

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Yosemite National Park P.O. Box 577

P.O. Box 577 Yosemite, California 95389

IN REPLY REFER TO: L7617 (YOSE-PM)

Memorandum

To:

Jim Roche, Project Manager, Resources Management and Science, Yosemite National

Park

From:

Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: Notice to Proceed, 2007-012 El Portal Road Narrows Temporary River Gages

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.

Michael J. Tollefson, Superintendent

2/12/03 Date

Enclosure (with attachments)

cc: Statutory Compliance File

Categorical Exclusion

(Version: OCT06)

Compliance Tracking Number: **2007-012**

PEPC Project Number: 17162

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Title: El Portal Road Narrows Temporary River Gages **Location:** Yosemite Valley, Mariposa County, California

Project Manager: Jim Roche, 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):

\boxtimes	Environmental Screening Form
\boxtimes	Preservation Assessment Form (YOSE-XXX)
	Wilderness Minimum Requirement Analysis
П	Wild and Scenic River Section 7 Determination

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.

Michael J. Tollefson, Superintendent

Date

12/12/04

Original:

Statutory Compliance File

cc:

Project Proponent

Attachments

(2)

Environmental Screening Form

(Version: NOV06)

Compliance Tracking Number: 2007-012

PEPC Project Number: 17162

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Other (Explain)

Title: El Portal Road Narrows Temporary River Gages **Location:** Yosemite Valley, Mariposa County, California

Project Manager: Jim Roche, Resources Management and Science, Yosemite National Park

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND

This research effort would support the El Portal Road Reconstruction--Pohono Bridge to Big Oak Flat intersection. Research project involves placing three stream gages at points along the El Portal Road in the area commonly referred to as the "the Narrows". The dataloggers would be installed inside a 1 foot long piece of 2 inch PVC pipe which would be bolted to existing riprap near the level of the river. We can do our best to hide them as we don't want them receiving the full brunt of the flow velocity. There would be no staff plates. We would need to put in a few rock bolts higher on the riprap (just below the road) from which to measure river level. The installations would remain in place through the construction phase and then be removed.

Table B1 - Background Information Explanation/Notes No N/A Resources Management and Project Did NPS staff conduct a site visit? If yes, list \boxtimes Management staff. attendees. If no, explain. 2a. Is the project providing compliance for an action associated with but not covered by an approved 図 plan? (Identify the plan and provide a section or page citation.); OR 2b. Is the project in an approved plan? (Identify the \boxtimes plan and provide a section or page citation. \boxtimes 2c. Is the project consistent with that plan? 冈 2d. Is the Plan's CE, FONSI, or ROD current? 図 3a. Are there any interested or affected parties? 3b. Has a diligent effort been made to communicate with them? M 4a. Are there any affected agencies or tribes? 4b. Has consultation been completed? Table B2 - Environmental Screening Form Attachments (provide Attachment letter—A, B, etc.) Yes No N/A Explanation/Notes \boxtimes Project vicinity map; see Attachment A. Maps: 2 required (vicinity map & site map) Instrumentation diagram; see Attachment B. 2. Drawings (e.g., design, construction) \boxtimes Ø П Site Plans 図 4. Photographs Non-NEPA/NHPA Approvals (Explain)

