

Categorical Exclusion

(Version: AUG06)

Compliance Tracking Number: 2006-080

PEPC Project Number: 16255

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Title: Chinquapin Water Supply Test Well Installation

Location: Chinquapin, Mariposa County, California

Project Manager: Randy Fong, Project Management, Yosemite National Park

Project Manager: Moose Mutlow, Yosemite Institute

B. COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION

This project is an action that has been determined to result in no measurable environmental effects. It is therefore categorically excluded from further National Environmental Policy Act analysis under Categorical Exclusion: DO12 3.4 C (11) - *Installation of wells, comfort stations, and pit or vault toilets in areas of existing use and in developed areas.*

Necessary compliance coordination has been completed regarding the National Historic Preservation Act, the Wilderness Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and the Endangered Species Act, as applicable. Environmental impacts will be negligible or less when the project is implemented with the conditions stipulated under **Project Mitigations and Conditions** in **Section I** at the end of the attached *Environmental Screening Form*.

Additional supporting information for this determination and the stipulated conditions can be found in the following attachments (when checked):

- Environmental Screening Form*
- Preservation Assessment Form (YOSE-XXX)*
- Wilderness Minimum Requirement Analysis*
- Wild and Scenic River Section 7 Determination*
- Park Management Terms and Conditions*
- Other:

C. DECISION

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 or conditions in DO12 3.5 or 3.6 apply and the action is fully described in DO12, Section 3.4.

//R. Kevin Cann, Acting//
Michael J. Tollefson

8/31/06
Date

Original: Statutory Compliance File
cc: Project Proponent

Attachments (2)

*The signed original of this document is on file at
the Environmental Planning and Compliance
Office in Yosemite National Park.*



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:
L7617 (YOSE-PM)

Memorandum

To: Randy Fong, Project Manager, Project Management, Yosemite National Park
Moose Mutlow, Project Manager, Yosemite Institute

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: Notice to Proceed, 2006-080 Chinquapin Water Supply Test Well Installation

Your proposed project is an action that has been determined to result in no measurable environmental effects. It is therefore categorically excluded from further National Environmental Policy Act analysis under Categorical Exclusion: DO12 3.4 C (11) - *Installation of wells, comfort stations, and pit or vault toilets in areas of existing use and in developed areas.*

Necessary compliance coordination has been completed regarding the National Historic Preservation Act, the Wilderness Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and the Endangered Species Act, as applicable. This project clearance is valid providing that you adhere to the conditions stipulated in the enclosed *Categorical Exclusion Form* and associated documents when implementing this project.

//R. Kevin Cann, Acting//
Michael J. Tollefson

8/31/06
Date

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.*

Environmental Screening Form

(Version: FEB06)

Compliance Tracking Number: 2006-080

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Title: Chinquapin Water Supply Test Well Installation

