



# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
L7615(YOSE-PM)

### Memorandum

**To:** Rick Hall, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park  
**From:** Superintendent, Yosemite National Park  
**Subject:** NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2017-008 Mather Tent Cabin Septic Replacement (71571)

The Executive Leadership Team has reviewed the proposed project/action and completed its environmental assessment documentation, and we have determined the following:

- There will not be any effect on threatened, endangered, or rare species and/or their critical habitat.
- There will be no adverse effect on historical, cultural, or archeological resources.
- There will not be serious or long-term undesirable environmental or visual effects.

The subject proposed project, therefore, is now cleared for all NEPA and NHPA compliance requirements as presented above. Project plans and specifications are approved and construction and/or project implementation can commence.

For the proposed project actions to be within compliance requirements during construction and/or project implementation, the following mitigations must be adhered to:

- This is an interim solution and the long-term NHPA compliance will be addressed when plans are finalized.
- There is a considerable velvet grass (invasive species of concern) population in the vicinity of the project site. Any soil removed as part of this work should not be transported to any other part of the park and all equipment including tools and heavy equipment used in this area should be properly cleaned and washed on site to prevent spread of seeds.

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 71571.

//Lisa Mendelson//  
Palmer L. Jenkins (Acting Superintendent)

Enclosure (with attachments)

cc: Statutory Compliance File

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



## Categorical Exclusion Form

**Project:** 2017-008 Mather Tent Cabin Septic Replacement

**PEPC Project Number:** 71571

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

This project will remove a failed septic tank (excavation will be within previously disturbed area) and install a temporary lift station to provide sanitary service for the Mather tent cabins (near the Hetch Hetchy entrance station). The shower/laundry building and restrooms servicing the four tent cabins in the area all discharge to the failing septic system. A new fiberglass or concrete wet well will be installed at the same location. A small duplex pump system will be installed inside the wet well. The pump controls and alarm will be installed on a panel immediately adjacent to the wet well. Power will be extended from the laundry building (building 2015) to the wet well (no change in overall service to the area is anticipated). The power extension will require installation of conduit on the ground surface with a rubberized mat for protection. A plastic or fiberglass temporary holding tank will be installed above ground between the existing restroom buildings. An above ground force main pipe (1.5 inch HDPE pipe) will connect the holding tank and wet well.

The construction of the temporary facilities will be performed by an outside contractor to help facilitate these emergency repairs in a time frame that supports the park's needs. The holding tank will be emptied on a regular basis while the tent cabins are occupied.

This is a temporary solution and the long-term NEPA/NHPA compliance will be addressed when plans are finalized.

**Project Locations:**

Tuolumne County, CA

**Mitigation(s):**

None

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

**CE Justification:**

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

**Superintendent:** //Lisa Mendelson// acting for

Palmer L. Jenkins (Acting Superintendent)

**Date:** 4/7/17

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**Extraordinary Circumstances:**

If implemented, would the proposal...	Yes/No	Notes
<b>A.</b> Have significant impacts on public health or safety?	No	
<b>B.</b> Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?	No	
<b>C.</b> Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?	No	
<b>D.</b> Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	No	
<b>E.</b> Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	No	
<b>F.</b> Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	No	
<b>G.</b> Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?	No	
<b>H.</b> Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?	No	
<b>I.</b> Violate a federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	No	
<b>J.</b> Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898)?	No	
<b>K.</b> Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007)?	No	
<b>L.</b> Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?	No	



## ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

Updated Sept 2015 per NPS NEPA Handbook

### A. PROJECT INFORMATION

**Project Title:** 2017-008 Mather Tent Cabin Septic Replacement  
**PEPC Project Number:** 71571  
**Project Type:** Emergency Repair (ER)  
**Project Location:**  
**County, State:** Tuolumne, California  
**Project Leader:** Rick Hall, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

### B. RESOURCE IMPACTS TO CONSIDER:

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
<b>Air</b> Air Quality	None	
<b>Biological</b> Nonnative or Exotic Species	None	
<b>Biological</b> Species of Special Concern or Their Habitat	None	
<b>Biological</b> Vegetation	None	
<b>Biological</b> Wildlife and/or Wildlife Habitat including terrestrial and aquatic species	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Archeological Resources	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Cultural Landscapes	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Ethnographic Resources	Potential	The tribes were notified of this project via the April 2017 spreadsheet.
<b>Cultural</b> Museum Collections	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Prehistoric/historic structures	None	
<b>Geological</b> Geologic Features	Potential	Trenching and ground disturbance is necessary to remove the failing septic tank (5 foot by 5 foot square hole) and install conduit (6 inch wide

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Potential for Impact</b>	<b>Potential Issues &amp; Impacts</b>
		by 2 feet deep trench).
<b>Geological</b> Geologic Processes	None	
<b>Lightscares</b> Lightscares	None	
<b>Other</b> Human Health and Safety	None	
<b>Other</b> Operational	Potential	Repairs will improve operations at the location, providing a sanitary and functioning sewer.
<b>Socioeconomic</b> Land Use	None	
<b>Socioeconomic</b> Minority and low-income populations, size, migration patterns, etc.	None	
<b>Socioeconomic</b> Socioeconomic	None	
<b>Soundscares</b> Soundscares	Potential	Temporary use of heavy machines during construction, and during normal business hours.
<b>Viewsheds</b> Viewsheds	None	
<b>Visitor Use and Experience</b> Recreation Resources	None	
<b>Visitor Use and Experience</b> Visitor Use and Experience	None	
<b>Water</b> Floodplains	None	
<b>Water</b> Marine or Estuarine Resources	None	
<b>Water</b> Water Quality or Quantity	None	
<b>Water</b> Wetlands	None	
<b>Water</b> Wild and Scenic River	None	
<b>Wilderness</b> Wilderness	None	



# ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

## A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

### 2. **Project Description:**

**Project Name:** 2017-008 Mather Tent Cabin Septic Replacement

**Prepared by:** Kimball Koch    **Date Prepared:** 04/05/2017    **Telephone:** 209.379.1364

**PEPC Project Number:** 71571

**Locations:** Tuolumne County, CA

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

The project is located outside of any known historic properties and is confined to the areas identified on the project map in the vicinity of the tent cabins.

