



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:** Greg Stock, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

**From:** Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

**Subject:** NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2012-009 Curry Village Landfill Remedial Site Investigation (Wilderness Parking Lot) (41193)

The Executive Leadership 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.
- 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:

- 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.

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 41193.

//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.*



## Categorical Exclusion Form

**Project:** 2012-009 Curry Village Landfill Remedial Site Investigation (Wilderness Parking Lot)

**PEPC Project Number:** 41193

**Project Description:**

This project would conduct supplemental site investigations at the former Curry Village Landfill Site, now the site of the Wilderness Parking Lot near Happy Isles. The landfill was active starting in the 1920's through the 1960's, and reportedly received household and municipal waste and non-combustible material, primarily from Curry Village. Combustible waste was reportedly burned at the site. In the late 1960's the landfill was converted to a transfer station, where trash was stored and sorted for disposal at El Portal. In the 1980's, the site was used to land farm petroleum-contaminated soils from a diesel underground storage tank. The site was subsequently capped with 2-3 feet of gravel and converted to a parking lot servicing the trailhead at Happy Isles.

The Curry Village Landfill Site is regulated by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) through a consent agreement with the National Park Service signed in 2001. DTSC requires additional work at the site to complete the Remedial Site Investigation.

Previous environmental investigations at the site included test pits excavated in 2000 within the footprint of the parking lot and the adjacent area. Various contaminants were detected in soil samples in excess of screening criteria, including total petroleum hydrocarbons, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls, dioxins/furans, and metals.

This project would

- (1) further characterize the site, including the nature and extent of soil and groundwater contamination;
- (2) evaluate the risk to human health and the environment resulting from such contamination; and
- (3) identify preliminary applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements for the site.

On-site investigations would include sampling of surface and sub-surface soils and groundwater, both within the footprint of the site and from the adjacent area surrounding the landfill. The subsurface soil samples would be collected at 15 locations with a four inch diameter soil borer up to six feet below the ground surface. The presence of large pieces of concrete and metal in the landfill and the need to collect continuous cores requires the use of a sonic drill rig. Sampling of groundwater requires the installation of 13 groundwater monitoring wells 30 to 50 feet below ground surface using a sonic drill rig. Both upgradient wells (between the parking lot and talus slope) and downgradient wells (between the parking lot and the Happy Isles road) would be installed. Additional information on the field sampling and work plans, including maps of the proposed sampling locations, can be found in the attached documents.

The drilling would require partial closure (no more than 25% at any given time) of the Wilderness Parking Lot. As the sampling progresses across the site, areas previously closed for sampling would be re-opened. Drilling would occur during daylight hours for a continuous ten-day period, preferably April 12-22, before the backcountry opens. The drill rig, other equipment, and investigation-derived soil and water waste will be stored on site.

**Project Locations:**

Mariposa County, CA

**Mitigations:**

- 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.

**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.10 Installation of wells, comfort stations and pit toilets in areas of existing use and in 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 (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.**

**Superintendent:** //Don L. Neubacher//

Don L. Neubacher

**Date:** //4/3/12//

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Yosemite National Park.*



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park  
Date: 04/02/2012

## ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

### DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 03/29/2012

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:** 2012-009 Curry Village Landfill Remedial Site Investigation (Wilderness Parking Lot)  
**PEPC Project #:** 41193  
**Project Type:** Environmental Management System (EMS)  
**Project Location:**  
**County, State:** Mariposa, California **Other:** Wilderness Parking Lot, Yosemite Valley  
**Project Leader:** Greg Stock

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, natural, or cultural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Geologic resources – soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc.		Negligible			Soil borings, measuring six feet deep and groundwater monitoring well installation, up to 50 feet. Project is mainly limited to the parking lot footprint.
2. From geohazards	No				
3. Air quality		Negligible			Temporary dust emission during the soil borings.
4. Soundscapes		Negligible			This project includes ten days of

<b>Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural 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>
					drilling for soil borings.
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 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				

<b>Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural 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>
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		Negligible			There would be 25% less parking spaces available; the project duration would be approximately two - three weeks, before backcountry opens.
18. Archeological resources		Negligible			Yosemite Valley Archeological District. The Curry Dump has been evaluated for national register eligibility and has been determined not significant.
19. Prehistoric/historic structure	No				
20. Cultural landscapes	No				Yosemite Valley Historic District
21. Ethnographic resources	No				Yosemite Valley Traditional Cultural Property
22. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections)	No				
23. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base,	No				