Location: Chinquapin, Mariposa County, California

Project Manager: Randy Fong, Project Management, Yosemite National Park

Project Manager: Moose Mutlow, Yosemite Institute

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND

Background – To investigate the potential water supply options at Chinquapin for current and future area facilities, Yosemite Institute and the park propose to drill up to two test wells. A test well would be drilled in the Chinquapin area, approximately 40' south of the Ranger residence on the west side of Wawona Road (site #1). If the well at site #1 proves to have insufficient water, then a second test well would be drilled east of Wawona Road, at site #2, on the south side of Indian Creek (within 20' of an existing, but insufficient, capped well (dating from about 1982)). Monitoring wells and devices will be installed near the test well(s) to monitor potential impacts. The test well would be up to 6" diameter and up to 1000' deep. If the test well hits sufficient water, it will ultimately serve as a monitoring well for calculating the safe yield for a future production well. The well(s) would be installed using an air rotary drilling rig (50k- 55k lbs, 45' long truck). A support truck with casing and most of the drill pipe would be parked either end-to-end relative to the rig or at 90 degrees. An auxiliary air compressor will be parked near the rig. Access to site #1 is along the access road for the Ranger residence. Cuttings and water ejected from the hole may be routed through a diverter pipe at the surface and then run through a cyclone separator (mounted on the rig), or run through an approved silt fence containment system. Cuttings will be disposed of by the National Park Service at an approved site. Testing involves pumping the well constantly for a predetermined time period (up to 72 hours) with monitoring conducted for 15-20 days. The water will be disposed of as follows: after being discharged into a hopper and separated from cuttings, the water would be pumped out of the hopper to a small temporary holding area to allow sediments to drop out, then run through several small impoundment areas lined with filter fabric, before being discharged into a nearby drainage. The cuttings and water produced by the drilling operation would consist of only naturally occurring materials. If drilling conditions change, the possibility exists that a foam would be used to assist in removing the cuttings from the hole. Foams formulated for use in potable water wells would be used. The water production would be tested periodically during drilling to make an on-going assessment of the well's yield. If the test wells do not become production wells, they will be capped and sealed to federal and state standards.

Monitoring wells - one well drilled to the top of bedrock (50-100') cased with 2" PVC pipe slotted at the bottom two feet of the well. This well would be drilled using a drill rig and placed as close as practicable to the stream along a line drawn perpendicular to the stream to the production well. This well would be fitted with a water level datalogging device.

One or two shallow (<25'), hand-augered or pounded drive point, wells would be sited immediately adjacent to the stream along the line described above. Wells would be cased with 1.5" steel pipe or 2" PVC. These wells would be fitted with water level datalogging devices.

V-notch weir - a low flow v-notch weir (see attached diagram and photo) would be installed in Indian Creek. The weir would be installed with the minimum amount of concrete necessary to secure in place and seal the edges (note: there is no need to build the extensive structure pictured in attached photo). The weir would be sized to accommodate flows less than 1 cfs (450 gpm). Higher flows would simply pass over the top of the weir. The weir would be fitted with a 2" PVC stilling well to accommodate a water level datalogger.

Table B1 – Background Information

	Yes	No	N/A	Explanation/Notes
1. Did NPS staff conduct a site visit? If yes, list attendees. If no, explain.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	History, Architecture and Landscape staff.
2a. Is the project providing compliance for an action associated with but not covered by an approved plan? (Identify the plan and provide a section or page citation.); OR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2b. Is the project in an approved plan? (Identify the plan and provide a section or page citation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2c. Is the project consistent with that plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2d. Is the Plan's CE, FONSI, or ROD current?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
3a. Are there any interested or affected parties?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3b. Has a diligent effort been made to communicate with them?	<input type="checkbox"/>			
4a. Are there any affected agencies or tribes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4b. Has consultation been completed?	<input type="checkbox"/>			

Table B2 – Environmental Screening Form Attachments (provide Attachment letter—A, B, etc.)

	Yes	No	N/A	Explanation/Notes
1. Maps: 2 required (vicinity map & site map)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Chinquapin vicinity map and project site map; see Attachment A.
2. Drawings (e.g., design, construction)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Site Plans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Photographs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed well drilling sites; see Attachment B.
5. Non-NEPA/NHPA Approvals (Explain)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Other (Explain)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

C. ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL RESOURCE EFFECTS

Are any impacts possible on the following resources?	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Geologic resources: soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Several test and monitoring wells up to 6" in diameter and 1000' deep will be drilled per state's potable water standards
2. From geohazards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Air quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negligible: temporary during drilling.
4. Soundscapes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negligible: temporary during drilling.
5. Water quality or quantity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negligible: temporary during discharge with standard controls to protect against sediment discharge.
6. Stream flow characteristics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7. Marine or estuarine resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8. Floodplains or wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9. Land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10. Rare or unusual vegetation – old growth timber, riparian, alpine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11. Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12. Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yosemite National Park is a World Heritage site; no historic properties would be adversely affected by implementing this project; see Section F. National Historic Protection Act Checklist, below.
13. Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14. Unique or important fish or fish habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
18. Cultural resources including cultural landscapes, ethnographic resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mitigated: see Section F. National Historic Preservation Act Checklist, below.
19. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
20. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
21. Energy resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
22. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
23. Resource, including energy, conservation potential	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
24. Urban quality, gateway communities, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
25. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
26. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Comments, Mitigations and Conditions:

