

Categorical Exclusion

(Version: AUG06)

Compliance Tracking Number: 2006-087

PEPC Project Number: 16333

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Title: Curry Village Ecological Monitoring Reference Site Establishment

Location: Yosemite Valley, Mariposa County, California

Project Manager: Sue Beatty, Resources Management and Science, Yosemite National Park

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 E (6) - *Non-destructive data collection, inventory (including field, aerial, and satellite surveying and mapping), study, research, and monitoring activities.*

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//

Michael J. Tollefson

8/31/06

Date

Original: Statutory Compliance File
cc: Project Proponent

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

Attachments (2)



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: Sue Beatty, Project Manager, Resources Management and Science, Yosemite National Park

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: Notice to Proceed, 2006-087 Curry Village Ecological Monitoring Reference Site
Establishment (PEPC #16333)

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 E (6) - *Non-destructive data collection, inventory (including field, aerial, and satellite surveying and mapping), study, research, and monitoring activities.*

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//
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: AUG06)

Compliance Tracking Number: 2006-087

PEPC Project Number: 16333

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Title: Curry Village Ecological Monitoring Reference Site Establishment

Location: Yosemite Valley, Mariposa County, California

Project Manager: Sue Beatty, Resources Management and Science, Yosemite National Park

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND

As part of an on-going data collection effort for the Floodplain Restoration and Visitor Experience Environmental Assessment, monitoring wells and vegetation plots have been installed in the proposed project area. These data are being used to determine the condition of pre-settlement ecosystems and processes that occurred in the area of flooded campgrounds and could be used to facilitate the restoration of these sites.

In addition to monitoring sites within targeted restoration areas, reference sites would be examined in each of the main vegetation types found within Yosemite Valley: meadow, meadow-oak savannah, upland conifer forest, and deciduous riparian forest. Four pits, approximately 6 feet deep, 2 feet wide and 4 feet long and four monitoring wells (adjacent to the pits) requiring holes 6 feet deep x 6 inches in diameter would be dug in the Curry Village Orchard Parking area. An excavator would be used to dig the pits and hand augers would be used for the monitoring wells. Once a pit has been dug, the soil profiles would be examined and the pit would be refilled. For the monitoring wells, after the hole has been augured, a 2 inch plastic pipe (PVC) with a cap is placed in the hole. Since these will be located within a parking area, the wells would be enclosed within a covered utility box so that cars can drive over them.

The reference plots and wells would be located in the Curry Village Orchard parking lot. Wells would be placed between the historic fruit and oak trees so as not to damage the root systems. Soil pit/monitoring well locations would be cleared through cultural resource monitors as well as utilities staff. Flagging would not be used to mark the wells but if any flagging were used during the project, the park's flagging policy would be adhered to. Interpretive staff will be contacted to assist with any project public information needs.

Similar soil pits and wells were dug under CE 2004-039 in 2004.

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"/>	Sue Beatty and Monica Buhler.
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"/>			Vicinity and 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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"/>	Negligible: borings for monitoring wells (6" diameter and 6' deep); four soil test pits (2' x 4' by 6' deep; soil would be replaced after testing is finished).
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"/>	
4. Soundscapes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negligible: temporary during digging of test pits.
5. Water quality or quantity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negligible: temporary during digging of test pits.
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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 resources would be adversely affected by implementing this project.
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negligible: temporary during well installation and digging of soil test pits.
18. Cultural resources including cultural landscapes, ethnographic resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mitigated: the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see Section F. National Historic Preservation Act Checklist.
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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The proposed monitoring and testing would enhance the park's long-term management of resources.
26. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Comments, Mitigations and Conditions:

1. 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"/>	Mitigated: potential of trench collapse during soil testing; see Condition 1, below.
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: see Section F. National Historic Preservation Act Checklist, below.
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: see Section F. National Historic Preservation Act Checklist, below
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"/>	
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"/>	
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. Submit a safety plan (to include trench shoring) to the park Safety Office (379-1079) for review and approval before beginning any work. (Project Management)
2. See Section F. National Historic Preservation Act Checklist, Conditions 1 and 2, below.

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"/>	Borings for monitoring wells and digging of test pits; the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see Conditions 1 and 2, below, and the attached XXX.
2. Are there any archeological sites?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CA MRP 0084: the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see Conditions 1 and 2, below, and the attached XXX.
3. Are there any Native American Indian traditional cultural resources?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ancient Indian Village; the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see the attached XXX.
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"/>	Yosemite Valley Historic District; the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see Condition 1, below, and the attached XXX.
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. Coordinate test pit and well locations with the park Archeology Office (379-1314) and the park Historic Landscape Architect (Steven Torgerson, 379-1295).				
2. Archeological monitoring may be required depending on the selected pit and well locations.				

