 7 & 8

#7

#8



PHOTOS 9 & 10



#9

#10

ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

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

2. Project Description:

a. Project Name: 2010-004 Yosemite Valley Indian Village Restoration

b. Date: February 10, 2010

c. PEPC Project ID Number: 29029

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

___ No
__X__ Yes, Source or reference: Yosemite Village Historic District, Yosemite Valley Historic District, Yosemite Valley Archeological District, and Yosemite Valley American Indian Traditional Cultural Property.

___ 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): Yosemite Valley Archeological District
NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

Cultural landscapes affected?
Name and number(s): Yosemite Village Historic District
NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

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

Ethnographic resources affected?
Name and number(s): Yosemite Valley American Indian Traditional Cultural 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
Yes Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible
Yes 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)
X Other (please specify) **- Archeological monitoring is required.**

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 10, 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:

[X] Archeologist
Name: Laura Kirn
Date: 01/20/2010
Comments: YOSE 1999 PA, Stipulation VII.C.2.a, b, d, g

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

[X] 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

[X] Historical Landscape Architect
Name: David Humphrey
Date: 01/20/2010
Comments: YOSE 1999 PA, Stipulation VII.C.2.a, b, d, g

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

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 ___**X**__ 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. 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//* (acting)___

Date: _5/25/10____

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 Acting Superintendent _*//Stan Austin//* (acting)_____

Date: _6/9/10_____

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