



**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:** Garrett Chun, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park  
**From:** Superintendent, Yosemite National Park  
**Subject:** NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2016-019 Geotechnical Investigation at Wawona Golf Course (66040)

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 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:

- Archeological monitoring will be required in geo-test locations nearby sensitive cultural resources

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 66040.

*// 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:** 2016-019 Geotechnical Investigation at Wawona Golf Course

**PEPC Project Number:** 66040

**Description of Action (Project Description):**

This project performs geotechnical investigations at the Wawona Golf Course to determine if certain areas of the golf course are suitable for a leach field which will act as a secondary discharge of treated wastewater from the Wawona Wastewater Treatment Plant (the primary discharge will continue to be the golf course spray field).

This project is to help inform the larger Wawona Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade in 2019 which will include two lift station improvements, various wastewater treatment process components, overall treatment capacity, and improvements on the effluent disposal.

The geotechnical investigations will include twenty 6-inch holes (5 feet deep) for percolation tests, and twenty 2-inch holes (12 feet deep) to install piezometers to track groundwater conditions. Holes will be dug either manually with hand augers or using a gas-powered hand auger. The percolation holes will be backfilled immediately after completion of percolation testing.

**Project Locations:**

Mariposa County, CA

**Mitigation(s):**

- Archeological monitoring will be required in geo-test locations nearby sensitive cultural resources

**CE Citation:** E.5 Nondestructive data collection, inventory (including field, aerial, and satellite surveying and mapping), study, research, and monitoring activities.

**Decision:** I find that the action fits within the categorical exclusion above. Therefore, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No extraordinary circumstances apply.

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

**Date:** 8/16/2016

Don L. Neubacher

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**Extraordinary Circumstances:**

If implemented, would the proposal...	Yes/No	Notes
<b>A.</b> Have significant impacts on public health or safety?	No	
<b>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	
<b>C.</b> Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?	No	
<b>D.</b> Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	No	
<b>E.</b> Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	No	
<b>F.</b> Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	No	
<b>G.</b> 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>H.</b> 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	
<b>I.</b> Violate a federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	No	
<b>J.</b> Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898)?	No	
<b>K.</b> Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 130007)?	No	
<b>L.</b> 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	



## ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

Updated Sept 2015 per NPS NEPA Handbook

### A. PROJECT INFORMATION

**Project Title:** 2016-019 Wawona Golf Course Geotechnical Investigation  
**PEPC Project Number:** 66040  
**Project Type:** Reconnaissance Survey (RECON)  
**Project Location:**  
**County, State:** Mariposa, California  
**Project Leader:** Garrett Chun

### B. RESOURCE IMPACTS TO CONSIDER:

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
<b>Air</b> Air Quality	Potential	Temporary exhaust from a gas powered auger (about 15 minutes per hole)
<b>Biological</b> Nonnative or Exotic Species	None	
<b>Biological</b> Species of Special Concern or Their Habitat	None	
<b>Biological</b> Vegetation	None	
<b>Biological</b> Wildlife and/or Wildlife Habitat including terrestrial and aquatic species	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Archeological Resources	Potential	There are sensitive cultural resources nearby the proposed geo-test locations. Archeological monitoring will be required in geo-test locations nearby sensitive cultural resources.
<b>Cultural</b> Cultural Landscapes	Potential	The golf course may be a NR-eligible resource. The golf course is being documented in a DOE currently under preparation.
<b>Cultural</b> Ethnographic Resources	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Museum Collections	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Prehistoric/historic	None	

