



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:** Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

**Subject:** NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2010-026 Install Yosemite Valley Museum Fire Protection System (30492)

The Executive Leadership Team has reviewed the proposed project/action and completed its environmental assessment documentation, and we have determined the following:

- There will not be any effect on threatened, endangered, or rare species and/or their critical habitat.
- There will be no historical resources affected.
- There 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:

- Determination contingent upon park historical architect monitoring during construction and further review of construction documents.
- Ensure all staging of equipment and supplies are kept to paved surfaces.
- Ensure backflow device is located within utility recommendations.

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 30492.

  
Don L. Neubacher

Enclosure (with attachments)

cc: Statutory Compliance File





National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park  
Date: 04/17/2013

## Categorical Exclusion Form

**Project:** 2010-026 Yosemite Valley Museum Fire Protection System Installation

**PEPC Project Number:** 30492

**Project Description:**

This project will install a new fire detection system with air sampling detectors and high pressure water mist suppression system throughout the entire Yosemite Museum Building as a replacement of the existing fire detection and suppression system. The current systems do not meet fire and life safety codes, have outlived their life expectancy, do not protect all space in the Museum Building, and create numerous false alarms. The Yosemite Museum is over 15,000 square feet in size and includes a lobby, museum with exhibits, collections storage, research library, rare book room, store, restrooms, administrative offices, break room, mechanical rooms, meeting room, and a covered outdoor office area.

This project will remove the current fire detection and non-operational halon suppression systems. Patching and repair of historic materials will be necessary where existing system components are removed or where demolition is necessary for new construction. A licensed contractor furnishing the services of a preservation specialist will install the new replacement system based on the design drawings and specifications. Almost all interior spaces will be protected including attic spaces. Piping and electrical conduit will be concealed where possible and for areas where concealment would damage historic material, piping and conduit will be installed in the least visually intrusive way. The park chose a high-pressure mist suppression system after careful study by park fire specialists, facility managers, and museum specialists because of its reliability and ability to suppress fires that are covered (such as under a table) and that would be difficult to extinguish with a traditional sprinkler system. In addition, mist systems use less water, minimizing damage to structures and artifacts.

**Location:**

Mariposa County, CA

**Mitigations:**

- Determination contingent upon park historical architect monitoring during construction and further review of construction documents.
- Ensure all staging of equipment and supplies are kept to paved surfaces.
- Ensure backflow device is located within utility recommendations.

**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):**

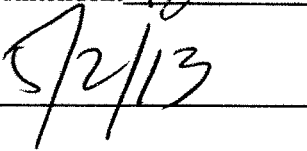
C.4 Routine maintenance and repairs to cultural resource sites, structures, utilities and grounds under an approved Historic Structures Preservation Guide or Cyclic Maintenance Guide; or if the action would not adversely affect the cultural resource.

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 (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.

Park Superintendent

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D. J. Mulcahy", written over a horizontal line.

Date

A handwritten date "5/2/13" in dark ink, written over a horizontal line.



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park  
Date: 04/17/2013

## ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

### DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 04/16/2013

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:** 2010-026 Yosemite Valley Museum Fire Protection System Installation  
**PEPC Project Number:** 30492  
**PMIS Number:** 157252  
**Project Type:** Fire Safety (OTHER)  
**Project Location:**  
**County, State:** Mariposa, California  
**Project Leader:** Bill Rust

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.	No				
2. From geohazards	No				
3. Air quality		Negligible			The fire system installation would create minimal, temporary construction air emissions.
4. Soundscapes		Negligible			There will be temporary construction noises associated with this project.
5. Water quality or quantity	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>
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				
15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)	No				
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand,	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>
visitation, activities, etc.					
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources		Negligible			The Yosemite Museum will be temporarily closed to visitors during installation in the lobby and museum galleries. Project will occur during the fall when visitation is expected to be reduced.
18. Archeological resources	No				
19. Prehistoric/historic structure		Negligible			The park historical architect is working closely with the project manager and design consultants to ensure that the proposed upgrades to the systems are consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.
20. Cultural landscapes	No				
21. Ethnographic resources	No				
22. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections)	No				This project will improve museum collection protection in the event of a fire compared to the existing system.
23. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure	No				
24. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.	No				

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
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

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		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>
Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?				
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 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		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>
(Executive Order 12898)?				
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**

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

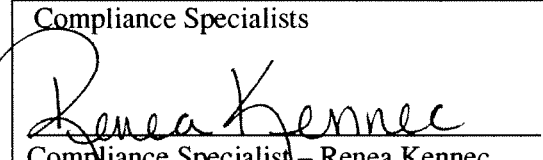

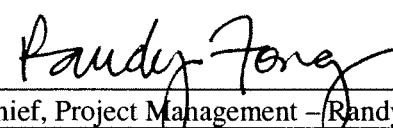
## E. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM SIGNATORIES