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				Stream gages will be temporarily affixed to riprap that was placed during previous road shoring improvements.
2.	From geohazards		\boxtimes		
3.	Air quality		\boxtimes		
4.	Soundscapes		\boxtimes		
5.	Water quality or quantity				
6.	Stream flow characteristics				
7.	Marine or estuarine resources				
8. 9.	Floodplains or wetlands Land use, including occupancy, income, values,	Ш	***************************************		
	ownership, type of use				
	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	· 🗖	×		
					Yosemite National Park is a World Heritage site;
12.	Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites	⊠			no historic properties would be adversely affected by implimenting this project; see Section F, National Historic Preservation Act Checklist,
12	This was in the state of the st		N21		below.
13. 14.	Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat Unique or important fish or fish habitat				
***************************************	Introduce or promote non-native species (plant		***************************************		
10.	or animal)				
16.	Recreation resources, including supply, demand,		\boxtimes		
15	visitation, activities, etc.				
100000000000000000000000000000000000000	Visitor experience, aesthetic resources	Ш	\boxtimes		Merced River Historic District; see Section F.
18.	Cultural resources including cultural landscapes, ethnographic resources	☒			Historic Preservation Act Checklist, below.
19.	Socioeconomics, including employment,			П	
	occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure	Ш			
20.	Minority and low income populations,	П	KΔ	П	
	ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.	Ш			
21.	Energy resources				
	Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies	Ш	\boxtimes	Ш	
23.	Resource, including energy, conservation potential		\boxtimes		
24.	Urban quality, gateway communities, etc.	П	\boxtimes		
	Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity				
26	Other important environment resources (e.g.		دع	_	
	geothermal, paleontological resources)?				
Con 1.	nments, Mitigations and Conditions: None				

D. MANDATORY CRITERIA

If	implemented, would the proposed action:	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. 2.	Have material adverse effects on public health or safety? Have adverse effects on such unique characteristics as				Mitigated; see Condition 1, below.
	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		×		Mitigated; see Section F. Historic Preservation Act Checklist, below.
3.	listed on the National Register of Natural Landmarks? Have highly controversial environmental effects?	П	\boxtimes		
4.					
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?		Ø		
7.	Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places?		\boxtimes		
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?				
10.	Threaten to violate a federal, state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		⊠		
11.	Involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA sec. 102(2)(E)?		☒		
12.	Have a disproportionate, significant adverse effect on low-income or minority populations (EO 12898)?		\boxtimes		
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)?		\boxtimes		
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?		×		
17.	Have the potential for significant impact as indicated by a federal, state, or local agency or Indian tribe?		\boxtimes		
18.	Have the potential to be controversial because of disagreement over possible environmental effects?		⊠		
19.	Have the potential to violate the NPS Organic Act by impairing park resources or values?				
C o	mments, Mitigations and Conditions: Develop and submit a Job Hazard Analysis to the p	oark Sa	fety O	ffice (3	79-1079) for review and approval before initiating

project work.

Mitigations and Conditions:

1. None

Wi	thin the area of potential effect, are there:	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
Ι.	Listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (Federal or State)?				
	Species of special concern (Federal or State)?				
	Park rare plants or vegetation?		\boxtimes		
• • • •	Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above? yes" to any of the above questions, a Special-	Ctotus !		□ se Chec	ablict must be completed and attached
	mments, Mitigations and Conditions:	nau.	hoon	/s Che	exist must be completed and annothed.
	None				
	NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVA	TION	AC		
/i	thin the area of potential effect:	Yes	No.	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
	Will there be ground disturbance? Are there any archeological sites?		Ħ	Н	
	Are there any Native American Indian traditional cultural resources?				Site of religious and cultural significance; the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect,"
	Is there a historic property (a building,				see the attached XXX.
	structure, feature, or all or any part of an archeological district or site, or a historic district or site, or any associated landscape element) that is listed or eligible for listing	⊠			Merced River Corridor Historic District; the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect," see Conditions 1 and 2, below and the attached XXX.
	on the <i>National Register</i> ? Is there a National Historic Landmark?		\boxtimes		
	Is there a structure(s) on the park's List of Classified Structures?				
	Is there any cultural resource requiring an evaluation of eligibility as a historic property under NHPA, Section 106, before		\boxtimes		
	an affect determination can be made? Would there be alteration of any historic property or associated landscape element covered by 2-7, above?	\boxtimes			The assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect," see Conditions 1 and 2, below and the attached XXX.
******	yes" to any of the above, then an Assessment	of Effe	cts fo	rm (Y	OSE-XXX) must be completed and attached.
	Ensure dataloggers are installed using grey P				ze the visual impacts.
	Ensure all gaging apparatus is removed upon	road c	omple	euon.	
ĭ.	WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST				
t	he proposed project:	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
	Within designated Wilderness? Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?		\boxtimes		

If "yes" to either of the above, then a Wilderness Minimum Requirements Analysis must be completed and attached.