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Potential for Impact</b>	<b>Potential Issues &amp; Impacts</b>
structures		
<b>Geological</b> Geologic Features	Potential	This project requires drilling of 20 holes 6 inches and diameter and 5 feet deep, and 20 holes 2 inches in diameter 12 feet deep (a total of 40 holes).
<b>Geological</b> Geologic Processes	None	
<b>Lightscares</b> Lightscares	None	
<b>Other</b> Human Health and Safety	None	
<b>Other</b> Operational	Potential	Golf course fairways will be temporarily closed during installation of geotechnical holes. None of the holes will be placed in the tree line or on the greens.
<b>Socioeconomic</b> Land Use	None	
<b>Socioeconomic</b> Minority and low-income populations, size, migration patterns, etc.	None	
<b>Socioeconomic</b> Socioeconomic	None	
<b>Soundscapes</b> Soundscapes	Potential	Temporary noise disturbance while drilling the holes with the gas powered auger, to be done within normal business hours.
<b>Viewsheds</b> Viewsheds	None	
<b>Visitor Use and Experience</b> Recreation Resources	Potential	Could temporarily close golf course fairways to visitors while drilling and installing the geotechnical holes.
<b>Visitor Use and Experience</b> Visitor Use and Experience	None	
<b>Water</b> Floodplains	None	
<b>Water</b> Marine or Estuarine Resources	None	
<b>Water</b> Water Quality or Quantity	None	
<b>Water</b> Wetlands	None	
<b>Water</b> Wild and Scenic River	Potential	This project takes place near the South Fork of the Merced River
<b>Wilderness</b>	None	

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Wilderness		

**Recommended:**

Compliance Specialists <u>// Kristin Anderson //</u> Compliance Specialist – Kristin Anderson	Date <u>8/11/2016</u>
<u>// Madelyn Ruffner //</u> Compliance Program Manager – Madelyn Ruffner	<u>8/15/2016</u>
<u>// Randy Fong //</u> Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong	<u>8/16/2016</u>

**Approved:**

Superintendent  <u>// Don L. Neubacher //</u> Don L. Neubacher	Date  <u>8/16/2016</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:** 2016-019 Wawona Golf Course Geotechnical Investigation

**Prepared by:** Kristin Anderson    **Date Prepared:** 07/29/2016    **Telephone:** 209-379-1002

**PEPC Project Number:** 66040

**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:

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

#### Archeological resources affected:

**Name and number(s):** Wawona Archeological District

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

**Name and number(s):** Archeological Site

**Archeological Resources Notes:** There are sensitive archeological resources nearby the geotechnical test locations.

#### Historical Structures/Resources Affected:

**Name and number(s):** Wawona Historic District (CLI/DOE in prep)

**Location:** Wawona

**Historical Structures/Resources Notes:** The golf course is being documented in a DOE currently under preparation.

#### Cultural Landscapes Affected:

**Name and number(s):** Wawona Historic District (CLI/DOE in prep)

**Location:** Wawona

**Cultural Landscapes Notes:** The golf course is being documented as part of the historic district CLI for the hotel complex.

**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
- No 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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106 Advisor  
 Name: Kimball Koch  
 Date: 08/11/2016

*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:

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Anthropologist  
 Name: Eirik Thorsgard  
 Date: 08/01/2016

Comments: No identified ethnographic resources within the proposed project boundaries.

*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:

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Archeologist  
 Name: Sara Dolan  
 Date: 07/27/2016

Comments: There are sensitive cultural resources nearby the proposed geo-test locations.

*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 will be required in geo-test locations nearby sensitive cultural resources.

Historian  
Name: Scott Carpenter  
Date: 08/02/2016

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:

Historical Architect  
Name: Scott Carpenter  
Date: 08/02/2016

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:

Historical Landscape Architect  
Name: Kimball Koch  
Date: 07/25/2016

Comments: The golf course may be a NR-eligible resource.

