



# 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:** David Engelstad, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

**From:** Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

**Subject:** NEPA and NHPA Clearance: El Portal Sewer Replacement (49038)

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:

- Tribal monitoring required.
- Archeological monitoring is recommended, following the NAGPRA plan of action and an archeological work plan.
- Onsite vegetation monitoring will be particularly important when excavation occurs in Old El Portal due to the proximity of mature black oak trees to the trenching and mitigating for excessive root damage.

Recommendations for Conditions or Stipulations:

- Communicate with residents and concessioner before and during construction.

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 49038.

//Don 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.*



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## Categorical Exclusion Form

**Project:** 2013-038 El Portal Sewer Replacement

**PEPC Project Number:** 49038

**Project Description:**

This phased project rehabilitates the existing El Portal sewer collection system (predominately constructed in the late 1950s to the early 1960s). The project is a response to the 'failure' rating received from a 2006 condition and capacity assessment. The work is necessary to fix failing sewer lines and prevent sewage spills that infiltrate into ground water and drain into the Merced River. Specifically, the sewer system has gravity mains within 75 feet of the wild and scenic river and a force main passing under the river. The project is essential to ensure compliance with an order issued in 2000 by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board directing Yosemite National Park to prevent sewage spills from the system.

Phase 1 includes trunk main replacement in Old El Portal, replacing 1,770 linear feet (lf) of 15-inch sewer main and 9 manholes (MH), which carries all Yosemite Valley flows, and closed circuit video inspection of the trunk main from the Park boundary to the El Portal Waste Water Treatment Plant and the Yosemite View Lodge. Phase 1 will also rehab/repair "urgent" areas in Old El Portal area associated with the trunk main replacement including 545 lf of 6-inch gravity pipeline replacement, 773 lf of 4 to 6-inch pipelining of existing pipelines, 176 lf pipe abandonment, 3 spot repairs, replacement of 17 MHs, and repair of 22 MHs.

Phase 2 addresses the remaining deficient segments in Rancheria Flat, the trailer park, and Old El Portal service areas, and includes approximately 2,000 lf of 4 to 6-inch gravity pipeline replacement; approximately 9,000 lf of 4 to 6-inch existing pipelining; approximately 2,000 lf of pipe abandonment; approximately 70 spot repairs; replacement of approximately 20 MHs; repair of approximately 150 existing MHs; removal and replacement of the Bulk Plant and Store lift stations and the associated force mains; rehabilitation of the Motor Inn, Foresta Road and trailer park lift stations; and replacement of approximately 8,000 lf of 4-inch service laterals. Phase 2 work also includes root removal and aggressive cleaning of the gravity pipelines, final condition assessment/as-builts of the entire El Portal sewer system (approximately 53,000 lf) and wastewater treatment plant upstream re-alignment.

**Project Location:**

Mariposa County, CA

**Mitigations:**

- Tribal monitoring required.
- Archeological monitoring is recommended, following the NAGPRA plan of action and an archeological work plan.
- Onsite vegetation monitoring will be particularly important when excavation occurs in Old El Portal due to the proximity of mature black oak trees to the trenching and mitigating for excessive root damage.

**CE Citation:** C.15 Installation of underground utilities in previously disturbed areas having stable soils, or in an existing utility right-of-way.

**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:** 10/23/15

Don L. Neubacher

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## ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

Updated Sept 2015 per NPS NEPA Handbook

### A. PROJECT INFORMATION

**Project Title:** El Portal Sewer Replacement  
**PEPC Project Number:** 49038  
**Project Type:** Repair/Rehabilitation (REHAB)  
**Project Location:**  
**County, State:** Mariposa, California **District, Section:** El Portal  
**Project Leader:** David Engelstad

### B. RESOURCE IMPACTS TO CONSIDER:

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
<b>Air</b> Air Quality	Potential	Minor and temporary emissions and dust during construction.
<b>Biological</b> Nonnative or Exotic Species	Potential	Spread of invasive plant species will be mitigated through equipment cleaning and other best management practices as outlined in the general notes of the construction drawings.
<b>Biological</b> Species of Special Concern or Their Habitat	Potential	Elderberry in the vicinity but not within construction area - protect with temporary construction fencing.
<b>Biological</b> Vegetation	Potential	Mature black oak - onsite monitoring by Vegetation and Ecological Restoration staff to mitigate excessive root damage.
<b>Biological</b> Wildlife and/or Wildlife Habitat including terrestrial and aquatic species	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Archeological Resources	Potential	Archeology and tribal monitoring during construction required. Work will occur within the El Portal Archeological District.
<b>Cultural</b> Ethnographic Resources	Potential	Archeological resources and traditional use plants have cultural significance to contemporary associated tribes. Tribal monitoring is required.