- None

D. MANDATORY CRITERIA

If implemented, would the proposed action:	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Have material adverse effects on public health or safety?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Have adverse effects on such unique 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; floodplains; or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the National Register of Natural Landmarks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mitigated; the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see Section F. National Historic Protection Act Checklist, below and the attached XXX.
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7. Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mitigated; the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see Section F. National Historic Protection Act Checklist, below and the attached XXX.
8. Have adverse effects on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9. Require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10. Threaten to violate a federal, state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11. Involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA sec. 102(2)(E))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12. Have a disproportionate, significant adverse effect on low-income or minority populations (EO 12898)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13. Restrict access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 130007)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of federally listed noxious weeds (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mitigated; see Condition 1, below.
15. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of non-native invasive species or actions that may promote the introduction, growth or expansion of the range of non-native invasive species (EO 13112)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mitigated; see Condition 1, below.
16. Require a permit from a federal, state, or local agency to proceed, unless the agency from which the permit is required agrees that a CE is appropriate?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
17. Have the potential for significant impact as indicated by a federal, state, or local agency or Indian tribe?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
18. Have the potential to be controversial because of disagreement over possible environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
19. Have the potential to violate the NPS Organic Act by impairing park resources or values?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Comments, Mitigations and Conditions:

1. Ensure that all equipment and materials brought into the park are free of non-native, invasive plants and animals, and noxious weeds. All staff working on site shall be informed of and follow best management practices for preventing the introduction and spread of non-native, invasive species as described in Division 1 specifications, Section 1355. (Environmental Planning & Compliance Office)

E. SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST

Within the area of potential effect, are there:	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (Federal or State)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Species of special concern (Federal or State)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Park rare plants or vegetation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
If "yes" to any of the above questions, a Special-Status Species Checklist must be completed and attached.				
Comments, Mitigations and Conditions:				
1. None				

F. NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST

Within the area of potential effect:	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Will there be ground disturbance?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wells will be drilled up to 1000 feet down and have a diameter up to 6 inches.
2. Are there any archeological sites?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The assessment of effect is "No Effect; see the attached XXX.
3. Are there any Native American Indian traditional cultural resources?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Is the project within the boundary of an archeological or historic landscape or district?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chinquapin Developed Area Historic District; the assessment of effect is "No Effect;" see the attached XXX and Condition 1, below.
5a. Is there a National Historic Landmark?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5b. Is there a structure(s) on the park's <i>List of Classified Structures</i> ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5c. Is there a historic property with a DOE and concurrence by the SHPO or a completed National Register form?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5d. Is there a cultural property requiring review under NHPA, Section 106?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Would there be alteration of a structure or cultural landscape covered by 5a-d, above?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
If "yes" to any of the above, then an Assessment of Effects form (YOSE-XXX) must be completed and attached.				
Mitigations and Conditions:				
1. Construction of a subsequent well support structure requires NHPA review.				

G. WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST

Is the proposed project:	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Within designated Wilderness?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
If "yes" to either of the above, then a Wilderness Minimum Requirements Analysis must be completed and attached.				
Mitigations and Conditions:				
1. None				

H. WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST

Does the proposed project:	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor? If "yes", name the river(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Fall within the bed and banks AND affect the free-flow of the river?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
3. Potentially affect water quality of the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
4. Remain consistent with its river segment classification?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
5. Protect and enhance river ORVs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
6a. Fall within the River Protection Overlay?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
6b. If "yes", is it consistent with conditions of the River Protection Overlay?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
7. Remain consistent with the areas Management Zoning?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
8a. Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8b. If 9a is "yes", will the project affect the Wild and Scenic River corridor?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
8c. If 9a is "yes", will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
If "yes" to questions 2, 9b, or 9c, then a WSRA Section 7 determination must be completed and attached.				