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:

No Reviews From: Curator, Other Advisor

**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.

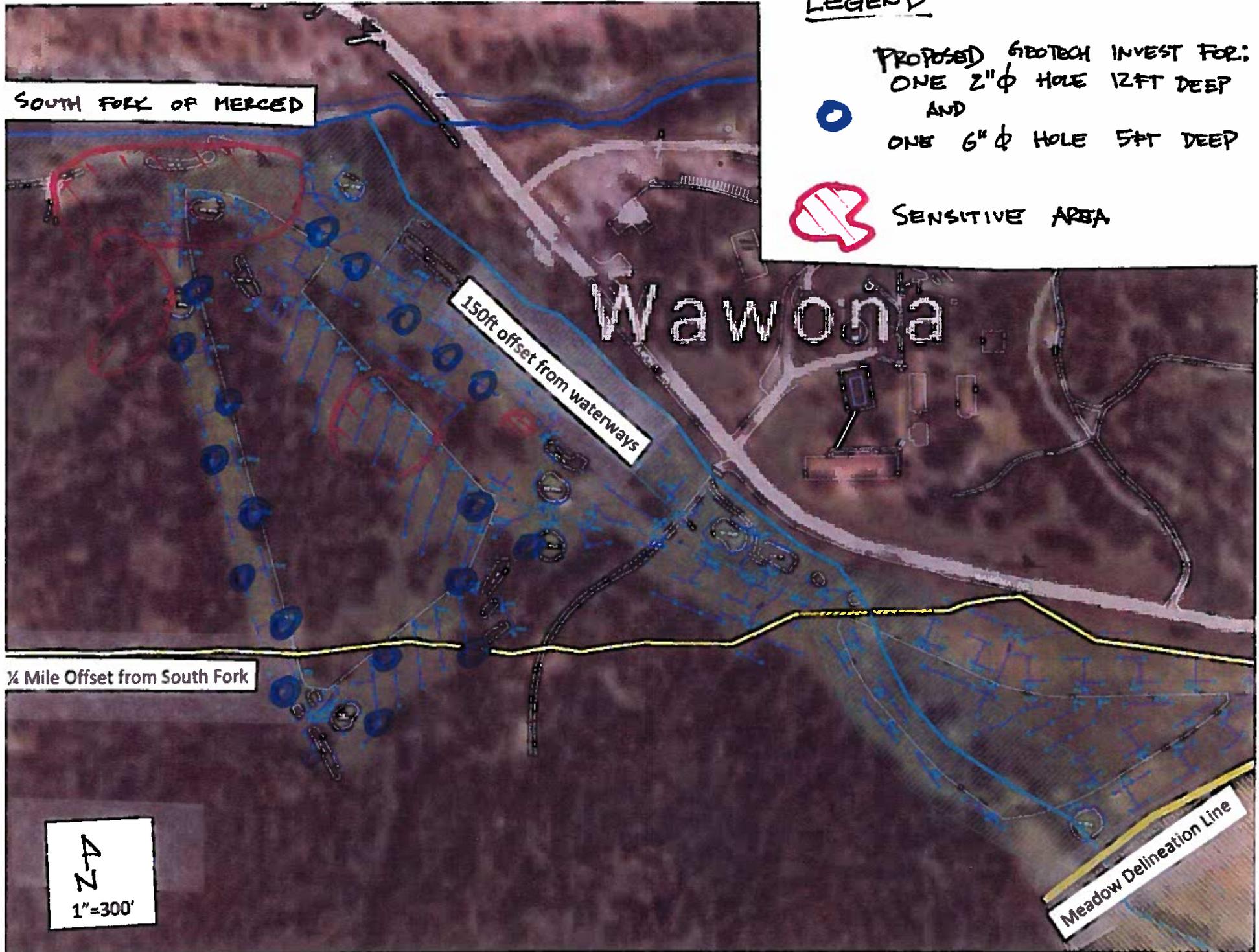
B. STREAMLINED REVIEW UNDER THE 2008 SERVICEWIDE PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT (PA)

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





LEGEND

PROPOSED GEOTECH INVEST FOR:  
ONE 2"  $\phi$  HOLE 12FT DEEP  
AND  
ONE 6"  $\phi$  HOLE 5FT DEEP



SENSITIVE AREA

SOUTH FORK OF MERCED

150ft offset from waterways

Wawona

1/4 Mile Offset from South Fork

Meadow Delineation Line

A-Z  
1"=300'