



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: Treacy Stone, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2017-027 Half Dome Village Temporary Seasonal Ice Rink Installation (2017 YH) (73766)

The Superintendent and park interdisciplinary team have reviewed the proposed project and completed an impact analysis and documentation, and 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:

- There must be bollards or rocks positioned for propane tank protection.
- There must be a decibel test done by the NPS Safety Office for the generator intended for installation at this location.

Recommendations for Conditions or Stipulations: None

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 73766.

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

Enclosure (with attachments)

cc: Statutory Compliance File

Letter of Compliance Completion – 2017-027 Half Dome Village Temporary Seasonal Ice Rink Installation (2017 YH) -
PEPC ID: 73766

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Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in
Yosemite National Park.*



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: 2017-027 Half Dome Village Temporary Seasonal Ice Rink Installation (2017 YH)

PEPC Project Number: 73766

Project Description:

This project will install a seasonal ice rink and associated services on a temporary basis within the concession land assignment in the location of the former ice rink (prior to its relocation in 2016) in Half Dome Village. The proposed rink will be used during the winter season and then be removed and stored at the Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area during the off season. This area will be used until a long-term location is identified for this seasonal use consistent with the Merced River Plan. No concessions would be provided within the service area. In 2016, the ice rink was located in the paved parking area south of the Orchard Parking Lot which created many issues related to utility access.

The project includes the following:

Footprint: The proposed ice rink measures 60' x 120'. The mechanical unit producing the ice as well as the proprietary tube system will be located on a 35' long trailer temporarily parked at the east side of the rink. The pre-made rink dasher boards are constructed of galvanized steel frames. The ice rink will require a mat to be placed on the parking lot to create a level surface. This will not require any subsurface disturbance.

Use of Existing Buildings: The following existing buildings will be used to support ice skating operations: historic ticket booth (warming hut), boiler building (new propane boiler), skate sharpening building (skate storage), and the historic restrooms. This proposal does not include adding any tent structures.

Flooring and Fire Pit: Removable rubber flooring will be provided at the visitor entrance area on the south side of the rink, an area approximately 60' x 12'. In addition, a 40' half-circle of rubber flooring will be provided on the east side of the rink. A fire pit will be located on the east side of the rink as well.

Water: Water will be accessed through existing water sources on site. A boiler to produce hot water will be located within the existing boiler building. No trenching would be needed.

Propane and Power: Electricity for the system would be accessed from the existing power in the area. One 500-gallon propane tank will be installed temporarily to support the boiler equipment. The propane tank will be located 25 feet behind (north) of the existing boiler building. No trenching for either electrical or propane lines will be required.

Lighting: Three temporary utility poles 4" x 4" x 16' poles will be attached to the existing non-historic buildings adjacent to the rink to support the LED fixtures and sound system. Three additional temporary light poles will be installed on the south side of the rink. Ground disturbance will require digging holes 2' x 2' x 6' depth. LED lights will provide direct lighting to the ice surface. All lighting will be pointed downward to minimize lighting impacts and will be painted brown.

Fencing: Temporary fencing will be installed to define the operating area, secure the refrigeration/mechanical area, and define the fire pit area. No postholes or other ground disturbance is involved. Green snow fencing will be installed without digging providing for temporary fencing that can be moved to allow area clearing after weather events. A wooden landing will be installed to support the parking of Zamboni when not in use.

Traffic pattern for the parking lot will allow for fire truck access on the north side of the rink.

Project Locations:

Mariposa County, CA

Mitigations:

- There must be bollards or rocks positioned for propane tank protection.
- There must be a decibel test done by the NPS Safety Office for the generator intended for installation at this location.

CE Citation: C.8 Replacement in kind of minor structures and facilities with little or no change in location, capacity or appearance.

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: //Palmer L. Jenkins//

Palmer L. Jenkins

Date: 12/4/17

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Extraordinary Circumstances:

If implemented, would the proposal...	Yes/No	Notes
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?	No	
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	
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?	No	
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	No	
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	No	
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	No	
G. 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	
H. 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	
I. Violate a federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	No	
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898)?	No	
K. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 130007)?	No	
L. 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: 2017-027 Half Dome Village Temporary Seasonal Ice Rink Installation (2017 YH)
PEPC Project Number: 73766
Project Type: Capital Improvement/New Construction (CI)
Project Location:
County, State: Mariposa, California
Project Leader: Treacy Stone

B. RESOURCE IMPACTS TO CONSIDER:

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Air Air Quality	Potential	Ice rink installation will have temporary air emissions during construction.
Biological Nonnative or Exotic Species	None	
Biological Species of Special Concern or Their Habitat	None	
Biological Vegetation	None	
Biological Wildlife and/or Wildlife Habitat including terrestrial and aquatic species	None	
Cultural Archeological Resources	Potential	The project area is within the boundaries of the Yosemite Valley Archeological District but outside the boundaries of known archeological sites.
Cultural Cultural Landscapes	None	
Cultural Ethnographic Resources	Potential	The associated tribes and groups were notified on the November 2017 tribal spreadsheet; no comments were received.
Cultural Museum Collections	None	