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Merced River, Main Stem.
2. Fall within the bed and banks AND affect the free-flow of the river?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Potentially affect water quality of the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Remain consistent with its river segment classification?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A comprehensive management plan has not been completed for the Merced Wild and Scenic River; therefore, river segment classifications have not been determined; ecological monitoring efforts would be consistent with any segment classification.
5. Protect and enhance river ORVs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A comprehensive management plan has not been completed for the Merced Wild and Scenic River; therefore, river ORVs have not been determined; ecological monitoring efforts would protect and enhance any designated ORVs.
6a. Fall within the River Protection Overlay?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A comprehensive management plan has not been completed for the Merced Wild and Scenic River; therefore, a River Protection Overlay (ORV) has not been designated.
6b. If "yes", is it consistent with conditions of the River Protection Overlay?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ecological monitoring would be consistent with any RPO designated.
7. Remain consistent with the areas Management Zoning?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A comprehensive management plan has not been completed for the Merced Wild and Scenic River; therefore, river management zones have not been determined; ecological monitoring would be consistent with any management zoning.
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:				
1. 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 E (6) - *Non-destructive data collection, inventory (including field, aerial, and satellite surveying and mapping), study, research, and monitoring activities.*

Project Mitigations and Conditions:

1. **Submit a safety plan (to include trench shoring) to the park Safety Office (379-1079) for review and approval before beginning any work. (Project Management)**
2. **Coordinate test pit and well locations with the park Archeology Office (379-1314) and the park Historic Landscape Architect (Steven Torgerson, 379-1295). (Resources Management and Science)**
3. **Archeological monitoring may be required depending on the selected pit and well locations. (Resources Management and Science)**

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.

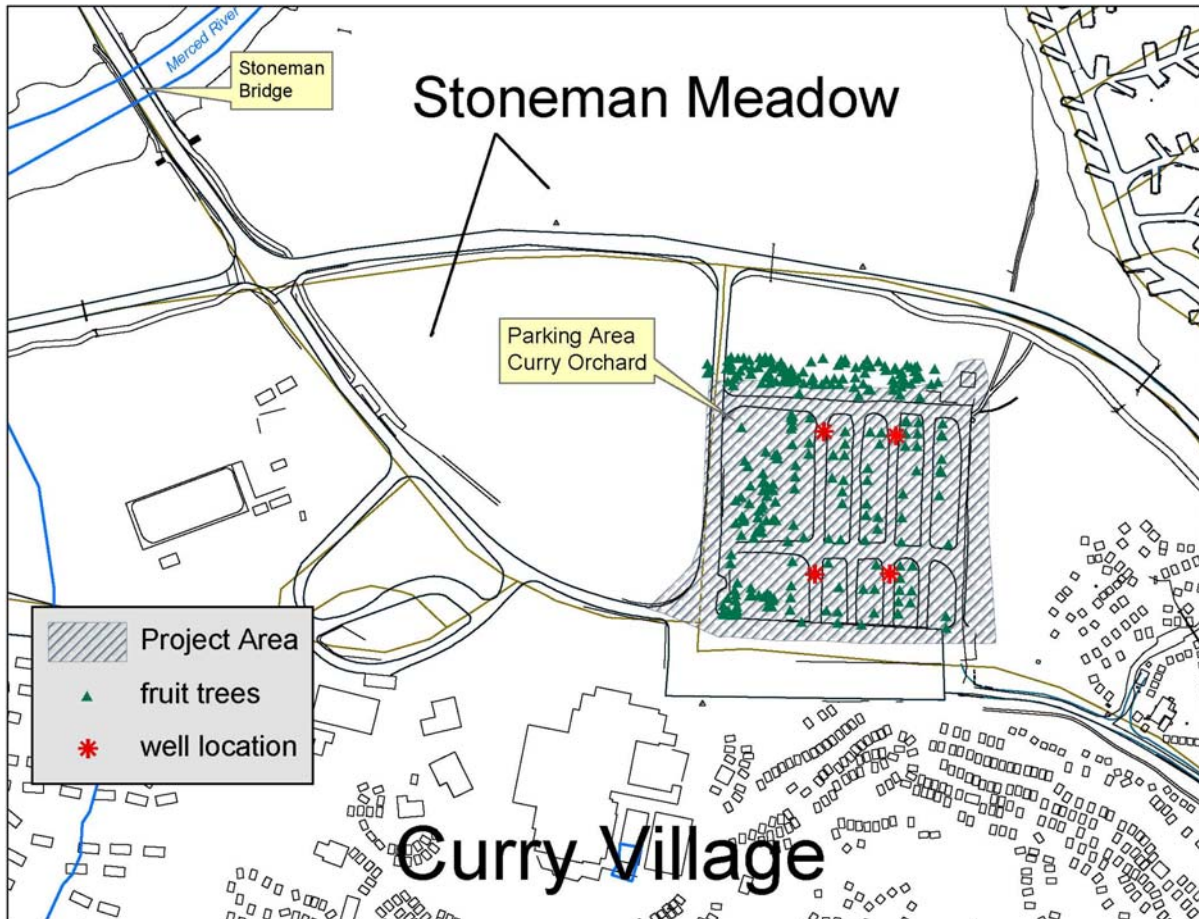
//GWColliver// 8/22/06
Compliance Specialist Date

