



IN REPLY REFER TO:  
L7615(YOSE-PM)

## United States Department of the Interior NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

**To:** Josh Keyes, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

**From:** Mike Reynolds

**Subject:** NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2018-009 Half Dome Village Pathway Lighting Installation (YH 2018)  
(PEPC: 79086)

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.

- Do not remove, injure, or destroy trees or other plants without prior approval. Consult with Contracting Officer prior to removing agreed-on roots and branches that interfere with construction.
- Safety - During the construction phase, please secure safety area with orange construction fencing, or similar.

There are no NHPA Recommendations for Conditions or Stipulations identified.

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

Superintendent: // Michael T. Reynolds// Date: 10/19/18  
Michael T. Reynolds



## Categorical Exclusion Form

**Project:** 2018-009 Half Dome Village Pathway Lighting Installation (YH 2018)

**PEPC Project Number:** 79086

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

During the recent work to rehabilitate the Stoneman 819 Cabin, all of the overhead power and overhead pathway lighting in the cabins-with-bath area was removed. No pathway lighting was reinstalled at that time creating a safety hazard for the guests traveling to and from their cabins at night. In order to mitigate the safety hazard, and provide a clear path of travel for park guests, Yosemite Hospitality would like to install pathway lighting around the cabins area.

The project undertaking includes the installation of thirteen (13) post-mounted pathway lights in the area of the historic bungalows in Half Dome Village. Pathway lighting is needed to provide a safe path of travel for guests accessing their cabins at night. The proposed lighting would be rustic in nature, complementing the historic character of the village. The number of lights has been minimized to the appropriate level that provides safe visibility at night. The subtle wedge design of the post lights is compatible with the historic character of the Camp Curry Developed Area of the Yosemite Valley Historic District and is consistent with post lights installed elsewhere in Half Dome Village. The lights would be mounted on three-foot tall six-by-six wooden (pine) posts anchored with metal brackets to a concrete base block.

The undertaking includes approximately 380 linear feet of trenching that will be 4-inches wide and 18-inches in depth (hand dug). The proposed trenching is located among historic bungalow cabins 1-16. The area receives heavy traffic from pedestrians and maintenance activities and is denude of vegetation with the exception of the mature pine trees. The proposed trenching is in bare dirt and no vegetation would need to be removed.

Battery-operated lights were considered but the contractor recommended that battery-operated lights are not appropriate for this location because they require a solar back-up which would not work in the forested area at the foot of Glacier Point. This area receives little direct sunlight throughout the year, particularly in winter.

**Project Locations:**

Mariposa County, CA

**Mitigation(s):**

- Do not remove, injure, or destroy trees or other plants without prior approval. Consult with Contracting Officer prior to removing agreed-on roots and branches that interfere with construction.
- Safety - During the construction phase, please secure safety area with orange construction fencing, or similar.

**CE Citation:** C.6 Installation of navigation aids.

**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.**

**Signature**

**Superintendent:**                     //Michael T. Reynolds//                     **Date:** 10/29/18  
Michael T. Reynolds

**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:** 2018-009 Half Dome Village Pathway Lighting Installation (YH 2018)

**PEPC Project Number:** 79086

**Project Type:** Other Maintenance Activities (MNT)

**Project Location:**

**County, State:** Mariposa, California

**Project Leader:** Josh Keyes

### 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>Resource</b>	<b>Potential for Impact</b>	<b>Potential Issues &amp; Impacts</b>
<b>Cultural</b> Cultural Landscapes <i>Camp Curry Historic District</i>	Potential	Issue: Introduction of non-historic lights to a historic district.  Impact: Selected lights are the minimum required to safely light the path and are consistent with the park's lighting guidelines. The design has been reviewed by the park's CRM team to ensure that they are consistent with the park's Sense of Place Design Guidelines. The selected light shades are compatible with the historic district.
<b>Cultural</b> Ethnographic Resources	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Museum Collections	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Prehistoric/historic structures	None	
<b>Geological</b> Geologic Features	None	
<b>Geological</b> Geologic Processes	None	
<b>Lightscares</b> Lightscares <i>Dark night skies</i>	Potential	Issue: Introduction of pathway lights could affect the park's dark night skies initiative.  Impact: Selection of the wedge light shade design focuses the light to the ground to minimize the effects of light pollution.
<b>Other</b> Human Health and Safety	Potential	Issue: Lack of pathway lighting is a safety risk.  Impact: The number of lights has been minimizes to the extent possible while still providing necessary light to meet visitor safety needs.
<b>Other</b> Operational	None	
<b>Other</b> Other	None	
<b>Socioeconomic</b> Land Use	None	
<b>Socioeconomic</b> Minority and low-income populations, size, migration patterns, etc.	None	

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Potential for Impact</b>	<b>Potential Issues &amp; Impacts</b>
<b>Socioeconomic</b> Socioeconomic	None	
<b>Soundscapes</b> Soundscapes	None	
<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	(Beneficial impact to visitor safety is addressed above.)
<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:** 2018-009 Half Dome Village Pathway Lighting Installation (YH 2018)

**Prepared by:** Erin Davenport **Date Prepared:** 03/14/2018 **Telephone:** 209-379-1067

**PEPC Project Number:** 79086

**County, State:** Mariposa, CA

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

Camp Curry Historic District; Yosemite Valley Historic District; Yosemite Valley Archeological District

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

       No  
  X   Yes

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

**Archeological Resources Affected:**

**Property Name:** Yosemite Valley Archeological District

**NR Status:** 1 – Listed in Register and documented

**Historical Structures/Resources Affected:** Yes

**Property Name:** Camp Curry Historic District

**NR Status:** 1 – Listed in Register and documented

**Property Name:** Yosemite Valley Historic District

**NR Status:** 1 – Listed in Register and documented

**Cultural Landscapes Affected:** Yes

**Property Name:** Camp Curry Historic District

**NR Status:** 1 – Listed in Register and documented

**Ethnographic Resources Affected:** No

**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  
  No   Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)

Yes 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.)

### A. 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: 10/02/2018

*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: 08/27/2018

Comments: No known historic properties of religious and traditional significance within or near project area.

Tribal consultation conducted via August 2018 Tribal Spreadsheet. No comments have been received as of date of this PEPC entry.

*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 ] Archeologist

Name: Rachel Reckin

Date: 08/27/2018

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

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

Assessment of Effect Form - Half Dome Village Pathway Lighting Installation (YH 2018) - PEPC ID: 79086

Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect ☐ Streamlined Review ☐  
Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:  
Doc Method: Standard 4-Step Process

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[ X ] Historian  
Name: Scott Carpenter  
Date: 08/27/2018

*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: 08/09/2018

*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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## B. 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.

### 3. Consultation Information

**SHPO Required:** Yes  
**SHPO Sent:** May 11, 2018  
**SHPO Received:** Oct 1, 2018

**THPO Required:** Yes  
**THPO Sent:** May 7, 2018  
**THPO Received:**

**SHPO/THPO Notes:** Included on the May tribal spreadsheet. SHPO concurred with NPS finding of no adverse effects.

**Advisory Council Participating:** No  
**Advisory Council Notes:**  
**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.

**6. Assessment of Effect Notes:**

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

**Kimball Koch**    //Kimball Koch//

**Date:** 10/19/18

**D. 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:**    //Michael T. Reynolds//

Michael T. Reynolds

10/29/18

**Date:**