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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)	\boxtimes			Merced River
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?				
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 "yes" to questions 2, 5b, or 5c, then a WSRA S	ection	7 dete	rmina	tion 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. Develop and submit a Job Hazard Analysis to the park Safety Office (379-1079) for review and approval before initiating project work. (Safety Office)
- 2. Ensure dataloggers are installed using grey PVC pipe to minimize the visual impacts. (Resource Management and Science)
- 3. Ensure all gaging apparatus is removed upon road completion. (Resource 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.

Compliance Specialist 12/4/06

Date

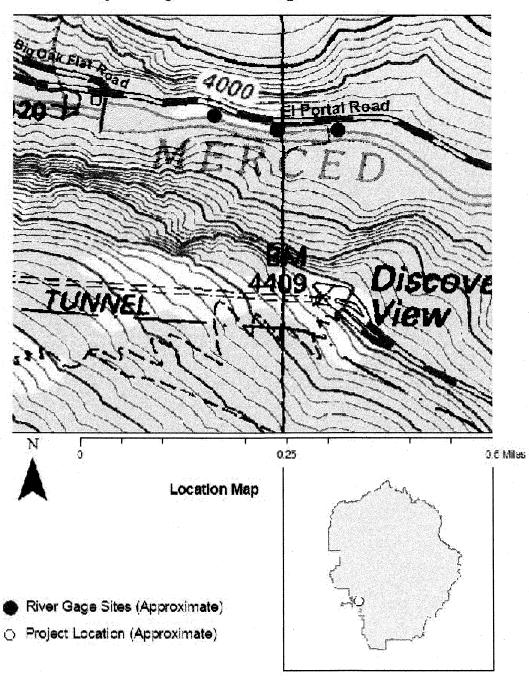
Morne A Brose 12/6/06

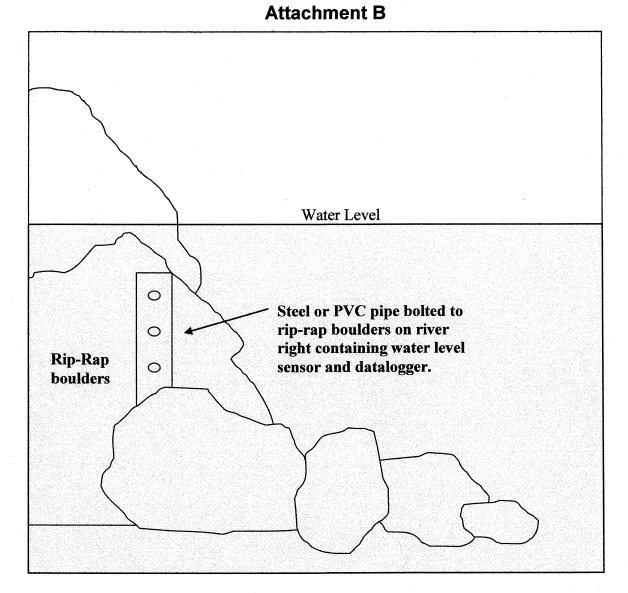
Compliance Program Manager Date

Chief Project Management Date

Attachment A

El Portal Road Narrows Temporary River Gage Installation





Instrumentation Diagram. Water level data logger would be installed inside of a steel or PVC pipe which in turn would be bolted to existing artificial rip-rap along the narrows section of Segment D.

Preservation Assessment Form (YOSE XXX)

(Version: AUG06)

Compliance Tracking Number: 2007-012

PEPC Project Number: 17162

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

Title: El Portal Road Narrows Temporary River Gages

Project Location and Area of Potential Effect:

Yosemite Valley, Mariposa County, California

El Portal Road from Pohono Bridge to Big Oak Flat Intersection

Project Manager: Jim Roche, Resources Management and Science, Yosemite National Park **Project Description:** This research effort would support the El Portal Road Reconstruction-
Pohono Bridge to Big Oak Flat intersection. Research project involves placing three stream

gages at points along the El Portal Road in the area commonly referred to as the "the Narrows".