<b>Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural 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>
infrastructure					
24. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.	No				
25. Energy resources	No				
26. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies	No				
27. Resource, including energy, conservation potential, sustainability	No				
28. Urban quality, gateway communities, etc.	No				
29. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity	No				
30. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?	No				

#### **C. MANDATORY CRITERIA**

<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>
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?		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>
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 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		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>
significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?				
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		

#### **D. OTHER INFORMATION**

1. Are personnel preparing this form familiar with the site? Yes
- 1.A. Did personnel conduct a site visit? No
2. Is the project in an approved plan such as a General Management Plan or an Implementation Plan with an accompanying NEPA document? No
3. Are there any interested or affected agencies or parties? No
4. Has consultation with all affected agencies or tribes been completed? N/A
5. 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	Superintendent
Michael Gauthier	Chief of Staff
Kathleen Morse	Chief of Planning
Randy Fong	Chief of Project Management
Teri Austin	Chief of Administration Management
Ed Walls	Chief of Facilities Management
Linda C. Mazzu	Chief of Resources Management & Science
Ethan McKinley	Acting Chief of Business and Revenue Management
Tom Medema	Chief of Interpretation and Education
Charles Cuvelier	Chief of Visitor and Resource Protection
Greg Stock	Project Leader
Madelyn Ruffner	Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager
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>//4/3/12//</u>
 <u>//Madelyn Ruffner//</u> Acting Compliance Program Manager – Madelyn Ruffner	 <u>//4/3/12//</u>
 <u>//Randy Fong//</u> Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong	 <u>//4/3/12//</u>

##### Approved:

Superintendent	Date
 <u>//Don L. Neubacher//</u> Don L. Neubacher	 <u>//4/3/12//</u>

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National Park Service  
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Yosemite National Park  
Date: 04/02/2012

## PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: April 2, 2012

### PROJECT INFORMATION

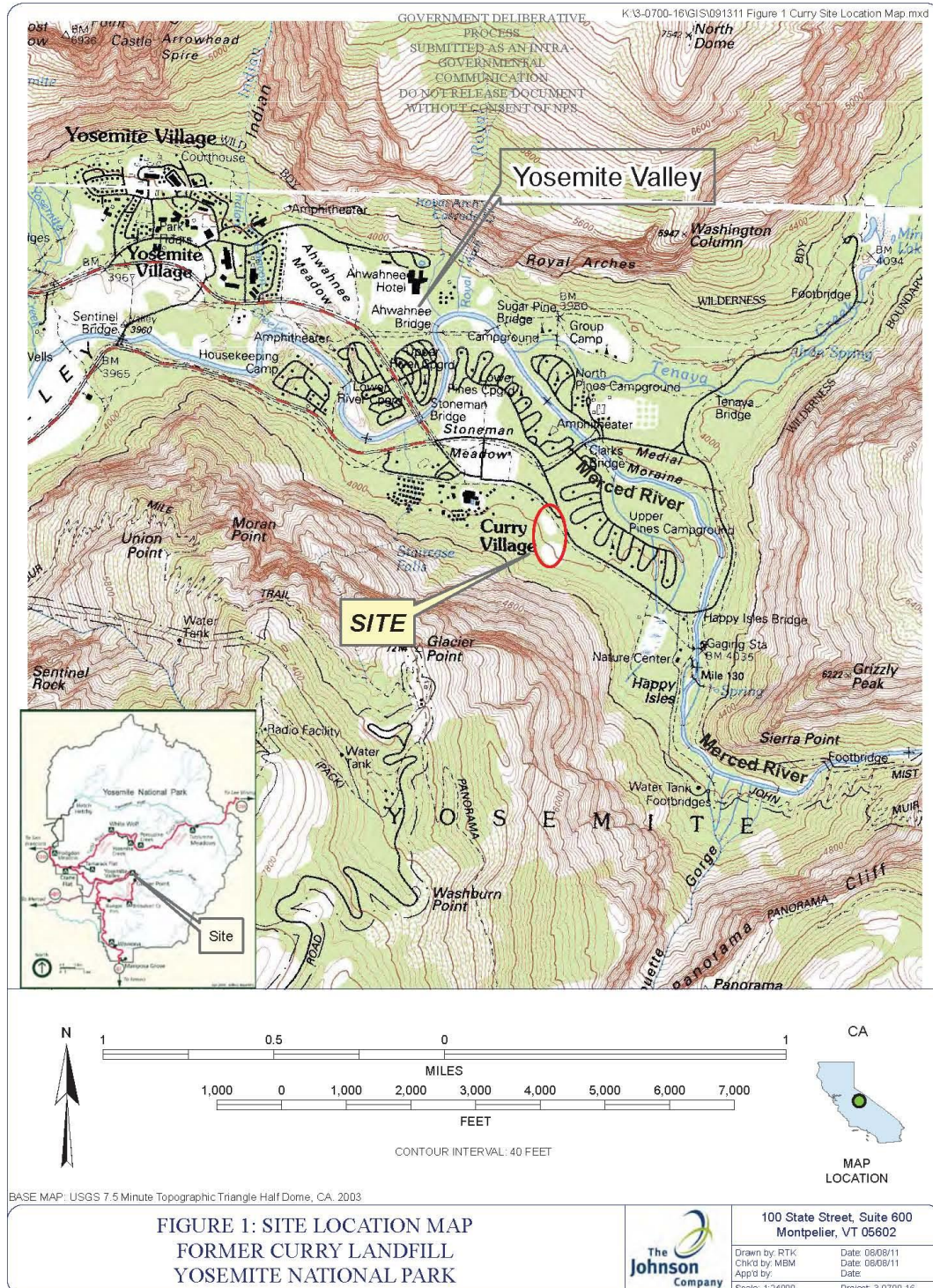
**Park Name:** Yosemite National Park  
**Project Title:** 20012-009 Curry Village Landfill Remedial Site Investigation (Wilderness Parking Lot)  
**PEPC Project Number:** 41193  
  