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Potential for Impact</b>	<b>Potential Issues &amp; Impacts</b>
<b>Cultural</b> Museum Collections	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Prehistoric/historic structures	None	
<b>Geological</b> Geologic Features <i>Soils</i>	Potential	Trenching and potential blasting, mainly within previously disturbed soil.
<b>Geological</b> Geologic Processes	None	
<b>Lightscares</b> Lightscares	None	
<b>Other</b> Human Health and Safety	Potential	Beneficial impact due to reduced likelihood of overflows and improved capacity.
<b>Other</b> Operational	Potential	Beneficial impact due to reduced likelihood of overflows and improved capacity.
<b>Other</b> Other	None	
<b>Socioeconomic</b> Land Use <i>Urban Quality</i>	Potential	Beneficial impact due to reduced likelihood of overflows and improved capacity.
<b>Socioeconomic</b> Minority and low-income populations, size, migration patterns, etc.	None	
<b>Socioeconomic</b> Socioeconomic	Potential	Temporary beneficial impact with construction contracts.
<b>Soundscapes</b> Soundscapes	Potential	Temporary noise from construction machinery during normal business hours.
<b>Visitor Use and Experience</b> Recreation Resources	None	
<b>Visitor Use and Experience</b> Visitor Use and Experience	Potential	Temporary impacts during construction will mainly affect residents. Secondary road closures and community facilities will be temporarily affected.

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Water Floodplains	None	
Water Marine or Estuarine Resources	None	
Water Water Quality or Quantity	Potential	Beneficial impact due to fewer overflows.
Water Wetlands	None	
Water Wild and Scenic River	Potential	Portions of the project are within the Merced River corridor. The project is consistent with the river segment classification.
Wilderness Wilderness	None	

### C. 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>//Corrie Stetzel//</u> Compliance Specialist – Corrie Stetzel	<u>10/20/2015</u>
<u>//Madelyn Ruffner//</u> Compliance Program Manager – Madelyn Ruffner	<u>10/21/15</u>
<u>//Randy Fong//</u> Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong	<u>10/21/15</u>

#### Approved:

Superintendent	Date
<u>//Don L Neubacher//</u> Don L. Neubacher	<u>10/23/15</u>

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## ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

### A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

2. **Project Description:**

**Project Name:** El Portal Sewer Replacement

**Prepared by:** Kyle Meakins    **Date Prepared:** 10/01/2015    **Telephone:** 209-379-1038

**PEPC Project Number:** 49038

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

El Portal archeological district including historic properties within El Portal.

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

       No

  X   Yes

**Source or reference:** Various archeological surveys and site documentation between 1950s-present

4. **Potentially Affected Resource(s):**

**Historical Structures/Resources Affected:**

**Name and number(s):** El Portal Rail Exhibit

**Location:** El Portal

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

**Ethnographic Resources Affected Notes:** Collection and known burial sites within vicinity but not within project area.

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)

☐ Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic  
☐ setting or cultural landscape  
☐ Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible  
☐ Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible  
☒ Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources  
☐ 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 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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### ☒ Anthropologist

**Name:** Scott Carpenter

**Date:** 10/13/2015

**Comments:** NAGPRA POA Signed by 4 traditionally associated tribes, archaeological monitoring plan approved.

*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:** Archeological and Tribal Monitoring required

**Doc Method:** Standard 4-Step Process

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### ☒ Archeologist

**Name:** Sonny Montague

**Date:** 10/01/2015

*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:** Archeological monitoring is recommended, following the NAGPRA plan of action and an archeological work plan.

**Doc Method:** Standard 4-Step Process

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



## 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.

\_\_\_\_\_

☐ 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: SHPO concurs with a finding of No Adverse Effect, NAGPRA Plan of Action and tribal monitoring plan complete.

### 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.)

(See comments above.)

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

#### Historic Preservation Officer:

Kimball Koch //Kimball Koch// Date: October 21, 2015

### 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: 10/23/15  
Don L. Neubacher

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