Mitigations and Conditions:

- None

I. NEPA Analysis and Approval Conditions

When implemented as detailed in the project description and following all Project Mitigations and Conditions listed below, this project meets the terms and conditions of a categorical exclusion to NEPA.

Applicable Categorical Exclusion:

DO12 3.4 C (11) - Installation of wells, comfort stations, and pit or vault toilets in areas of existing use and in developed areas.

Project Mitigations and Conditions:

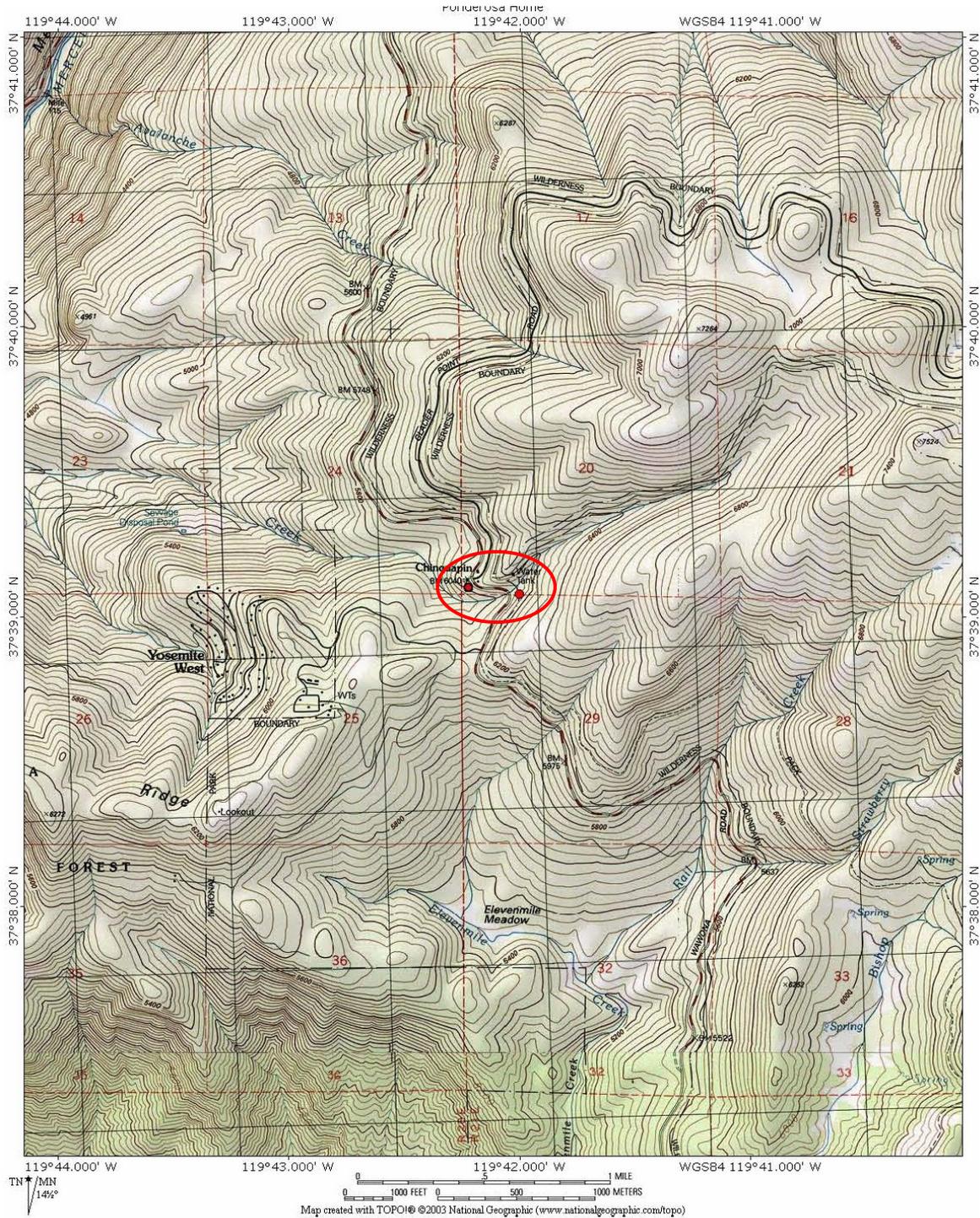
- 1. Construction of subsequent well support structure requires NHPA review. (Resources Management and Science)**
- 2. Ensure that all equipment and materials brought into the park are free of non-native, invasive plants and animals, and noxious weeds. All staff working on site shall be informed of and follow best management practices for preventing the introduction and spread of non-native, invasive species as described in Division 1 specifications, Section 1355. (Environmental Planning & Compliance Office)**

