



# 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:** Garrett Chun, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

**From:** Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

**Subject:** NEPA and NHPA Clearance: Chinquapin Water System Expansion (67690)

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 to historic properties.
- 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:

- Include standard Division 1 specs for equipment inspection, weed-free aggregate, trenching, and tree/root protection.
- Vegetation staff will identify invasive plant species, sensitive plant species (*Ceanothus fresnensis*), and high-value vegetation in areas to be disturbed.
- Adjust access routes and trench alignment to avoid plants, if possible, or relocate plants, if warranted.
- Contractor will salvage, store, and replace duff and topsoil on access routes.
- Manage wastewater and sediments from well drilling to prevent sediment entering waterways or hillslopes from being eroded.
- Contractor will salvage, store, and replace duff and topsoil on access routes.
- Consult with vegetation staff before removing or pruning trees or other vegetation
- North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California requested tribal monitoring take place during ground disturbing activities.
- Prior to ground disturbing actions, a YOSE archeologist will flag cultural resources that are nearby construction activities. In addition, work crews will be briefed about the nature of cultural resources

within the project area. Spot archeological monitoring is recommended during work. Should unanticipated artifacts be uncovered during the project work when an archeologist is not present, the Yosemite Archeology Division will respond to the discoveries.

**Recommendations for Conditions or Stipulations:** None

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 67690.

//Michael T. Reynolds//  
Michael T. Reynolds, 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:** 2017-026 Chinquapin Water System Expansion

**PEPC Project Number:** 67690

**Project Description:**

The existing Chinquapin water system currently uses one well as a water source to provide water service to the Chinquapin Restroom, the Chinquapin Residence, and the Nature Bridge Campus and Henness Ridge. The existing well has seen a substantial decrease in productivity; the initial capacity test in 2006 indicated the well-produced water at a rate of 27-29 gallons per minute while the most recent capacity test performed in July of 2017 indicated that the well production has decreased to about 4.5 gallons per minute. This current rate is insufficient for the system's water demand needs. This project will seek to find another well water source in the general vicinity of the water system and will make improvements to connect to the existing system.

This scope of this project includes drilling two 8.25" diameter hard rock wells 1,300 deep at each of two well locations. An air-lift flow test followed by a 10-day capacity test will be performed for each well. If it becomes apparent that the first well has enough flow capacity to meet system demands the subsequent well drillings will be canceled. Access to each location shall be made possible by the contractor via tree falling, brushing, and grading.

The determination of the well location will be based upon the well capacity results. Improvements to the selected location will include new well casing, well seal, well level transducer, well pad, well cover, water piping, secondary power lines, 4-20mA signal wiring, and an 8'x10' treatment building. The treatment building will house a chart recorder (charting date, flow, and well depth), flow meter, a sodium hypochlorite crock, backup chemical containment, chemical feed pump, and a programmable logical controller with human interface display. A gravel access road to the treatment building and well shall be designed to allow passage and turnaround of a 4x4 vehicle.

This compliance covers all four well locations with the intent to implement improvements on only one well location of which its selection will be based upon the flow capacity results from the drilled wells.

**Project Locations:**

Mariposa County, CA

**Mitigations:**

- Include standard Division 1 specs for equipment inspection, weed-free aggregate, trenching, and tree/root protection.
- Vegetation staff will identify invasive plant species, sensitive plant species (*Ceanothus fresnensis*), and high-value vegetation in areas to be disturbed.
- Adjust access routes and trench alignment to avoid plants, if possible, or relocate plants, if warranted.
- Contractor will salvage, store, and replace duff and topsoil on access routes. Manage wastewater and sediments from well drilling to prevent sediment entering waterways or hillslopes from being eroded.

- Contractor will salvage, store, and replace duff and topsoil on access routes.
- Consult with vegetation staff before removing or pruning trees or other vegetation
- North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California requested tribal monitoring take place during ground disturbing activities.
- Prior to ground disturbing actions, a YOSE archeologist will flag cultural resources that are nearby construction activities. In addition, work crews will be briefed about the nature of cultural resources within the project area. Spot archeological monitoring is recommended during work. Should unanticipated artifacts be uncovered during the project work when an archeologist is not present, the Yosemite Archeology Division will respond to the discoveries.

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

**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:** //Michael T. Reynolds// **Date:** 3/30/18  
Michael T. Reynolds

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Yosemite National Park.*

**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 130007)?	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:** 2017-026 Chinquapin Water System Expansion  
**PEPC Project Number:** 67690  
**PMIS Number:** 244062  
**Project Type:** Capital Improvement/New Construction (CI)  
**Project Location:**  
**County, State:** Mariposa, California  
**Project Leader:** Garrett Chun

### B. RESOURCE IMPACTS TO CONSIDER:

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
<b>Air</b> Air Quality	Potential	Installing the wells could produce temporary dust and air emissions.
<b>Biological</b> Nonnative or Exotic Species	Potential	Equipment will be cleaned and inspected prior to entry into the park. Imported fill will come from an approved, weed-free source.
<b>Biological</b> Species of Special Concern or Their Habitat	Potential	The rare <i>Ceanothus fresnensis</i> (Fresno mat) is present in the project sites.
<b>Biological</b> Vegetation	Potential	Vegetation staff will identify invasive plant species, sensitive plant species, and high-value vegetation in areas to be disturbed. Access routes and/or trench alignments will be adjusted to avoid plants, if possible, or relocate plants, if warranted. Consult with vegetation staff before removing or pruning trees or other vegetation.
<b>Biological</b> Wildlife and/or Wildlife Habitat including terrestrial and aquatic species	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Archeological Resources		
<b>Cultural</b>		