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

No  
 Yes

Source or reference:

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

Site is outside the boundary of the Hetch Hetchy road corridor, a historic property determined eligible for listing in 1998.

### 5. **The proposed action will: (check as many as apply)**

- Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure
- Replace historic features/elements in kind
- Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure
- Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)  
Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting  
or cultural landscape
- Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible
- Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible
- Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources  
Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting, landscape elements,  
or archeological or ethnographic resources
- Involve a real property transaction (exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures)
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Supporting Study Data:**

(Attach if feasible; if action is in a plan, EA or EIS, give name and project or page number.)

**B. REVIEWS BY CULTURAL RESOURCE SPECIALISTS**

The park 106 coordinator requested review by the park's cultural resource specialist/advisors as indicated by check-off boxes or as follows:

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[ X ] 106 Advisor  
Name: Kimball Koch  
Date: 04/05/2017

Comments: No archeological or built environment resources affected. This is an interim solution and the long-term NHPA compliance will be addressed when plans are finalized.

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* [ ]  
Assessment of Effect: \_\_\_ No Potential to Cause Effect     X  No Historic Properties Affected    \_\_\_ No  
Adverse Effect    \_\_\_ Adverse Effect    \_\_\_ Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:  
Doc Method: Park Specific or Other Programmatic Agreement

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[ X ] Anthropologist  
Name: Scott Carpenter  
Date: 04/05/2017

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* [ ]  
Assessment of Effect: \_\_\_ No Potential to Cause Effect     X  No Historic Properties Affected    \_\_\_ No  
Adverse Effect    \_\_\_ Adverse Effect    \_\_\_ Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: Project entered on April 2017 Tribal Spreadsheet, FYI, to solicit information from Tribes regarding any known properties of traditional or religious significance.

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[ X ] Archeologist  
Name: Sara Dolan  
Date: 04/05/2017

Comments: Proposed work is an interim solution until permanent design can be determined.

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* [ ]  
Assessment of Effect: \_\_\_ No Potential to Cause Effect     X  No Historic Properties Affected    \_\_\_ No  
Adverse Effect    \_\_\_ Adverse Effect    \_\_\_ Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

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[ X ] Historical Architect  
Name: Scott Carpenter  
Date: 04/05/2017

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* [ ]  
Assessment of Effect: \_\_\_ No Potential to Cause Effect     X  No Historic Properties Affected    \_\_\_ No  
Adverse Effect    \_\_\_ Adverse Effect    \_\_\_ Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

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Historical Landscape Architect  
Name: Kimball Koch  
Date: 04/05/2017

Comments: Site is outside the boundary of the Hetch Hetchy road corridor, a historic property determined eligible for listing in 1998.

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance   
Assessment of Effect:  No Potential to Cause Effect  No Historic Properties Affected  No Adverse Effect  Adverse Effect  Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:  
Doc Method: Park Specific or Other Programmatic Agreement

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No Reviews From: Curator, Historian, Other Advisor

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## C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. Assessment of Effect:

- No Potential to Cause Effects
- No Historic Properties Affected
- No Adverse Effect
- Adverse Effect

### 2. Documentation Method:

A. STANDARD 36 CFR PART 800 CONSULTATION  
Further consultation under 36 CFR Part 800 is needed.

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

The above action meets all conditions for a streamlined review under section III of the 2008 Servicewide PA for Section 106 compliance.

APPLICABLE STREAMLINED REVIEW Criteria  
(Specify 1-16 of the list of streamlined review criteria.)

C. PLAN-RELATED UNDERTAKING

Consultation and review of the proposed undertaking were completed in the context of a plan review process, in accordance with the 2008 Servicewide PA and 36 CFR Part 800.

Specify plan/EA/EIS:

D. UNDERTAKING RELATED TO ANOTHER AGREEMENT

#### **1999 PA as amended in 2016**

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under another document such as a statewide agreement established in accord with 36 CFR 800.7 or counterpart regulations.

E. COMBINED NEPA/NHPA Document

Documentation is required for the preparation of an EA/FONSI or an EIS/ROD has been developed and used so as also to meet the requirements of 36 CFR 800.3 through 800.6

G. Memo to SHPO/THPO

[ ] H. Memo to ACHP

SHPO/THPO Notes:

**3. Additional Consulting Parties Information:**

Additional Consulting Parties: No

**4. Stipulations and Conditions:**

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

**5. Mitigations/Treatment Measures:**

Measures to prevent or minimize loss or impairment of historic/prehistoric properties:  
(Remember that setting, location, and use may be relevant.)

- Assessment of Effect - This is an interim solution and the long-term NHPA compliance will be addressed when plans are finalized.

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

*Historic Preservation Officer*

Kimball Koch //Kimball Koch// \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 4/6/17 \_\_\_\_\_

**E. SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL**

**The proposed work conforms to the NPS *Management Policies and Cultural Resource Management Guideline*, and I have reviewed and approve the recommendations, stipulations, or conditions noted in Section C of this form.**

**Superintendent:** //Lisa Mendelson// \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** 4/7/17 \_\_\_\_\_  
Palmer L. Jenkins (Acting Superintendent)

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