This project has been reviewed in accordance with the above criteria and it has been determined that the project will result in no or minimal environmental effects. Therefore, it is categorically excluded from further environmental review required under the National Environmental Policy Act. Additionally, the necessary compliance coordination has been completed with regard to the National Historic Preservation Act, the Wilderness Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and the Endangered Species Act.

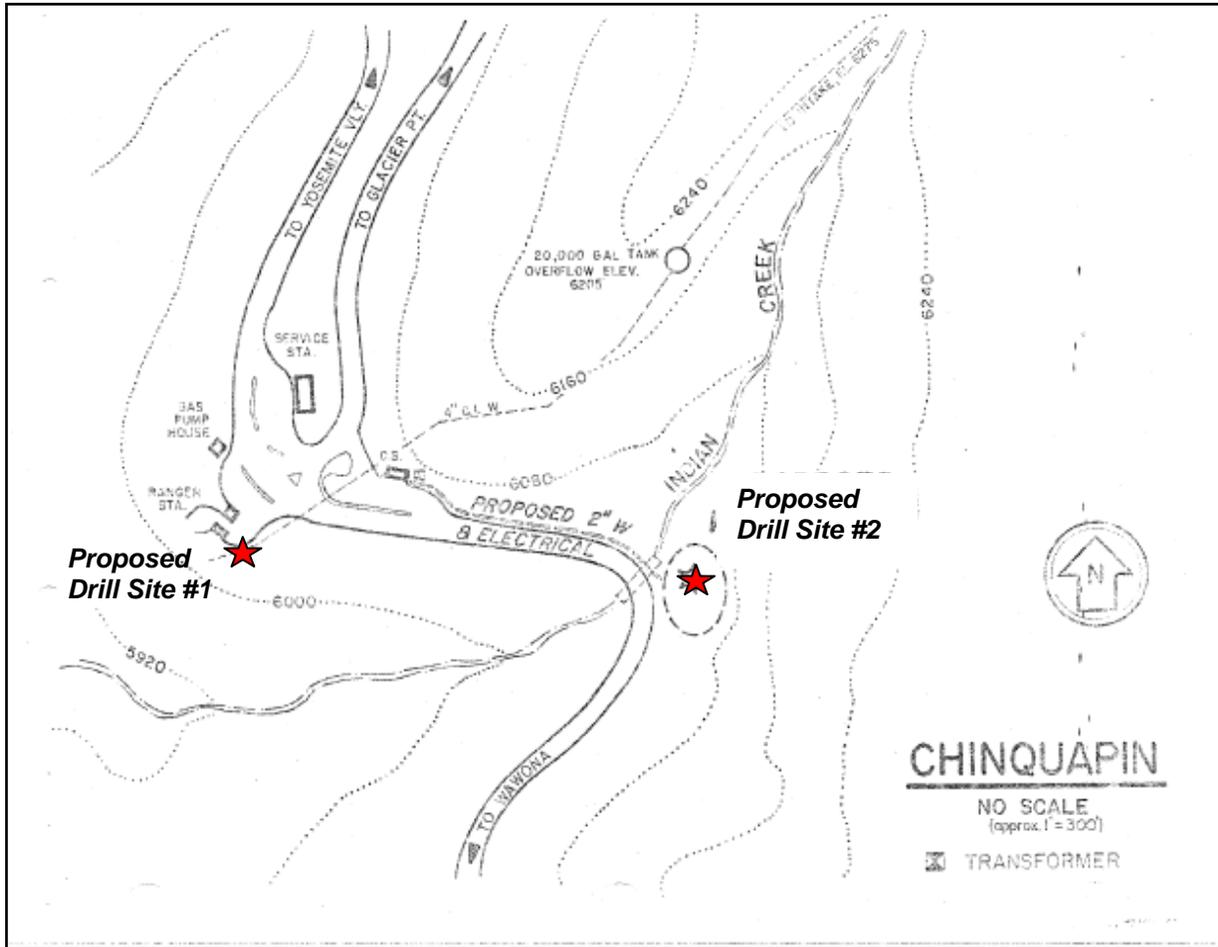
<i>//GWColliver//</i>	<i>8/22/06</i>
Compliance Specialist	Date
<i>//Mark A Butler//</i>	<i>8/22/06</i>
Compliance Program Manager	Date
<i>//Bill Delaney//</i>	<i>8/28/06</i>
Chief, Project Management	Date