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Cultural Prehistoric/historic structures	None	
Geological Geologic Features	Potential	Ground disturbance includes installing three temporary light poles measuring 2' x 2' x 6' deep.
Geological Geologic Processes	None	
Lightscares Lightscares	Potential	All lighting will be pointing downward to minimize lighting impacts.
Other Human Health and Safety	None	
Other Operational	None	
Socioeconomic Land Use	None	
Socioeconomic Minority and low-income populations, size, migration patterns, etc.	None	
Socioeconomic Socioeconomic	None	
Soundscares Soundscares	Potential	This project will have minimal sound impacts during rink installation.
Viewsheds Viewsheds	None	
Visitor Use and Experience Recreation Resources	None	
Visitor Use and Experience Visitor Use and Experience	None	
Water Floodplains	None	
Water Marine or Estuarine Resources	None	
Water Water Quality or Quantity	None	

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Water Wetlands	None	
Water Wild and Scenic River	Potential	The ice rink lies within the river corridor; this is a temporary installation.
Wilderness Wilderness	None	
Wilderness Wilderness	None	

Recommended:

Compliance Specialists	Date
<u>//Renea Kennec//</u> Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec	<u>11/14/17</u>
<u>//Madelyn Ruffner//</u> Compliance Program Manager – Madelyn Ruffner	<u>11/15/17</u>
<u>//Ron Gaunt//</u> Chief, Project Management – Ron Gaunt	<u>11/14/17</u>

Approved:

Superintendent	Date
<u>//Palmer L. Jenkins//</u> Palmer L. Jenkins	<u>12/4/17</u>

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ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

2. **Project Description:**

Project Name: 2017-027 Half Dome Village Temporary Seasonal Ice Rink Installation (2017 YH)

Prepared by: Renea Kennec **Date Prepared:** 11/14/17 **Telephone:** 209-379-1067

PEPC Project Number: 73766

Locations:

County, State: Mariposa, CA

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

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

☐ No

☒ Yes

Source or reference:

4. **Potentially Affected Resources:**

Archeological Resources Affected:

Name and numbers: Yosemite Valley Archeological District

NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

Archeological Resources Notes: The project area is within the boundaries of the Yosemite Valley Archeological District but outside the boundaries of known archeological sites.

Historical Structures/Resources Affected:

Name and numbers: Yosemite Valley Historic District

Historical Structures/Resources Notes: Camp Curry Developed Area

Cultural Landscapes Affected: None

Ethnographic Resources Affected: None

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
Yes cultural landscape
No Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible
No Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible
Yes Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources
Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or
No archeological or ethnographic resources
No Involve a real property transaction (exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures)
Other (please specify): _____

6. Supporting Study Data:

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

B. REVIEWS BY CULTURAL RESOURCE SPECIALISTS

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

[X] 106 Advisor

Name: Kimball Koch

Date: 11/07/2017

Comments: Ice rink is being temporarily returned to its previous location. No adverse effect. Historic architect review is not needed because no historic structure or building is affected.

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: ___No Potential to Cause Effect ___No Historic Properties Affected XNo
Adverse Effect ___Adverse Effect ___Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method: Standard 4-Step Process

[X] Anthropologist

Name: Scott Carpenter

Date: 11/07/2017

Comments: No known historic properties of traditional and religious significance to consulting tribes.

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: ___No Potential to Cause Effect XNo Historic Properties Affected ___No
Adverse Effect ___Adverse Effect ___Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

[X] Archeologist

Name: Sara Dolan

Date: 10/20/2017

Comments: The project area is outside the boundaries of known archeological sites. There are no concerns and no monitoring is required.

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:

[X] Historian

Name: Scott Carpenter

Date: 11/07/2017

Comments: Temporary/removable ice rink structure in same location as previous.

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:

[X] Historical Landscape Architect

Name: Kimball Koch

Date: 09/25/2017

Comments: Installation is temporary and is being located in its previous location.

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [☐]

Assessment of Effect: ☐ No Potential to Cause Effect ☐ No Historic Properties Affected ☒ No

Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect ☐ Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

No Reviews From: Curator, Historical Architect, Other Advisor

C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Assessment of Effect:

☐ No Potential to Cause Effects

☐ No Historic Properties Affected

☒ No Adverse Effect

☐ Adverse Effect

2. Documentation Method:

[X] A. STANDARD 36 CFR PART 800 CONSULTATION

Further consultation under 36 CFR Part 800 is needed.

Assessment of Effect Form – 2017-027 Half Dome Village Temporary Seasonal Ice Rink Installation (2017 YH) - PEPC ID: 73766

☐ 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

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 Process

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: NPS sent correspondence to SHPO on October 10, 2017 requesting concurrence on an assessment of no adverse effect. On November 14, 2017, SHPO responded via email with copy of the SHPO's response concurring with the finding of no adverse effect.

