## **Categorical Exclusion**

(Version: AUG06)

Compliance Tracking Number: 2006-025
PEPC Project Number: 14443

#### A. PROJECT INFORMATION

**Title:** Yosemite Lodge, Correct Balcony and Stair Deficiences in Building 3200 and 3300 (Y4-0106)

Location: Yosemite Valley, Mariposa County, California

**Project Manager:** Bill Rust, Business and Revenue Management, Yosemite National Park

Project Manager: Earl Zack, DNC Parks and Resorts at Yosemite

#### 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(8) - Replacement in kind of minor structures and facilities with little or no change in location, capacity, or appearance--for example, comfort stations, pit toilets, fences, kiosks, signs, and campfire circles.

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):

$\boxtimes E$	Invironmental Screening Form
$\sum P$	Preservation Assessment Form (YOSE-XXX)
$\square V$	Vilderness Minimum Requirement Analysis
$\square V$	Vild and Scenic River Section 7 Determination
$\square P$	Park Management Terms and Conditions
$\Box$ C	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.

//MJTollefson//	<u>10/20/06</u>
Michael J. Tollefson, Superintendent	Date

Original: Statutory Compliance File 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

#### Memorandum

To: Bill Rust, Project Manager, Business and Revenue Management, Yosemite National

Park

Earl Zack, Project Manager, DNC Parks and Resorts at Yosemite

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: Notice to Proceed, 2006-025 Yosemite Lodge, Correct Balcony and Stair Deficiences

in Buildings 3200 and 3300 (Y4-0106; PEPC #14443)

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(8) - Replacement in kind of minor structures and facilities with little or no change in location, capacity, or appearance--for example, comfort stations, pit toilets, fences, kiosks, signs, and campfire circles.

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.

_//MJTollefson//	<u>10/20/06</u>
Michael J. Tollefson, Superintendent	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: 2006-025 PEPC Project Number: 14443

**Explanation/Notes** 

#### A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Title: Yosemite Lodge, Correct Balcony and Stair Deficiencies on Buildings 3200 and 3300

Location: Yosemite Valley, Mariposa County, California

NPS Project Manager: Bill Rust, Business Revenue Management

Partner Project Manager: Earl Zack, DNC Parks and Resorts at Yosemite

#### B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND

Replace unsafe and failing exterior stairway systems for 2nd story access to the Yosemite Lodge 3200 and 3300 buildings with new access stairs, landings and hand rails per design drawings.

Yes No N/A

Table B1 - Background Information

Other (Explain)

1.	Did NPS staff conduct a site visit? If yes, list attendees. If no, explain.				Business and Revenue Management 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				
2b.	Is the project in an approved plan? (Identify the plan and provide a section or page citation.		$\boxtimes$		
2c.	Is the project consistent with that plan?			$\boxtimes$	
2d.	Is the Plan's CE, FONSI, or ROD current?			$\boxtimes$	
3a.	Are there any interested or affected parties?		$\boxtimes$		
3b.	Has a diligent effort been made to communicate with them?				
4a.	Are there any affected agencies or tribes?		$\boxtimes$		
4b.	Has consultation been completed?				
Ta	ble B2 – Environmental Screening Forn				
		Yes	No	N/A	Explanation/Notes
1.	Maps: 2 required (vicinity map & site map)	$\bowtie$			Yosemite Lodge Area, see Attachment A.
2.	Drawings (e.g., design, construction)		$\boxtimes$		
3.	Site Plans		$\boxtimes$		
					Typical deterioration on steins and halacons
4.	Photographs				Typical deterioration on stairs and balcony, see Attachment B.

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# C. ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL RESOURCE EFFECTS

	e any impacts possible on the following ources?	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1.	Geologic resources: soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc	$\boxtimes$			Project includes digging four 2'x 2' footings at each stairway in previously disturbed areas.
2.	From geohazards		$\boxtimes$		
3.	Air quality				
4.	Soundscapes	$\boxtimes$			Negligible; temporary noises during construction.
5.	Water quality or quantity		$\boxtimes$		
6.	Stream flow characteristics		$\boxtimes$		
7.	Marine or estuarine resources			$\boxtimes$	
8.	Floodplains or wetlands		$\boxtimes$		
9.	Land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use		$\boxtimes$		
10.	Rare or unusual vegetation – old growth timber, riparian, alpine		$\boxtimes$		
11.	Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat		$\boxtimes$		
12.	Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites				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		$\boxtimes$		
14.	Unique or important fish or fish habitat		$\boxtimes$		
15.	Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)		$\boxtimes$		
16.	Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.				
17.	Visitor experience, aesthetic resources	$\boxtimes$			The replacement of the Yosemite Lodge stairways will improve visitor safety.
18.	Cultural resources including cultural landscapes, ethnographic resources		$\boxtimes$		
19.	Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure				
20.	Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.		$\boxtimes$		
21.	Energy resources		$\boxtimes$		
22.	Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies		$\boxtimes$		
23.	potential		$\boxtimes$		
24.	Urban quality, gateway communities, etc.		$\boxtimes$		
25.	Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity		$\boxtimes$		
26	Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?				
	nments, Mitigations and Conditions:			•	
1.	None				