The signed original of this document is on file at the Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in Yosemite National Park.

Attachment A



Map 1 Chinquipin vicinity and the two proposed drilling sites (red dots)



Map 2. Proposed drilling sites #1 and #2

Attachment B



Photo 1 Proposed Drilling Site #1



Photo 2 Access to Proposed Drilling Site #1



Photo 3 View from Proposed Drilling Site #2 (Existing Well) to Highway 41



Photo 4 Existing, Capped Well on Indian Creek (Proposed Site #2)

Preservation Assessment Form (YOSE XXX)

(Version: FEB06)

Compliance Tracking Number: 2006-080

PEPC Project Number: 16255

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

Title: Chinquapin Water Supply Test Well Installation

Project Location and Area of Potential Effect:

Chinquapin, Mariposa County, California

Chinquapin Developed Area Historic District

Project Manager: Randy Fong, Project Management, Yosemite National Park

Project Manager: Moose Mutlow, Yosemite Institute,

Project Description: Background – To investigate the potential water supply options at Chinquapin for current and future area facilities, Yosemite Institute and the park propose to drill up to two test wells. A test well would be drilled in the Chinquapin area, approximately 40' south of the Ranger residence on the west side of Wawona Road (site #1). If the well at site #1 proves to have insufficient water, then a second test well would be drilled east of Wawona Road, at site #2, on the south side of Indian Creek (within 20' of an existing, but insufficient, capped well (dating from about 1982)). Monitoring wells and devices will be installed near the test well(s) to monitor potential impacts. The test well would be up to 6" diameter and up to 1000' deep. If the test well hits sufficient water, it will ultimately serve as a monitoring well for calculating the safe yield for a future production well. The well(s) would be installed using an air rotary drilling rig (50k- 55k lbs, 45' long truck). A support truck with casing and most of the drill pipe would be parked either end-to-end relative to the rig or at 90 degrees. An auxiliary air compressor will be parked near the rig. Access to site #1 is along the access road for the Ranger residence. Cuttings and water ejected from the hole may be routed through a diverter pipe at the surface and then run through a cyclone separator (mounted on the rig), or run through an approved silt fence containment system. Cuttings will be disposed of by the National Park Service at an approved site. Testing involves pumping the well constantly for a predetermined time period (up to 72 hours) with monitoring conducted for 15-20 days. The water will be disposed of as follows: after being discharged into a hopper and separated from cuttings, the water would be pumped out of the hopper to a small temporary holding area to allow sediments to drop out, then run through several small impoundment areas lined with filter fabric, before being discharged into a nearby drainage. The cuttings and water produced by the drilling operation would consist of only naturally occurring materials. If drilling conditions change, the possibility exists that a foam would be used to assist in removing the cuttings from the hole. Foams formulated for use in potable water wells would be used. The water production would be tested periodically during drilling to make an on-going assessment of the well's yield. If the test wells do not become production wells, they will be capped and sealed to federal and state standards.

