



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: Sally Sprouse, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2013-005 Hetch Hetchy Road Sign Improvement (45878)

The Executive Leadership Team has reviewed the proposed project 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 properties 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:

- No mitigations identified.

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 45878.

//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.*



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 06/28/2013

Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: 2013-005 Hetch Hetchy Road Sign Improvement

PEPC Project Number: 45878

Project Description:

The Hetch Hetchy area receives higher visitation in the spring and summer months and does not have enough parking to accommodate the increase in traffic for overnight as well as day use. The problem has been managed using temporary easel signs and traffic cones in past years. This project replaces the temporary signs with road signs that can be flipped to direct visitors to the correct parking areas and block off one lane of Main Street to use it for parking. The two main parking areas are the day use lot near the dam and the backpacker lot near the campground.

The backpacker lot overflow parking was eliminated when the new ranger station was built in 2010. Since then, vehicles have been parking in undesignated sites and causing resource damage. This project designates more overnight parking on Main Street by blocking off the left lane. Cars would turn left out of the lot and park on the left side of Main Street. One sign will read "Overflow Backpacker Parking" which can be turned to direct cars to the parking on Main Street. White parking lines will also be painted on the left side of the road to designate 15 parking spaces.

The second area of concern is the day use overflow parking. There are approximately 35 parking spaces for day visitors, but those quickly fill up and cars are instructed to park on Main Street, which is blocked off with cones and open only to one way traffic. This project replaces the 20-30 traffic cones and an easel sign with two flippable signs reading "Overflow Day Use Parking" on one panel and "Parking Available at Dam" on the other. Rangers will flip the signs to "Overflow Day Use Parking" when the parking at the dam is full and flip it back when spaces are available at the dam in the same fashion as a chain control sign. The signs will be at the south end of Main Street and at the north end designating approximately 35 parking spaces on Main Street. White parking spaces will be painted on Main Street to delineate the spaces, and white arrows will be painted on the road indicating the one way traffic toward the dam. Three other signs in the area that are not needed will be removed resulting in the same number of actual signs being in place.

Lastly, two areas near the dam need to be marked "Authorized Vehicles Only" by using white stenciling on the pavement. These areas are where rangers and city personnel park when accessing the dam and are currently blocked off by cones that would no longer be needed.

Project Locations:

Tuolumne County, CA

Mitigations:

- No mitigations identified.

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.5 Installation of signs, displays, kiosks, etc.

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// **Date** 7/18/13
Don L. Neubacher

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ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 06/28/2013

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: 2013-005 Hetch Hetchy Road Sign Improvement
PEPC Project Number: 45878
PMIS Number:
Project Type: parking management (OTHER)
Project Location:
County, State: Tuolumne, California **District:** Hetch Hetchy
Project Leader: Sally Sprouse

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 | | | Sign posts require a hole 8 inches in diameter by 12 inches deep. |
| 2. From geohazards | No | | | | |
| 3. Air quality | No | | | | |
| 4. Soundscapes | No | | | | |
| 5. Water quality or quantity | No | | | | |
| 6. Streamflow characteristics | 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 |
|--|------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 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, visitation, activities, 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 |
|--|------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources | No | | | | Visitor experience will be enhanced by increased parking opportunities in the Hetch Hetchy area. |
| 18. Archeological resources | | Negligible | | | Hetch Hetchy Archeological District |
| 19. Prehistoric/historic structure | No | | | | |
| 20. Cultural landscapes | | Negligible | | | Signs will be kept to the road prism; there will be a negligible impact to the landscapes. |
| 21. Ethnographic resources | No | | | | |
| 22. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections) | No | | | | |
| 23. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure | No | | | | |
| 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 | 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 |
|---|-----------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| potential, sustainability | | | | | |
| 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 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 | | No | | |

| Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal: | Yes | No | N/A | Comment or Data Needed to Determine |
|--|------------|-----------|------------|--|
| 102(2)(E))? | | | | |
| 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 (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 | | |

| Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal: | Yes | No | N/A | Comment or Data Needed to Determine |
|--|------------|-----------|------------|--|
| 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? No
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 |
| Kris Kirby | Chief of Business and Revenue Management |
| Tom Medema | Chief of Interpretation and Education |
| Kevin Killian | Acting Chief of Visitor and Resource Protection |
| Sally Sprouse | Project Leader |
| Madelyn Ruffner | Acting 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>7/1/13</u> |
| <u>//Madelyn Ruffner//</u> Acting Compliance Program Manager – Madelyn Ruffner | <u>7/15/13</u> |
| <u>//Randy Fong//</u> Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong | <u>7/16/13</u> |

Approved:

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Superintendent | Date |
| <u>//Don L. Neubacher//</u> Don L. Neubacher | <u>7/19/13</u> |