**Project Type:** Environmental Management System (EMS)  
**Project Location:**  
**County, State:** Mariposa, California      **Other:** Wilderness Parking Lot, Yosemite Valley  
**Project Leader:** Greg Stock

### PARK ESF ADDENDUM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

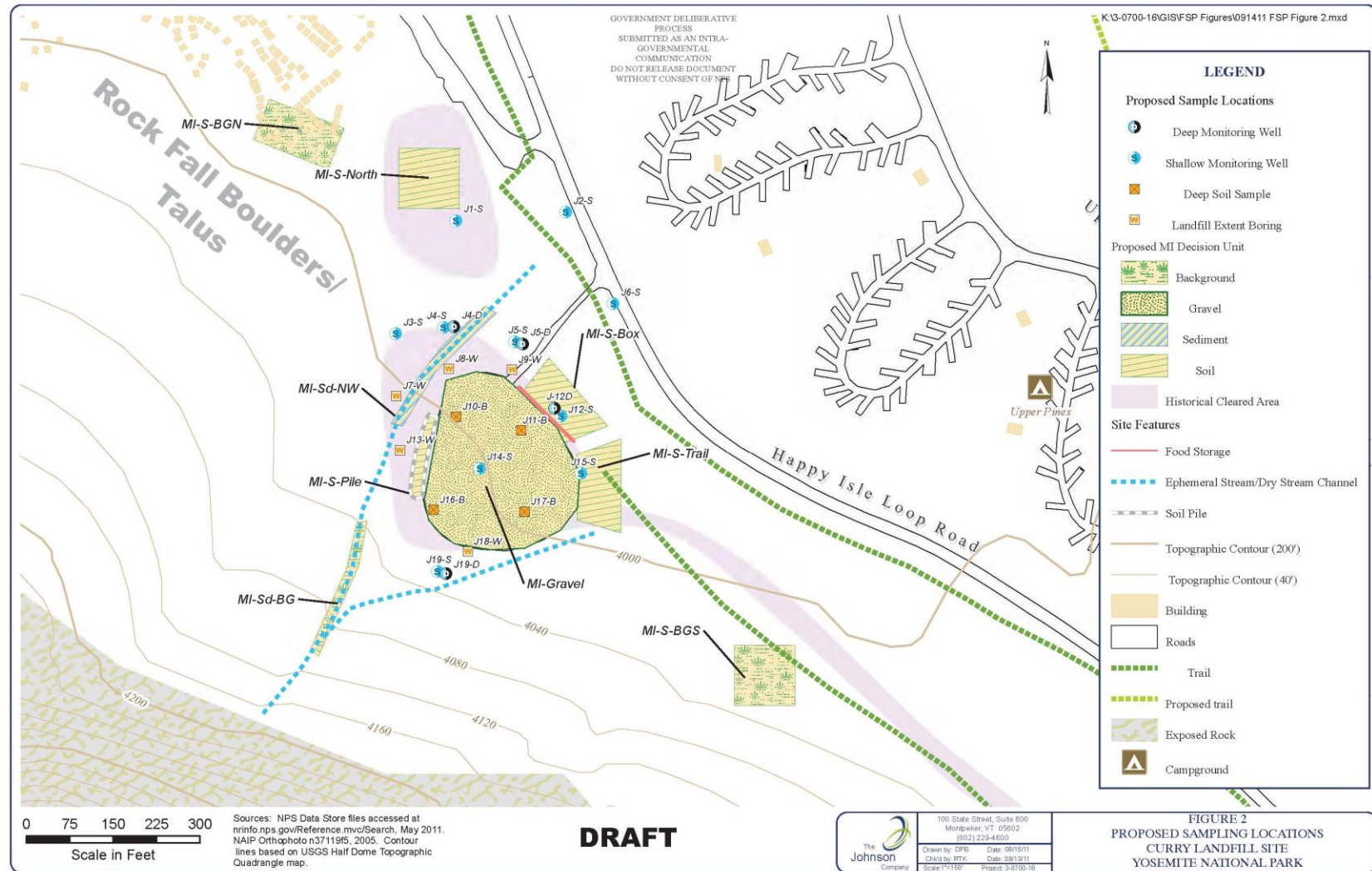
ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST				
Listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (Federal or State)?		No		
Species of special concern (Federal or State)?		No		
Park rare plants or vegetation?		No		
Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above?		No		
NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST				
Entail ground disturbance?	Yes			Soil borings, measuring six feet deep and groundwater monitoring well installation, up to 50 feet. Project is limited to the parking lot footprint.
Are any archeological or	Yes			The Curry Dump has been