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.)**

No Assessment of Effect mitigations identified.

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

Section 106 Coordinator:

Kimball

Koch

//Kimball Koch//

Date: November 14, 2017

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.

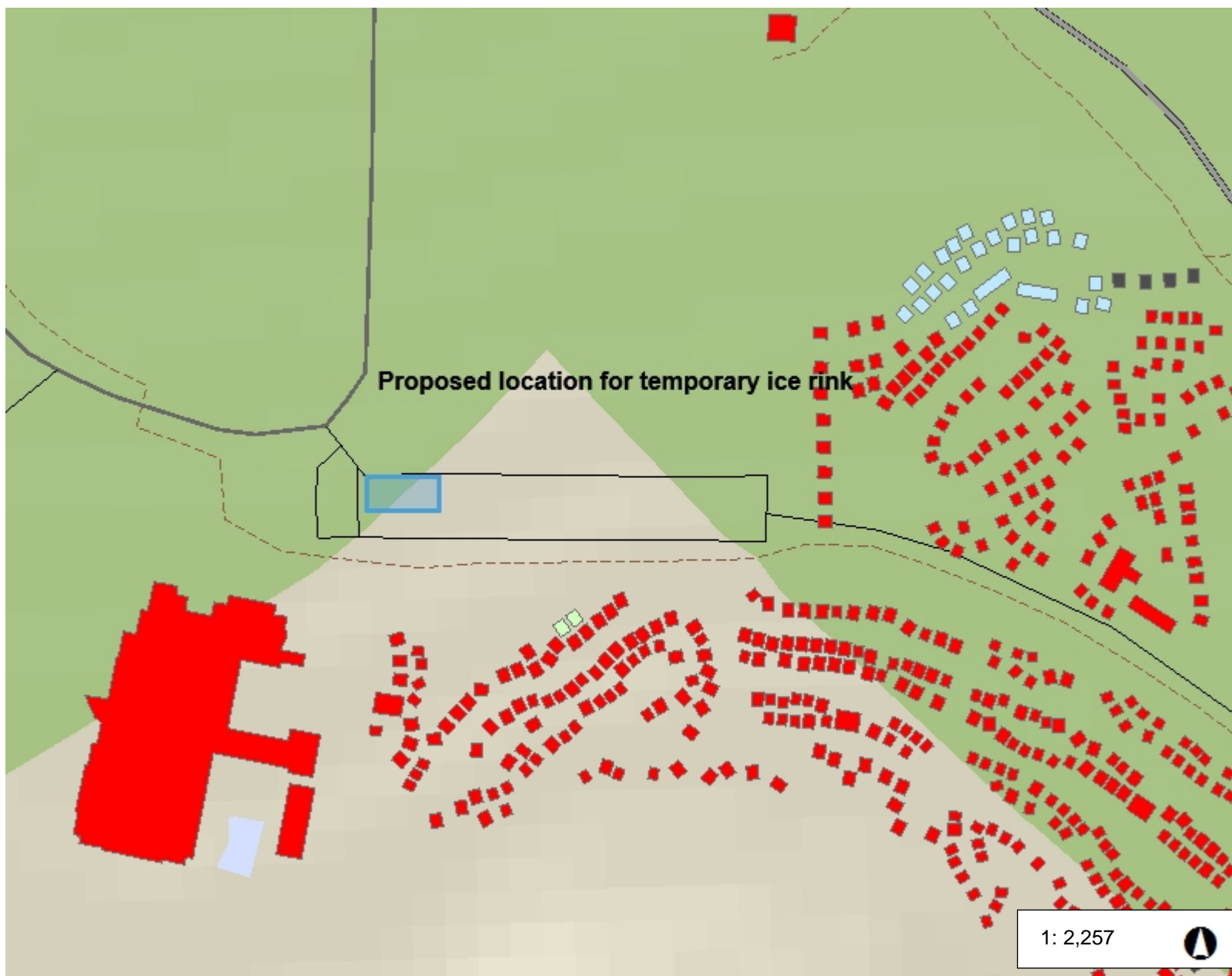
Superintendent: //Palmer L. Jenkins// acting

Date: 12/4/17

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Proposed Ice Rink Location



Legend

Buildings

- <all other values>
- Housing
- Management Activities and Service
- Utilities
- Visitor Based Activities and Service

Minor Landmarks

Roads

- Primary
- Secondary
- Local
- Parking Lot Road
- Private
- Service
- 4WD
- Unknown

Trails

- Lakes - Large scale
- Streams - Large Scale
- Merced Wild & Scenic River
 - Recreational
 - Scenic
 - Wild

Park Boundary

- TOPO_DEM_10M_clipYOSE_
- High : 3991

Notes

0.1 0 0.04 0.1 Miles

WGS_1984_Web_Mercator_Auxiliary_Sphere
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