Monitoring wells - one well drilled to the top of bedrock (50-100') cased with 2" PVC pipe slotted at the bottom two feet of the well. This well would be drilled using a drill rig and placed as close as practicable to the stream along a line drawn perpendicular to the stream to the production well. This well would be fitted with a water level datalogging device.

One or two shallow (<25'), hand-augered or pounded drive point, wells would be sited immediately adjacent to the stream along the line described above. Wells would be cased with 1.5" steel pipe or 2" PVC. These wells would be fitted with water level datalogging devices.

V-notch weir - a low flow v-notch weir (see attached diagram and photo) would be installed in Indian Creek. The weir would be installed with the minimum amount of concrete necessary to secure in place and seal the edges (note: there is no need to build the extensive structure pictured in attached photo). The weir would be sized to accommodate flows less than 1 cfs (450 gpm). Higher flows would simply pass over the top of the weir. The weir would be fitted with a 2" PVC stilling well to accommodate a water level datalogger.

1. Attached Sensitive Information**	Yes	No	Explanation/Source/Notes
a. Maps	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
b. Drawings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
c. Site Plans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
d. Photographs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
e. Sample	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
f. List of Materials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
g. Other (Explain)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**** Sensitive documents not for duplication or distribution beyond park management, subject matter experts, and the project statutory compliance file.**

B. DESCRIPTION OF EFFECTS

	Yes	No	N/A	Explanation/Notes
1. Has the Area of Potential Effect been surveyed to identify historic properties? If Yes, provide reference for the Survey (s).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
a. Would the proposed action affect a known historic property?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. List all Historic Properties in the Area of Potential Effect:	Affected?			Explanation/Notes
	Yes	No		
a.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
3. List resources in the Area of Potential Effect to which American Indians attach cultural and religious significance:	Affected?			Explanation/Notes
	Yes	No		
a.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
4. The proposed action will:	Yes	No	N/A	Explanation/Note
• Destroy, remove, or alter features or elements from a historic structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Replace historic features/elements in kind	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Add nonhistoric features/elements to a historic structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (including terrain)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Add nonhistoric features/elements (including visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible, or alter associated terrain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible, or alter associated terrain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Begin or contribute to the deterioration of historic fabric, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Involve a real property transaction affecting historic cultural properties (i.e., the exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Potentially affect presently unidentified historic resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Checklist prepared by: Jeannette Simons

Date: 9/19/06

Title: Historic Preservation Officer

C. SPECIALIST SECTION

Specialists: Your comments here (or attached) show that you have reviewed this proposal for conformity with requirements of *National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106*; with the 1995 *Service-wide Programmatic Agreement* (if applicable); with applicable parts of the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation*; with the *NPS Management Policies* and *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*; and have given your best professional advice about this project and the issues relevant to the Section 106 process, including identification and evaluation of historic properties and further consultation needs.