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Yosemite National Park.*



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 06/28/2013

PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: June 28, 2013

PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
Project Title: 2013-005 Hetch Hetchy Road Sign Improvement
PEPC Project Number: 45878
Project Type: parking management (OTHER)
Project Location:
County, State: Tuolumne, California **District:** Hetch Hetchy
Project Leader: Sally Sprouse

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 | | | Ground disturbance entails an eight inch diameter hole by 12 inches deep. |
| Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect? | Yes | | | Hetch Hetchy Archeological District; this project has a "No Historic Property Affected" determination. |
| Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape? | | No | | |
| Has a National Register form been completed? | | No | | |
| Are there any structures on the park's List of Classified Structures in | | No | | |

| ESF Addendum Questions | Yes | No | N/A | Data Needed to Determine/Notes |
|---|------------|-----------|------------|---------------------------------------|
| the area of potential effect? | | | | |
| WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST | | | | |
| 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 | |
| WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST | | | | |
| Within designated Wilderness? | | No | | |
| Within a Potential Wilderness Addition? | | No | | |



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 07/01/2013

ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

2. **Project Description:**

Project Name: 2013-005 Hetch Hetchy Road Sign Improvement

Prepared by: Renea Kennec **Date Prepared:** 06/28/2013 **Telephone:** 209-379-1038

PEPC Project Number: 45878

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

Hetch Hetchy Archeological District

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

☐ No

☒ Yes

Source or reference:

4. **Potentially Affected Resources:**

Archeological Resources Notes: No Historic Properties Affected

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
_____ Involve a real property transaction (exchange, sale, or lease of land or
No 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: Sonny Montague
Date: 04/19/2013

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:

[X] Anthropologist
Name: Jennifer Hardin
Date: 06/11/2013

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:

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

[X] Historical Landscape Architect
Name: Kevin McCardle
Date: 04/30/2013

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 ___ X Streamlined Review
Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

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

Assessment of Effect Form - Hetch Hetchy Road Sign Improvement - PEPC ID: 45878

C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Assessment of Effect:

- ☐ No Potential to Cause Effects
☐ 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

☐ 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: 7/3/13

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//

Date: 7/19/13

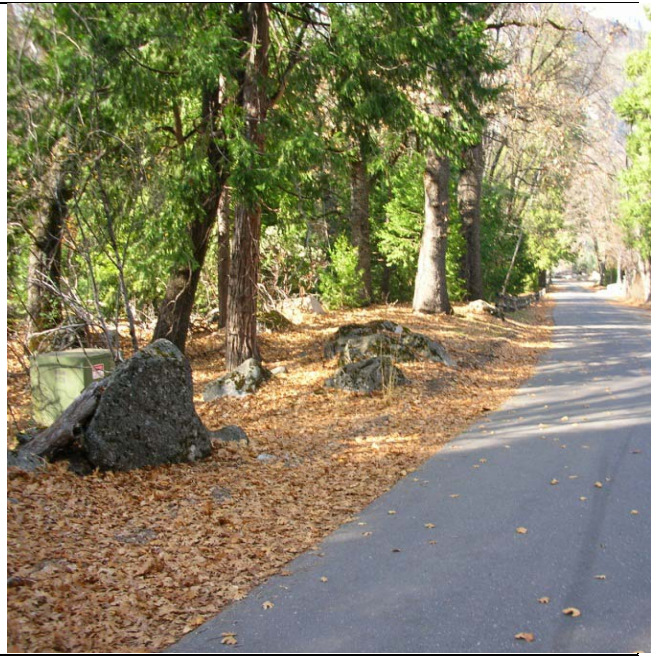
Don L. Neubacher

*The signed original of this document is on file at the
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Yosemite National Park.*

Hetch Hetchy Road Sign Improvement: Letters correspond to attached map



A: Roadway entering Main Street from Backpackers lot intersection. Site of backpacker overflow parking sign.



B: Start of Day Use Overflow Parking- sign to be installed here. Parking spaces to be painted on the left side of the road.



C: End of Day Use Overflow Parking
Sign to be installed here. End of parking space markers.



D: Authorized Vehicles Only with white stripe



E: Authorized Vehicles Only with white stripe

Hetch Hetchy Road Sign Improvement: Letters correspond to attached map



HETCH HETCHY MATHER

National Park Service
Yosemite National Park



HETCH
HETCHY

33



- Park Boundary
- 8036 Address
- SAR Placename
- 4197 Building Name/Number

- Fire Hydrant
- # Gas Meter/Shut Off
- # Electric Meter/Shut Off
- Fire Department Connection
- + AED

- 10b Shuttle Stop
- Campground
- P Parking
- Telephone

- Restrooms
- Picnic area
- Food service
- Gas station

- Post office
- Bicycle trail
- Store
- Yarts Bus Stop