

The Ahwahnee Comprehensive Rehabilitation Plan  
Environmental Assessment

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# Yosemite National Park

Lead Agency: National Park Service

## ABSTRACT

Constructed in 1927, The Ahwahnee hotel in Yosemite National Park has operated almost continuously to the present day as a luxury hotel in Yosemite Valley. The Ahwahnee was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977 and was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1987.

Architecturally, The Ahwahnee is a symbol of design excellence, 1920s architectural ideals, and Rustic style architecture on a previously unimagined scale. Historically, The Ahwahnee is significant for its role in the development of tourism, national parks, and the concessions industry and for American citizens' then-emerging appreciation of the national park system and the great outdoors. The Ahwahnee is also historically significant for numerous associations with nationally renowned Americans who made great contributions in the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, government, social history, and recreation.

Although The Ahwahnee generally complied with building standards in effect at the time of construction, after more than 80 years in service, the hotel and associated structures and landscape features require upgrades to meet current fire, seismic safety, health, and accessibility codes and requirements. Obsolete mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems also are in need of replacement or upgrading. Rehabilitation work is needed to maintain and protect the historic integrity of The Ahwahnee as well as the visitor experience at this National Historic Landmark for future generations.

This document analyzes four alternatives for the comprehensive rehabilitation of The Ahwahnee for public review and comment, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. The No Action Alternative represents continuing the existing operation and management of The Ahwahnee. The three action alternatives represent a reasonable range of options to satisfy the purpose of and need for the project while also meeting all relevant legal requirements.

Following the release of this environmental assessment, there will be a 30-day public comment period. Park staff will be available to answer questions, and written comments will be accepted, at a public meeting to be held within the comment period. Please refer to the project website for the review and comment period and Yosemite National Park open house dates, and to submit comments electronically:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/AhwahneeRehab>.

Comments postmarked within the 30-day comment period can also be submitted to:

Mail: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park  
Attn: The Ahwahnee Comprehensive Rehabilitation Plan  
P.O. Box 577  
Yosemite National Park, CA 95389

Fax: (209) 379-1294

To request a printed copy or CD of this environmental assessment (available in limited number), please email: [Yose\\_Planning@nps.gov](mailto:Yose_Planning@nps.gov).



# Yosemite National Park

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



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