# D. MANDATORY CRITERIA

If	implemented, would the proposed action:	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1.			$\boxtimes$		Mitigated: see conditon 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?				Yosemite Valley Historic District; the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see Section F, National Historic Preservation Act Checklist, below.
3.	Have highly controversial environmental effects?		$\boxtimes$		
4.	Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?				
5.	Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		$\boxtimes$		
6.	Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		$\boxtimes$		
7.	Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places?		$\boxtimes$		Yosemite Valley Historic District; the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" 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?				
9.	Require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act?		$\boxtimes$		
10.	Threaten to violate a federal, state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		$\boxtimes$		
11.	Involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA sec. 102(2)(E)?		$\boxtimes$		
12.	Have a disproportionate, significant adverse effect on low-income or minority populations (EO 12898)?				
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)?		$\boxtimes$		
14.	Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of federally listed noxious weeds (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act)?				
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)?				
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?		$\boxtimes$		
17.	Have the potential for significant impact as indicated by a federal, state, or local agency or Indian tribe?				
18.	Have the potential to be controversial because of disagreement over possible environmental effects?				
	Have the potential to violate the NPS Organic Act by impairing park resources or values?				
Co	omments, Mitigations and Conditions:  Provide a safety plan, including demonstration of t	wo rou	tes of	ograss (	during construction to the new Safety Officer

1. Provide a safety plan, including demonstration of two routes of egress during construction, to the park Safety Officer (Roger Farmer, 379-1079) for review and approval before starting any work on this project.

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# E. SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST

****		<b>X</b> 7	NI NI	<b>B</b> T/A	D / N   1   D /   ' /N /
	thin the area of potential effect, are there:	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1.	endangered species (Federal or State)?				
2.	Species of special concern (Federal or State)?		$\boxtimes$		
3.	Park rare plants or vegetation?		$\boxtimes$		
4.			$\boxtimes$		
If '	'yes" to any of the above questions, a Special-S	Status	Specie	es Che	cklist must be completed and attached.
	mments, Mitigations and Conditions:		•		•
1.					
<u>F.</u>	NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVA	TION	AC'.	r Chi	ECKLIST
Wi	thin the area of potential effect:	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1.	Will there be ground disturbance?				
2.	Are there any archeological sites?		$\boxtimes$		
3.	Are there any Native American Indian traditional cultural resources?		$\boxtimes$		
4.	Is the project within the boundary of an				Yosemite Valley Historic District; cultural
7.	archeological or historic landscape or district?				landscape elements; the assessment of effects is "No Adverse Effect;" see the attached XXX.
5a.	Is there a National Historic Landmark?	П	$\boxtimes$	П	1212121
5b.	Is there a structure(s) on the park's <i>List of Classified Structures</i> ?				
5c.	Is there a historic property with a DOE and concurrence by the SHPO or a completed National Register form?		$\boxtimes$		
5d.	Is there a cultural property requiring review under NHPA, Section 106?		$\boxtimes$		
6.	Would there be alteration of a structure or		$\boxtimes$		
	cultural landscape covered by 5a-d, above?	Ш		Ш	
_	'yes" to any of the above, then an Assessment	of Effe	ects fo	rm (Yo	OSE-XXX) must be completed and attached.
<b>Mi</b>	tigations and Conditions: None				
G.	WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST				
Is t	the proposed project:	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1.	Within designated Wilderness?		$\boxtimes$		
2.	Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?				
	yes" to either of the above, then a Wilderness Mi	nimun	n Requ	iiremer	nts Analysis must be completed and attached.
	tigations and Conditions:				
1	None				

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## H. WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST

Do	es 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)	$\boxtimes$			Merced River, Main Stem		
2.	Fall within the bed and banks AND affect the free-flow of the river?		$\boxtimes$				
3.	Potentially affect water quality of the area?		$\boxtimes$				
4.	Diminish or other wise change the values for which the river was designated as a Wild and Scenic River? If "yes", explain.						
5a.	Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River?		$\boxtimes$				
5b.	If 5a is "yes", will the project affect the Wild and Scenic River corridor?			$\boxtimes$			
5c.	If 5a is "yes", will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values?			$\boxtimes$			
If "	If "yes" to questions 2, 5b, or 5c, then a WSRA Section 7 determination must be completed and attached.						
Mi	tigations and Conditions:		•	•			
1.	None						

### Compliance Tracking Number: 2006-025

#### 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 C(8) - Replacement in kind of minor structures and facilities with little or no change in location, capacity, or appearance-for example, comfort stations, pit toilets, fences, kiosks, signs, and campfire circles.

#### **Project Mitigations and Conditions:**

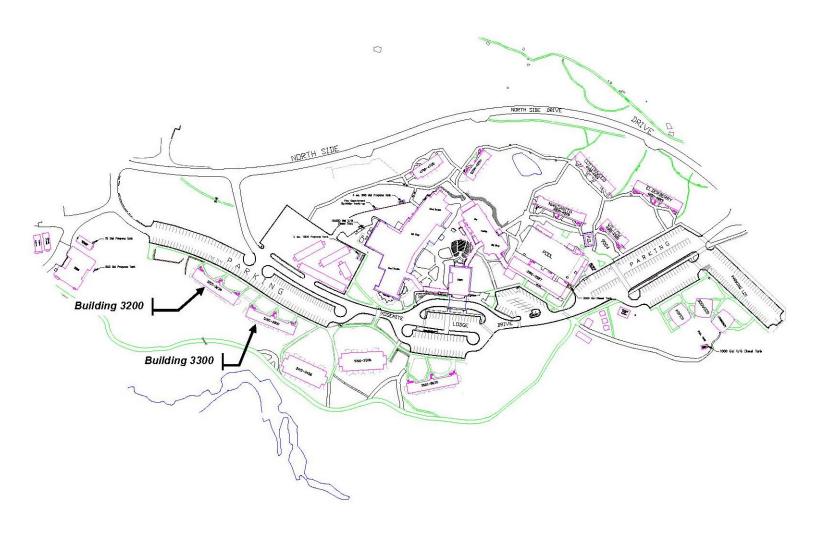
1. Provide a safety plan, including demonstration of two routes of egress during construction, to the park Safety Officer (Roger Farmer, 379-1079) for review and approval before starting any work on this project.

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//	9/21/06
Compliance Specialist	Date
//Mark A Butler//	9/22/06
Compliance Program Manager	Date
//Bill Delaney//	10/18/06
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 Yosemite Lodge

# Attachment B







## **Preservation Assessment Form (YOSE XXX)**

(Version: AUG06)

Compliance Tracking Number: 2006-025
PEPC Project Number: 14443

#### A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

Title: Yosemite Lodge Correct Balcony and Stair Deficiences in Buildings 3200 and 3300

#### **Project Location and Area of Potential Effect:**

Yosemite Valley, Mariposa County, California

Yosemite Lodge Buildings 3200, 3300 and 3600

**Project Manager:** Bill Rust, Business and Revenue Management, Yosemite National Park

Project Manager: Earl Zack, DNC Parks and Resorts at Yosemite,

**Project Description:** Replace unsafe and failing exterior stairway systems for 2nd story access to the Yosemite Lodge 3200 and 3300 buildings with new access stairs, landings and hand rails per design drawings.

1. Attached Sensitive Information**			Yes	No	Explanation/Source/Notes
	a.	Maps		$\boxtimes$	
	b.	Drawings		$\boxtimes$	
	c.	Site Plans		$\boxtimes$	
	d.	Photographs		$\boxtimes$	
	e.	Sample		$\boxtimes$	
:	f.	List of Materials		$\boxtimes$	
	g.	Other (Explain)		$\boxtimes$	