<u>Interdisciplinary Team</u>	<u>Field of Expertise</u>
Don L. Neubacher	Superintendent
Woody Smeck	Deputy 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 Mazzu	Chief of Resources Management & Science
Kris Kirby	Chief of Business and Revenue Management
Tom Medema	Chief of Interpretation and Education
Kevin Killian	Acting Chief of Visitor and Resource Protection
Bill Rust	Project Leader
Madelyn Ruffner	Acting Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager
Kimball Koch	NHPA Specialist
Renea Kennec	NEPA Specialist

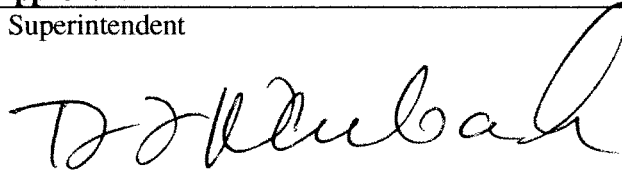
## F. SUPERVISORY SIGNATORY

*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
 Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec	<u>4/25/13</u>
 Acting Compliance Program Manager – Madelyn Ruffner	<u>4/29/13</u>
 Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong	<u>5-1-13</u>

### Approved:

Superintendent	Date
 Don L. Neubacher	<u>5/2/13</u>





National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park  
Date: 04/17/2013

## PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: April 17, 2013

### PROJECT INFORMATION

**Park Name:** Yosemite National Park  
**Project Title:** 2010-026 Yosemite Valley Museum Fire Protection System Installation  
**PEPC Project Number:** 30492  
**Project Type:** Fire Safety (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>				
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		
<b>NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST</b>				
Entail ground disturbance?		No		
Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?		No		
Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?	Yes			The Assessment of Effect is a "No Adverse Effect."
Has a National Register form been completed?	Yes			The Yosemite Village and Yosemite Valley Historic Districts are on the National Register. The Museum building is a contributing resource to both the historic districts.
Are there any structures on the park's List of Classified Structures in the area of potential effect?	Yes			LCS #5779
<b>WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST</b>				

<b>ESF Addendum Questions</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Data Needed to Determine/Notes</b>
Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor?		No		
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?			N/A	
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		
Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?		No		



## ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

### A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

2. **Project Description:**

**Project Name:** 2010-026 Yosemite Valley Museum Fire Protection System Installation

**Prepared by:** Renea Kennec

**Date Prepared:** 04/17/2013

**Telephone:** 209-379-1038

**PEPC Project Number:** 30492

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

3. **Has the area of potential effects been surveyed to identify historic properties?**

       No

  X   Yes

Source or reference: Yosemite Valley Historic District; Yosemite Village  
Historic District

4. **Potentially Affected Resources:**

**Cultural Landscapes Affected:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

  No   Replace historic features/elements in kind

  Yes   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:

---

[ X ] Archeologist  
Name: Laura Kim  
Date: 10/25/2012

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* [ X ]  
Assessment of Effect:        No Potential to Cause Effect   X   No Historic Properties  
Affected        No Adverse Effect        Adverse Effect        Streamlined Review  
Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:  
Doc Method: No Potential to Cause Effects [800.3(a)(1)]

---

[ X ] Historical Architect  
Name: Gabrielle Harlan  
Date: 04/18/2013  
Comments: Preliminary determination pending final design.

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* [   ]  
Assessment of Effect:        No Potential to Cause Effect        No Historic Properties  
Affected   X   No Adverse Effect        Adverse Effect        Streamlined Review  
Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: Determination contingent upon NPS historical architect monitoring during construction and further review of construction documents.  
Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

---

[ X ] Anthropologist  
Name: Laura Kim  
Date: 10/25/2012  
Comments: Project was submitted for tribal review and no comments were received.

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* [   ]  
Assessment of Effect:        No Potential to Cause Effect   X   No Historic Properties  
Affected        No Adverse Effect        Adverse Effect        Streamlined Review  
Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:



☒ 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. Memo to SHPO/THPO

☐ G. 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.**

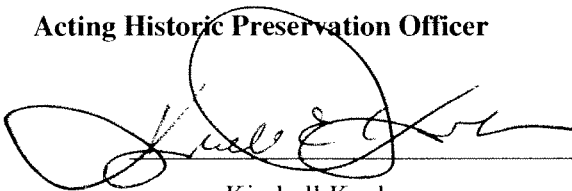
**5. Mitigations/Treatment Measures:**

**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.**

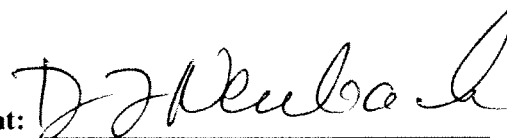
**D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:**

**Acting Historic Preservation Officer**

 Date: 4-19-2017  
Kimball Koch

**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:  Date: 5/2/13  
Don L. Neubacher

