



A PDF text file of the project's approved environmental compliance package containing the letter of compliance completion, categorical exclusion form, environmental screening form, and any other associated environmental clearance forms, as applicable (e.g., Wilderness Minimum Requirement Analysis, Wild and Scenic River Section 7 Analysis). The signed originals of the package are on file in the Environmental Planning and Compliance Office at Yosemite National Park.

Letter of Compliance Completion

To: Rick Hall, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Cicely Muldoon, Acting Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2020-053 Replace 5.1 Miles of the Park's Primary Electrical Transmission Line (PEPC: 84699)

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.

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

- *Project Scope:*
 - Only project activities described in PEPC 84699 and explicitly approved by the NPS are authorized. Any additional actions or modifications to the project must be approved by the NPS and may require separate compliance and/or consultations under the National Historic Preservation Act.
 - Project activities and disturbance shall be confined to the following:
 - 9 towers would undergo structural modifications/repairs (no ground disturbance)
 - 4 poles would be replaced with new towers in the same locations, and 8 towers will be replaced with new towers located adjacent to the existing towers (within 50-feet of each existing tower). The overall alignment of the overhead transmission line will remain largely unchanged; towers will be placed along the existing alignment at a location facilitating construction.
 - Each new tower would require the installation of 4 micropiles (each 6-inch diameter) and 2 grounding rods (5/8-inch grounding rods set 6 feet apart,

extending 8 feet in deep). Micropiles will be drilled using helicopter assistance for the placement of a temporary drilling platform (approximately 12 by 15 feet in size) on top of the ground. Each micropile will be set into bedrock (the exact depth of penetration will be determined in the field, but engineers anticipate that bedrock is shallow at the proposed project sites).

- Existing poles and towers would be removed using helicopter assistance, as poles are not accessible by road. Removal of the existing poles would require minimal digging (soil disturbance would be limited to the area disturbed during their initial installation).
 - Insulator counter weights would be installed at 16 towers to mitigate conductor clearance to the towers (no ground disturbance).
 - Bird spikes would be installed at all structures (no ground disturbance) The existing conductor line will be replaced (no ground disturbance).
- *Cultural Resources Protections:*
 - All project staff will be trained by NPS Cultural Resources staff prior to project implementation on how to recognize, protect, and report any unanticipated discoveries. The contractor will also be instructed on how to promptly report and protect any unanticipated findings.
 - If previously unknown archeological resources are discovered during construction, all work in the immediate vicinity (600 feet) of the discovery shall be halted until the resources are identified and documented and an appropriate mitigation strategy developed, if necessary, in accordance with pertinent laws and regulations, including the stipulations of the 2008 Programmatic Agreement Among the National Park Service (U.S. Department of the Interior), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers.
 - *Vegetation Protections:*
 - Rare plants will be surveyed well ahead of project implementation by park botanists and marked for avoidance (3-foot buffer). Invasive plants will be surveyed and marked by park botanists.
 - The contractor must contact the park liaison to schedule with the Vegetation and Ecological Restoration Branch Chief to arrange for earthmoving and excavation equipment inspection before entering the park. The contractor must ensure that all earth moving or excavation equipment is thoroughly cleaned before arriving in the park to minimize the introduction of non-native plants. Equipment exhibiting any dirt, mud seeds or other potential contaminant attached to frame, tires, wheels, or other parts will be thoroughly cleaned by the contractor and inspected by park staff before entering the park. Areas inspected will include, but not be limited to, tracks, track guard/housings, belly pans/under covers, buckets, rippers, and attachments. Equipment that does not pass inspection will be turned around to the nearest cleaning facility outside the park. Re-clean equipment before returning to the project or staging area if it is removed from the general vicinity of the project or staging area.
 - The contractor will use measures to prevent and control spills of fuels, lubricants, or other contaminants. Before equipment enters the park, contractor staff will tighten hydraulic fittings, ensure hydraulic hoses are in good condition (and replace if damaged), and repair petroleum leaks.
 - *Special Status Wildlife Protections:*
 - The raptor nesting season is March to July. Ensure project activities involving helicopter activities are completed by March 1 or begin after July 31. Project activities involving helicopter operation are not authorized from March 1st to July 31st. If helicopter work must occur within this avoidance window, contact the park Terrestrial Ecologist (209-379-1435) for approval and coordination of protections, surveys, and/or monitoring (as deemed appropriate at the discretion of the Terrestrial Ecologist) at least 6 weeks ahead of the projected start date.
 - Staff shall obey posted speed limits while traveling in the park.