<sup>\*\*</sup> 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?	$\boxtimes$			Yosemite Valley Historic District
	If Yes, provide reference for the Survey (s).  a. Would the proposed action affect a		$\boxtimes$	П	
	known historic property?				
2.	List all Historic Properties in the Area of Potential Effect:	Affec Yes	No No		Explanation/Notes
	a. Yosemite Valley Historic District Cultural landscape elements	$\boxtimes$			
	b.				
	c.	Ш	Ш		
3.	List resources in the Area of Potential	Affec	ted?		
	Effect to which American Indians attach cultural and religious significance:	Yes	No		Explanation/Notes
	a. None				
	b.				
4	C.	<b>T</b> 7	<u> </u>	<b>N</b> T/A	F 1 (* 181 )
4.	The proposed action will:	Yes	No	N/A	Explanation/Note
	• Destroy, remove, or alter features or elements from a historic structure				
	• Replace historic features/elements in kind		$\boxtimes$		
	<ul> <li>Add nonhistoric features/elements to a historic structure</li> </ul>		$\boxtimes$		
	• Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (including terrain)				
	• Add nonhistoric features/elements (including visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape	$\boxtimes$			Yosemite Lodge is not a contributing feature of the YVHD; the stairs are compatable with existing features to maintain cultural landscape integrity
	• Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible, or alter associated terrain				. J
	<ul> <li>Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible, or alter associated terrain</li> </ul>				
	Begin or contribute to the deterioration of historic fabric, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources				
	• Involve a real property transaction affecting historic cultural properties (i.e., the exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures)				
	Potentially affect presently unidentified				
	historic resources				
	• Other		$\boxtimes$		

Checklist prepared by: Jeannette Simons Date: 8/28/06

**Title:** Historic Preservation Officer

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#### 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 *Servicewide 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 Comments:	Name: Laura Kirn	Date: 9/21/06
Ground Disturbance Involved	Yes: No: No	
Assessment of Effect: "No Effect"		
Recommended Conditions:		
Signature of Archeologist://Laure	a Kirn// (signed original on file)	
Cultural Anthropologist	Name: Sonny Montague	Date:
Comments:	Tumor Somey Erroringuo	
Assessment of Effect:		
Recommended Conditions:		
Signature of Cultural Anthropologis	16.	
Signature of Cultural Antinopologis	st	
Curator	Name: Jonathan Bayless	Date:
Comments:		
Assessment of Effect:		
Recommended Conditions:		
Signature of Curator:		

Historian Comments:	Name: Charles Palmer	Date:
Assessment of Effect: Recommended Conditions:		
Signature of Historian:		
Historic Architect Comments:	Name: Sueann Brown	Date: 8/29/06
Assessment of Effect: "No Adverse Recommended Conditions:  Signature of Historic Architect://3	E Effect"  Sueann Brown// (signed original on file)	
Historic Landscape Architect Comments:	Name: Steven Torgerson	Date: 8/29/06
Assessment of Effect: "No Adverse Recommended Conditions:	e Effect''	
Signature of Historic Landscape Ard	chitect: //Steven Dale Torgerson// (signed original o	on file)

<b>Preservation Specialist</b> Comments:	Name: Rod Kennec	Date:
Assessment of Effect: Recommended Conditions: Recomm	nended Conditions	
Signature of Preservation Specialist	:	
Native American Liaison Comments:	Name: Jeannette Simons	Date:
Assessment of Effect: Recommended Conditions:		
Signature of Native American Liais	on:	

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#### 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.

ma	nagem	oing assessment is adequate: the proposed action is consistent with all applicable NPS ent policies, standards, guidelines, or US DOI standards and guidelines, Rehabilitation of Buildings, or others, and incorporates measures to avoid Adverse Effects.
Re	viewed	l and Accepted by:
Sig	gnatur	c: //Niki Stephanie Nicholas// (signed original on file) Chief of Resources Management & Science Division  Date: 9/21/06
2.	Asses	sment of Effects: No Adverse Effect
3.	Comp	pliance 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:
		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.
		<b>Undertaking Related to Another Agreement</b>
		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
	$\boxtimes$	Undertaking Related to the 1999 Yosemite Programmatic Agreement
		The grouped undertaking is covered for Section 106 grouped as the mark's 1000 groupements

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.

# Compliance Tracking No. **2006-025** 7 of 7

## 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. Paint stairs the same shade of brown as used in the Yosemite Lodge facility, or worky brown.

Recommended by Park Section 106 Coordinator:				
Name:	for Jeannette Simons			
Title:	Historic Preservation Officer			
Signature:	<u>//Mark A Butler//</u> Date: <u>9/22/06</u>			
The propos	INTENDENT'S APPROVAL sed work conforms to NPS Management Policies and NPS-28 and I approve the dations, stipulations, and conditions noted in Section B of this form.			
Signature of Superintendent: //MJTollefson Date: 10/20/06				
	Michael I Tollefson			