



**United States Department of the Interior**  
**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
H3015 (YOSE-PM)

JUL 06 2011

Dear Yosemite Friends:

I am pleased to present the *Ahwahnee Comprehensive Rehabilitation Plan Environmental Assessment (EA)* for your review. The Ahwahnee is an iconic hotel that is a symbol of architectural design excellence. It is designated a National Historic Landmark, the highest level of federal designation for historic buildings. After more than 80 years in service, the hotel and its associated structures are in need of rehabilitation. The plan will (1) address current deficiencies related to building, fire, life-safety, and seismic safety standards; (2) improve access to the buildings and grounds; (3) preserve and protect the historic integrity and character-defining features of The Ahwahnee; (4) upgrade obsolete mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems; (5) improve hotel energy and water efficiency; and (6) improve operational efficiency. The EA fulfills the requirements under section 102(2) (C) of the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The No Action Alternative (continuing the existing operation and maintenance of the hotel) and three action alternatives are evaluated in this EA, and we have identified Alternative 3 as the Preferred Alternative. The EA presents an analysis of the potential environmental impacts and describes mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, or resolve those impacts for each alternative.

Public, tribal, and agency consultation has played an important role in developing this plan. Public scoping began August 13 and ended September 26, 2009. We considered comments generated during scoping when developing the range of alternatives. Close consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer has helped to ensure that this important plan protects one of the nation's most significant historic resources.

A 30-day public review and comment period begins with release of the EA, and will be announced in the local newspaper, in the Yosemite National Park e-newsletter, and on our website. The document is available for electronic review at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/AhwahneeRehab>. Please submit written comments electronically through the website, or join us at the park's July monthly Open House at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Auditorium to discuss the plan with park staff. Hard copies or CDs of the EA may be requested by emailing [yose\\_planning@nps.gov](mailto:yose_planning@nps.gov). You may also mail your comments to the above address c/o Superintendent, ATTN: Ahwahnee Comprehensive Rehabilitation Plan; or send a facsimile to (209) 379-1294.

The park considers all public comments in making a decision, which will be documented in a Finding of No Significant Impact, if appropriate. If approved, rehabilitation of the hotel would be implemented in a phased manner as funding becomes available.

We appreciate your interest and welcome your continued participation.

Sincerely,

Don L. Neubacher  
Superintendent