Archeologist

Name: **Laura Kirn**

Date: 8/2/06

Comments:

Ground Disturbance Involved Yes: No:

Assessment of Effect: **"No Effect"**

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Archeologist: //Laura Kirn// (signed original on file)

Cultural Anthropologist

Name: **Sonny Montague**

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect:

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Cultural Anthropologist: _____

Curator

Name: **Jonathan Bayless**

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect:

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Curator: _____

Historian Name: **Charles Palmer** Date: 7/12/06

Comments:

Assessment of Effect: "**No Adverse Effect**"

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Historian: //Charles Palmer// (signed original on file)

Historic Architect Name: **Sueann Brown** Date: 7/28/06

Comments:

Assessment of Effect: "**No Adverse Effect**"

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Historic Architect: //Sueann Brown// (signed original on file)

Historic Landscape Architect Name: **Steven Torgerson** Date: 7/20/06

Comments:

Assessment of Effect: "**No Adverse Effect**"

Recommended Conditions: All additional & future structures such as the pump-house will need to be designed and placed the direction of historical architect & landscape architect.

Signature of Historic Landscape Architect: //Steven D Torgerson// (signed original on file)

Preservation Specialist

Name: **Doug Martin**

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect:

Recommended Conditions: Recommended Conditions

Signature of Preservation Specialist: _____

Native American Liaison

Name: **Jeannette Simons**

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect:

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Native American Liaison: _____

**D. RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND SCIENCE DIVISION AND PARK 106
COORDINATOR REVIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1. Review by specialists:** The appropriate subject-matter experts have reviewed the project and entered their comments and recommendations in Section C, above.

The foregoing assessment is adequate: the proposed action is consistent with all applicable NPS management policies, standards, guidelines, or US DOI standards and guidelines, Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings, or others, and incorporates measures to avoid Adverse Effects.

Reviewed and Accepted by:

Signature: //Laura Kirn, Acting// (signed original on file) **Date:** 8/8/06
for Chief of Resources Management & Science Division

- 2. Assessment of Effects: No Effect**

- 3. Compliance Requirements:** The following is the park's assessment of Section 106 process needs and requirements for this undertaking.

Standard 36 CFR Part 800 Consultation

Consultation under 36 CFR is needed subsequent to the preparation of this form and its review by appropriate historic resource management advisors.

Undertaking related to the 1995 NPS Programmatic Agreement

The above action meets all conditions for a programmatic exclusion under Stipulation IV. A of the 1995 NPS programmatic agreement, and is listed in Stipulation IV. B, as:

3. Installation of Environmental Monitoring Units (such as those for water and air quality).

Plan-Related Undertaking

Consultation and review of the proposed undertaking were completed in the context of a plan review process, in accordance with the 1995 NPS programmatic agreement and 36 CFR Part 800.

Undertaking Related to Another Agreement

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under a document such as a statewide agreement written in accordance with 37 CFR Part 800.7 or counterpart regulations.

Agreement:

Flood-Recovery Related Undertaking

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under the letter-based agreement between the NPS, the State Historic Preservation Office, and the Council for Historic Preservation for "Highwater 97" flood repair and recovery

Undertaking Related to the 1999 Yosemite Programmatic Agreement

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under the park's 1999 programmatic agreement for planning, design, construction, operations and maintenance; the undertaking meets the stipulations identified in Article VII.C.2.

4. Project Stipulations and Conditions

Following are listed any stipulations or conditions necessary to ensure that the assessment of effects above is consistent with 36 CFR 800 criteria of effect or to mitigate potential adverse effects:

- a. Subsequent support structure construction requires NHPA review.

Recommended by Park Section 106 Coordinator:

Name: **Jeannette Simons**

Title: **Historic Preservation Officer**

Signature: //Jeannette Simons// Date: 8/9/06

E. SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL

The proposed work conforms to NPS Management Policies and NPS-28 and I approve the recommendations, stipulations, and conditions noted in Section B of this form.

Signature of Superintendent: //R. Kevin Cann, Acting//

Date: 8/31/2006

*The signed original of this document is on file at
the Environmental Planning and Compliance
Office in Yosemite National Park.*