



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

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
L7615(YOSE-PM)

**Memorandum**

**To:** Kerstin Henry, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

**From:** Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

**Subject:** NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2008-108 Merced River Plan Implementation: Wawona Swinging Bridge Vault Toilet Installation (23231)

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 adverse effect on historical, cultural, or archeological resources.
- 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:

- Maintain agreed location on west end of disturbed parking area.
- All ground disturbing activities will occur to the west of the large pine trees located in the center of the parking lot and within the disturbed footprint.

**Recommendations for Conditions or Stipulations:** None

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 23231.

//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.*

Letter of Compliance Completion - Merced River Plan Implementation: Wawona Swinging Bridge Vault Toilet Installation -  
PEPC ID: 23231



## Categorical Exclusion Form

**Project:** 2008-105 Merced River Plan Implementation: Wawona Swinging Bridge Vault Toilet Installation  
**PEPC Project Number:** 23231

**Project Description:**

This project, tiered from the Merced River Plan, includes placement of a pre-fabricated vault toilet in the parking area at the Wawona Swinging Bridge. The Double Cascadian is a double unit vault toilet that has a footprint of 11 feet 11 inches by 14 feet 4 inches and is 12 feet high at the peak, and is placed on a concrete waste vault that is 14 feet 4 inches by 11 feet 11 inches and is 4 feet 4 inches deep.

The unit will be placed to minimize site work and site disturbance; no utility work will be necessary. Excavation to approximately 5 feet in depth will be necessary for placement of the waste vault; the excavation footprint should not exceed approximately 15 feet by 20 feet. Site grading will include only minimal dressing of the grade in the direct vicinity of the unit to facilitate proper drainage and accessibility after placement of the unit. No other work is anticipated.

**Project Locations:**

Mariposa County, CA

**Mitigations:**

- Maintain agreed location on west end of disturbed parking area.
- All ground disturbing activities will occur to the west of the large pine trees located in the center of the parking lot and within the disturbed footprint.

**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.18 Construction of minor structures, including small improved parking lots, in previously disturbed or 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 **Date:** 7/8/15  
Don L. Neubacher

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# ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

## DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 07/02/2015

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:** 2008-105 Merced River Plan Implementation: Wawona Swinging Bridge Vault Toilet Installation  
**PEPC Project Number:** 23231  
**Project Type:** Capital Improvement/New Construction (CI)  
**Project Location:**  
**County, State:** Mariposa, California **District:** Wawona  
**Project Leader:** Kerstin Henry

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			Installation of the vault requires a 15 feet by 20 feet by 5 feet deep hole.
2. From geohazards	No				
3. Air quality	No				
4. Soundscapes		Negligible			
5. Water quality or quantity	No				
6. Streamflow characteristics	No				

Environmental Screening Form (ESF) - Merced River Plan Implementation: Wawona Swinging Bridge Vault Toilet Installation - PEPC ID: 23231

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		Negligible			This action likely takes place within the 100-yr floodplain. It is excepted from NPS requirements to develop a Floodplain Statement of Findings because it is an action associated with a small daytime parking facility in a non-high hazard area and impacts on floodplain values area minimized. The NPS Procedural Manual 77-2: Floodplain Management states "This procedure [Wetland Statement of Findings] does not apply to certain park functions that are often located near water for the enjoyment of visitors but requires little physical development and do not involve overnight occupation. Examples include: Picnic facilities, scenic overlooks, foot trails, and small associated daytime parking facilities in non-high hazard areas provided that the impacts of these facilities on floodplain values are minimized."
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,	No				Yosemite National Park is a World Heritage Site.

<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>
World Heritage Sites					
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				
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources	No				The visitor experience will be enhanced by the addition of a restroom in this area.
18. Archeological resources		Negligible			The vault toilet is located in the vicinity of a sensitive archaeological site. The area was recently surveyed by a YOSE archaeologist. No cultural resources were located in the immediate project area. Spot monitoring by a YOSE archaeologist during ground disturbing activities may occur, time permitting.
19. Prehistoric/historic structure	No				
20. Cultural landscapes	No				
21. Ethnographic resources	No				This project went on the June Tribal Spreadsheet as an informational item.
22. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript	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
collections)					
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 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. 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		

<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>
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		
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? Yes, Merced River Plan EIS.
- 3. Are there any interested or affected agencies or parties? No
- 4. Has consultation with all affected agencies or tribes been completed? Yes, this project was on the June Tribal Spreadsheet as an informational item.
- 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

Environmental Screening Form (ESF) - Merced River Plan Implementation: Wawona Swinging Bridge Vault Toilet Installation - PEPC ID: 23231