The dataloggers would be installed inside a 1 foot long piece of 2 inch PVC pipe which would be
bolted to existing riprap near the level of the river. We can do our best to hide them as we don't

want them receiving the full brunt of the flow velocity. There would be no staff plates. We

would need to put in a few rock bolts higher on the riprap (just below the road) from which to

measure river level. The installations would remain in place through the construction phase and
then be removed.

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

^{**} 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).	\boxtimes			Merced River Corridor Historic District DOE
	a. Would the proposed action affect a known historic property?	☒			proposed action is within the boundary of the Merced River Historic District
2.	List all Historic Properties in the Area of Potential Effect:	Affec Yes	ted? No		Explanation/Notes
	a. Contributing elements of the Merced River Historic District	\boxtimes		poter	atial visual impacts;
	b				
3.	List resources in the Area of Potential Effect to which American Indians attach cultural and religious significance:	Affec Yes	No		Explanation/Notes
	a. Site of religious and cultural significanceb.c.			proje	ct will not impact traditional values
	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		
	Add nonhistoric features/elements to a historic structure	\boxtimes			gage will attach to rip-rap
	Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (including terrain)		\boxtimes		
	 Add nonhistoric features/elements (including visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape 				gages will introduce non-historic elements
	Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible, or alter associated terrain		\boxtimes		
-	 Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible, or alter associated terrain 				
	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) 		\boxtimes		
	Potentially affect presently unidentified historic resources		\boxtimes		
	• Other	LJ		<u>ii</u>	

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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

Title: Historic Preservation Officer

Date: <u>11/07/06</u>

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: 11/08/200
Ground Disturbance Involved Assessment of Effect: <choose conditions:<="" recommended="" td=""><td>Yes: No: 14 Effect> or write it here >> No 34</td><td>the effect.</td></choose>	Yes: No: 14 Effect> or write it here >> No 34	the effect.
Signature of Archeologist:	of MAA for Lours Kir	n
Cultural Anthropologist Comments:	Name: Sonny Montague	Date:
Assessment of Effect: <choose anthropological="" conditions="" conditions:="" conditions<="" cultural="" of="" recommended="" signature="" td=""><td></td><td></td></choose>		
Curator Comments:	Name: Jonathan Bayless	Date:
Assessment of Effect: <choose< b=""> Recommended Conditions:</choose<>	Effect> or write it here >>	
Signature of Curator:		

Historian Comments:	Name: Charles Palmer	Date: 11-08-06
Assessment of Effect: < Choose Ef	fect> or write it here >> No Adverse Effect	
Recommended Conditions:		
Signature of Historian:	1-QL	
Historic Architect Comments:	Name: Sueann Brown	Date: 11/17/06
Assessment of Effect: < Choose Ef	fect> or write it here >> No DUERSE EFF	ECT
Recommended Conditions: SEE		
Signature of Historic Architect:	1-3-	
Historic Landscape Architect Comments:	Name: Steven Torgerson Schalle	Date: 11-8-06
Assessment of Effect: < Choose Effect: <	fect> or write it here >> no adverse ef move all gaysing apparate road construction.	test.
Signature of Historic Landscape A		- The

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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.

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.

	viewed gnatur	e: Luf Management & Science Division Date: 11-27-06
2.	Com	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:
		<choose of="" type="" undertaking=""></choose>
		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=""></enter>
		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.

3. Assessment of Effects: No Adverse Effect

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. Use grey PVC if possible
- b. Remove gauging apparatus upon completion of road construction.

Recommended by Park Section 106 Coordinator:

Name:

Jeannette Simons

Title:

Historic Preservation Officer

Signature:

Date: 11-28-06

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:

Michael J. Tollefson

Date / 2/12/04

El Portal Road Narrows Temporary River Gage Installation