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Potential for Impact</b>	<b>Potential Issues &amp; Impacts</b>
Cultural Landscapes		
<b>Cultural</b> Ethnographic Resources	Potential	Tribal consultation occurred in December 2018. North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California requested tribal monitoring take place during ground disturbing activities.
<b>Cultural</b> Museum Collections		
<b>Cultural</b> Prehistoric/historic structures		
<b>Geological</b> Geologic Features	Potential	Contractor will salvage, store, and replace duff and topsoil on access routes.
<b>Geological</b> Geologic Processes	None	
<b>Lightscares</b> Lightscares	None	
<b>Other</b> Human Health and Safety	None	
<b>Other</b> Operational	None	
<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>Soundscapes</b> Soundscapes	Potential	Well installation includes temporary equipment noises throughout the project.
<b>Viewsheds</b> Viewsheds	None	
<b>Visitor Use and Experience</b> Recreation Resources	None	
<b>Visitor Use and Experience</b> Visitor Use and	None	

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Potential for Impact</b>	<b>Potential Issues &amp; Impacts</b>
Experience		
<b>Water</b> Floodplains	None	
<b>Water</b> Marine or Estuarine Resources	None	
<b>Water</b> Water Quality or Quantity	Potential	Manage wastewater and sediments from well drilling to prevent sediment entering waterways or hillslopes from being eroded.
<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:** 2017-026 Chinquapin Water System Expansion

**Prepared by:** Renea Kennec **Date Prepared:** 03/16/2018 **Telephone:** 209-379-1038

**PEPC Project Number:** 67690

**Locations: County, State:** Mariposa, CA

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

The APE is limited to the immediate vicinity of the proposed work and would not be visible from either the Chinquapin area or from the nearby Wawona or Henness Ridge roads. The APE includes the Nature Bridge campus as well as the proposed well location(s), a new well access road, Branchline #1 (CA-MRP-1485H), the Old Wawona Road (P-22-000296), the new water treatment building, and the existing water storage tanks. Although the new well will provide water to the Chinquapin area, existing water pipes would be used to convey that water and no excavation would be required other than required to connect to the existing water lines at the Henness Ridge campus.

The subsurface vertical APE for the well sites measure 8.25" in diameter and up to 1,300' deep. If a secondary well site is chosen because the water is not found at the preferred site, the electrical utility trenching will be 24" deep and with a maximum length of 2,200' within Branchline #1. The water line for the secondary option will be 36" deep with a maximum length of 1,450' along the Old Wawona Road. The native vegetation in the area will screen the majority of work being completed under this project so visual effects will be minimal.

### 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:** Archeological Site

**Archeological Resources Notes:** There are three archeological sites in the area. Prior to ground disturbing actions, a YOSE archeologist will flag cultural resources that are nearby construction activities. In addition, work crews will be briefed about the nature of cultural resources within the project area. Spot archeological monitoring is recommended during work. Should unanticipated artifacts be uncovered during the project work when an archeologist is not present, the Yosemite Archeology Division will respond to the discoveries.

**Ethnographic Resources Affected Notes:** December 2017 Tribal Spreadsheet, North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California requested monitoring.

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

- ☐ No Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure
- ☐ No Replace historic features/elements in kind
- ☐ No Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure
- ☐ Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)
- ☐ No Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or 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
- ☐ No Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or 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:

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☒ [ X ] 106 Advisor

**Name:** Kimball Koch

**Date:** 03/06/2018

**Comments:** Per the cultural resources program manager; no review by historical architect required because no historic buildings or structures are affected.

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* [ ☐ ]

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

**Adverse Effect** ☐ Adverse Effect ☐ Streamlined Review

**Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:**

**Doc Method:** Standard 4-Step Process

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☒ [ X ] Anthropologist

**Name:** Scott Carpenter

**Date:** 02/20/2018

**Comments:** No known resources of traditional and religious significance. Tribal review done by monthly tribal spreadsheet.

*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:

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[ X ] Archeologist

Name: Sara Dolan

Date: 02/21/2018

Comments: The project area is adjacent/nearby three archeological sites. In October 2017, YOSE archeologists surveyed the project area.

*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: Prior to ground disturbing actions, a YOSE archeologist will flag cultural resources that are nearby construction activities. In addition, work crews will be briefed about the nature of cultural resources within the project area. Spot archeological monitoring is recommended during work. Should unanticipated artifacts be uncovered during the project work when an archeologist is not present, the Yosemite Archeology Division will respond to the discoveries.

Doc Method: Standard 4-Step Process

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[ X ] Historian

Name: Scott Carpenter

Date: 02/20/2018

Comments: No review by historical architect required because no historic buildings or structures are affected.

*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:

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[ X ] Historical Landscape Architect

Name: Kimball Koch

Date: 03/06/2018

Comments: There are no identified historic landscapes within the project area

*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: Standard 4-Step Process

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No Reviews From: Curator, Historical Architect, Other Advisor

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

Assessment of Effect Form – 2017-026 Chinquapin Water System Expansion - PEPC ID: 67690

**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

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:

**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 - North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California requested tribal monitoring take place during ground disturbing activities.**

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

Kimball Koch //Kimball Koch//      **Date:** 3/16/18

**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:** //Micahel T. Reynolds//      **Date:** 3/30/18

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Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in  
Yosemite National Park.*