<b>ESF Addendum Questions</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Data Needed to Determine/Notes</b>
ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?				evaluated for national register eligibility and has been determined not significant.
Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?		No		
Has a National Register form been completed?		No		This site is ineligible for the National Register.
Are there any structures on the park's List of Classified Structures in the area of potential effect?		No		
<b>WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST</b>				
Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor?	Yes			Merced River
Fall within the bed and banks AND will affect the free-flow of the river?		No		
Have the possibility of affecting water quality of the area?		No		
Remain consistent with its river segment classification?	Yes			
Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River?		No		
Will the project encroach or intrude upon the Wild and Scenic River corridor?		No		
Will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values?		No		
Consistent with the provisions in the Merced River Plan Settlement Agreement?			N/A	
<b>WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST</b>				
Within designated Wilderness?		No		

<b>ESF Addendum Questions</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Data Needed to Determine/Notes</b>
Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?		No		











National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park  
Date: 04/02/2012

# ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

## A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

### 2. Project Description:

**Project Name:** 2012-009 Curry Village Landfill Remedial Site Investigation (Wilderness Parking Lot)

**Prepared by:** Renea Kennec    **Date Prepared:** 03/29/2012    **Telephone:** 209-379-1038  
**PEPC Project Number:** 41193

**Area of potential effects (as defined in 36 CFR 800.16[d])**

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

☐ No

☒ Yes

Source or reference: Yosemite Archeological District; Yosemite Valley Historic District; 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 numbers:** Yosemite Valley Archeological District

#### **Cultural Landscapes Affected:**

**Name and numbers:** Yosemite Valley Historic District

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

#### **Ethnographic Resources Affected:**

**Name and numbers:** 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)

No 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

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)

Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

#### 6. Supporting Study Data:

(Attach if feasible; if action is in a plan, EA or EIS, give name and project or page number.)

#### 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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[ X ] Archeologist

Name: Laura Kirn

Date: 03/30/2012

Comments: The Curry Dump has been evaluated for national register eligibility and has been determined not significant.

See Burton et al, Victory Culture. Yosemite Research Center Publications in Anthropology No. 24. USDI National Park Service: 2003.

*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 ] Anthropologist

Name: Laura Kirn

Date: 03/30/2012

*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: 03/23/2012

Comments: None.

*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: None.

Doc Method: No Potential to Cause Effects [800.3(a) (1)]

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**No Reviews From:** Curator, Historical Architect, Historian, 106 Advisor, Other Advisor

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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. Documentation Method:

☐ 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: 1999 Programmatic Agreement

☐ E. COMBINED NEPA/NHPA Document

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. Memo to SHPO/THPO

☐ H. Memo to ACHP

3. Additional Consulting Parties Information:

Additional Consulting Parties: No

4. Stipulations and 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.

5. Mitigations/Treatment Measures:

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.

**D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:**

**Acting Historic Preservation Officer:**

//Kimball Koch//

Kimball Koch

**Date:** //4/2/12//

**E. 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.**

**Superintendent:** //Don L. Neubacher//

Don Neubacher

**Date:** //4/3/12//