//Mark A Butler// 8/23/06
Compliance Program Manager Date

//Bill Delaney// 8/25/06
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 Project Vicinity and Site Map

Preservation Assessment Form (YOSE XXX)

(Version: FEB06)

Compliance Tracking Number: 2006-087

PEPC Project Number: 16333

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

Title: Curry Village Ecological Monitoring Reference Site Establishment

Project Location and Area of Potential Effect:

Yosemite Valley, Mariposa County, California

Project Manager: Sue Beatty, Resources Management & Science, Yosemite National Park

Project Description: As part of an ongoing data collection effort for the Floodplain Restoration and Visitor Experience Environmental Assessment, monitoring wells and vegetation plots have been installed in the proposed project area. These data are being used to determine the condition of pre-settlement ecosystems and processes that occurred in the area of flooded campgrounds and could be used to facilitate the restoration of these sites.

In addition to monitoring sites within targeted restoration areas, reference sites would be examined in each of the main vegetation types found within Yosemite Valley: meadow, meadow-oak savannah, upland conifer forest, and deciduous riparian forest. Four pits, approximately 6 feet deep, 2 feet wide and 4 feet long and four monitoring wells (adjacent to the pits) requiring holes 6 feet deep x 6 inches in diameter would be dug in the Curry Village Orchard Parking area. An excavator would be used to dig the pits and hand augers would be used for the monitoring wells. Once a pit has been dug, the soil profiles would be examined and the pit would be refilled. For the monitoring wells, after the hole has been augured, a 2 inch plastic pipe (PVC) with a cap is placed in the hole. Since these will be located within a parking area, the wells would be enclosed within a covered utility box so that cars can drive over them.

The reference plots and wells would be located in the Curry Village Orchard parking lot. Wells would be placed between the historic fruit and oak trees so as not to damage the root systems. Soil pit/monitoring well locations would be cleared through cultural resource monitors as well as utilities staff. Flagging would not be used to mark the wells but if any flagging were used during the project, the park's flagging policy would be adhered to. Interpretive staff will be contacted to assist with any project public information needs.

Similar soil pits and wells were dug under CE 2004-039 in 2004.

1. Attached Sensitive Information**	Yes	No	Explanation/Source/Notes
a. Maps	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CR GIS Map
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 checked="" 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"/>	YOSE 1987R Yosemite Valley Archeological District Yosemite Valley Historic District
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? Yes	No		Explanation/Notes
a. CA MRP 0084	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
b. Ancient Indian Village	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
c. YV HD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Cultural Landscape elements
3. List resources in the Area of Potential Effect to which American Indians attach cultural and religious significance:	Affected? Yes	No		Explanation/Notes
a. Ancient Indian Village	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>	monitoring device
• Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible, or alter associated terrain	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ground disturbance
• 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

5. Describe any measures that are incorporated as part of this project that will be taken to prevent or minimize loss or impairment of prehistoric or historic fabric, setting, integrity, or data:

Checklist prepared by: Jeannette Simons

Date: 7/11/06

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:

Comments: Excavation to occur in archeologically sensitive area; per recent sensitivity mapping, monitoring may be necessary.

Ground Disturbance Involved Yes: ☒ No: ☐

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

Recommended Conditions: Coordinate with Yosemite Archeology Office Park Archeology Office for a determination whether monitoring is necessary. If necessary, ensure monitoring occurs.

Signature of Archeologist: //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: Clear plot and well locations with archeologist and historic landscape architect.

Signature of Historian: //signed original on file//

Historic Architect

Name: **Sueann Brown**

Date: 7/31/06

Comments:

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

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Historic Architect: //signed original on file//

Historic Landscape Architect

Name: **Steven Torgerson**

Date: 6/24/06

Comments:

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

Recommended Conditions: Care shall be taken not to distory or harm the orchard trees.

Signature of Historic Landscape Architect: //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: **No Adverse Effect**

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Native American Liaison: //signed original on file//

<Enter Specialist Title>

Name:

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect:

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of <Enter Specialist Title>: _____

**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: //Niki Stephanie Nicholas//
Chief of Resources Management & Science Division

Date: 7-26-06

2. Assessment of Effects: No Adverse 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, (3)

☐ **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: <Enter Agreement Information>

☐ **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. Coordinate plot and well locations with Park Archeology Office and Park Historic Landscape Architect.
- b. Archeological monitoring may be required depending on selected plot and well locations.

Recommended by Park Section 106 Coordinator:

Name: **Jeannette Simons**

Title: **Historic Preservation Officer**

Signature: //Jeannette Simons// Date: 7-31-06

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//

Date: 8-31-06

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