**E. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM SIGNATORIES**

<u>Interdisciplinary Team</u>	<u>Field of Expertise</u>
Don L. Neubacher	Superintendent
Kathleen Morse	Chief of Planning
Randy Fong	Chief of Project Management
Jeff Hilliard	Chief of Administration Management
Ron Borne	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	Chief of Visitor and Resource Protection
Kerstin Henry	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>7/7/15</u>
<u>//Madelyn Ruffner//</u> Compliance Program Manager – Madelyn Ruffner	<u>7/8/15</u>
<u>//Randy Fong//</u> Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong	<u>7/8/15</u>

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## PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: July 7, 2015

### PROJECT INFORMATION

**Park Name:** Yosemite National Park  
**Project Title:** 2008-105 Merced River Plan Implementation: Wawona Swinging Bridge Vault Toilet Installation  
**PEPC Project Number:** 23231  
**Project Type:** Capital Improvement/New Construction (CI)  
**Project Location:**  
**County, State:** Mariposa, California    **District:** Wawona  
**Project Leader:** Kerstin Henry

### 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?	Yes			Installation of the vault requires a 15 feet by 20 feet by 5 feet deep hole.
Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?	Yes			The vault toilet is located in the vicinity of a sensitive archaeological site. The area was recently surveyed by a YOSE archaeologist. No cultural resources were located in the immediate project

			area. Spot monitoring by a YOSE archaeologist during ground disturbing activities may occur, time permitting.
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 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	
<b>WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST</b>			
Within designated Wilderness?		No	
Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?		No	



# ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

## A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

### 2. Project Description:

**Project Name:** 2008-105 Merced River Plan Implementation: Wawona Swinging Bridge Vault Toilet Installation

**Prepared by:** Renea Kennec    **Date Prepared:** 07/02/2015    **Telephone:** 209-379-1038

**PEPC Project Number:** 23231

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

Wawona Archeological District

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

No

Yes

**Source or reference:** The vault toilet is located in the vicinity of a sensitive archaeological site. The area was recently surveyed by a YOSE archaeologist. No cultural resources were located in the immediate project area. Spot monitoring by a YOSE archaeologist during ground disturbing activities may occur, time permitting.

### 4. Potentially Affected Resources:

**Archeological Resources Notes:** Archeological resources in the vicinity.

**Ethnographic Resources Affected Notes:** This project was added to the June Tribal Spreadsheet.

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

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

Replace historic features/elements in kind

Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure

Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)

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
- 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:

106 Advisor

Name: Scott Carpenter

Date: 07/07/2015

Comments: Maintain agreed location on west end of disturbed parking area.

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance*

Assessment of Effect:  No Potential to Cause Effect  No Historic Properties Affected  No

Adverse Effect  Adverse Effect  Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method: Streamlined Review (PA)

Streamlined Activity:

- 4. Health and Safety Activities

Anthropologist

Name: Scott Carpenter

Date: 07/07/2015

Comments: Maintain location as originally planned at west end of parking lot.

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance*

Assessment of Effect:  No Potential to Cause Effect  No Historic Properties Affected  No

Adverse Effect  Adverse Effect  Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method: Streamlined Review (PA)

Streamlined Activity:

- 4. Health and Safety Activities

[ X ] Archeologist  
Name: Sara Dolan  
Date: 07/02/2015

Comments: The vault toilet is located in the vicinity of a sensitive archaeological site. The area was recently surveyed by a YOSE archaeologist. No cultural resources were located in the immediate project area. Spot monitoring by a YOSE archaeologist during ground disturbing activities may occur, time permitting.

*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     X  Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: All ground disturbing activities will occur to the west of the large pine trees located in the center of the parking lot and within the disturbed footprint.

Doc Method: Streamlined Review (PA)

Streamlined Activity:

4. Health and Safety Activities

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

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## C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. Assessment of Effect:

\_\_\_ No Potential to Cause Effects  
 X  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.

[ X ] 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.)

4. Health and Safety Activities.

Explanation: This project is tiered from the Merced River Plan and was identified under Appendix J; Table J-4, line 16 as part of a Category 3 action (Identification, Evaluation and/or Assessment of Effect to be Determined) under the MRP Programmatic Agreement.

Assessment of Effect Form - Merced River Plan Implementation: Wawona Swinging Bridge Vault Toilet Installation - PEPC ID: 23231

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.

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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

SHPO/THPO Notes:

**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.)**

- **Assessment of Effect - Maintain agreed location on west end of disturbed parking area.**
- **Assessment of Effect - All ground disturbing activities will occur to the west of the large pine trees located in the center of the parking lot and within the disturbed footprint.**

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

**Historic Preservation Officer:**

Kimball

Koch

//Kimball Koch//

**Date:** 7/8/15

**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:** 7/8/15

Don L. Neubacher

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Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in  
Yosemite National Park.*