- *Notification:*
 - Notify park law enforcement staff (209-372-0357) at least 2 weeks prior to planned traffic control so that impacts to park operations are minimized.
 - Notify park utilities staff (Utilities Branch, National Park Service - Yosemite National Park, PO Box 700, El Portal, CA. 95318) and Special Park Uses Office (Office of Special Park Uses, National Park Service - Yosemite National Park, PO Box 700, El Portal, CA. 95318) in writing at least 1 week prior to planned power outages associated with this work.
 - Contact the Park Aviation Manager (Jeff_Pirog@nps.gov) at least 15 business days ahead of planned helicopter operations to submit a safety and flight plan (including flight path and proposed landing zones and helicopter staging areas to coordinate helicopter operations) and coordinate operations.
 - Health and Safety Plan (HASP) and Accident Prevention Plan (APP) are required (email to Myron_Grissom@nps.gov).
- General Resource Protections
 - Education: The project manager shall ensure that project personnel (managers, supervisors, and staff) attend a resources protection briefing prior to working on site to become familiar with statutory and contractual environmental requirements and protection measures for archeological sites, sensitive habitats, water resources, and wildlife. Required topics include proper storage and disposal of food and trash, safe behavior around wildlife, protection of cultural resources, and avoidance of introduction of exotic plants. Contractors will watch the "Working in Yosemite" video prior to starting work (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CuRn-tZ8SL4&feature=youtu.be>).
 - Staging: All equipment/materials storage and staging areas must be included in defined project area to avoid/minimize potential adverse effect to natural and cultural resources. Staging areas must be maintained within their defined/approved boundaries. Staging areas must be localized to job sites to prevent spread of non-native, invasive species from one area of the park to another. Pollution prevention measures and erosion control measures must be in effect and natural features protected from scarring or damage while staging areas are in use.
 - Food and trash storage: Proper storage and disposal of food and garbage keeps wildlife wild. All staff will be trained in proper storage and disposal of food/trash by wildlife management staff upon arrival at Yosemite. The project manager is responsible for coordinating training with wildlife management.
 - All food, toiletries, drinks, scented items, and food containers must be placed in on-site food lockers provided by the project manager or Contractor. Food lockers must remain closed and latched, unless items are within arms-reach of an awake person.
 - Between sunset and sunrise, no food or food containers may be stored in vehicles. During daylight, food and food containers may be left in the car but must be hidden from view with vehicle windows completely closed. Food and food containers must not be left in the bed of a truck or in a vehicle with windows open at any time unless an awake person is within arm's reach.
 - All windows and doors in vehicles/trailers must be closed and latched when not occupied. All food waste (includes food-tainted garbage & recycling) must be disposed of in bear-proof dumpsters (not open-top or roll-off dumpster). The project manager or Contractor shall provide lockable, bear-proof dumpsters with metal lids approved by the Yosemite Bear Council.
 - The project manager or Contractor must designate an employee to monitor the work site daily for food and food containers. All waste must be disposed of in the bear-proof receptacles. The monitor must walk the job site at the end of each day and check for garbage, food, and food-related items remaining at the site and dispose of the items in a bear-proof receptacles.

- Proper food storage is required by law. Project staff must call the Save-a-Bear hotline (209) 372-0322 to report overflowing trash containers, improperly stored food, or bear sightings.

Superintendent: Cicely Muldoon
Cicely Muldoon, Acting Superintendent

Date: 01/20/2020

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



Categorical Exclusion Documentation Form (CE Form)

Project: Replace 5.1 Miles of the Park's Primary Electrical Transmission Line

PEPC Project Number: 84699

Description of Action (Project Description):

This project will repair/replace 5.1 miles of 70 kV transmission line and associated infrastructure along the utility line corridor in the Merced River Canyon, between El Portal and the Cascades substation. The transmission line serves Yosemite Valley and Glacier Point.

This project involves the Exchequer electrical transmission line located within the Merced River Canyon that extends from the park boundary in El Portal to the Cascades Substation located adjacent to the El Portal Road. This line was constructed between 1929 and 1934 and includes multiple steel towers and associated foundation pads. The line has been modified multiple times in the modern era for repairs after fires and rockfall events. Current repairs are needed because the current overhead electrical system does not meet current code requirements and contains components that are past their service life. The replacement will decrease the likelihood of future emergency repair efforts and will provide for a reliable energy utility for Yosemite Valley.

The proposed repair/replacement efforts will include the following activities:

- 9 towers would undergo structural modifications/repairs (no ground disturbance)
- 4 poles would be replaced with new towers in the same locations, and 8 towers will be replaced with new towers located adjacent to the existing towers (within 50-feet of each existing tower). The overall alignment of the overhead transmission line will remain largely unchanged; towers will be placed along the existing alignment at a location facilitating construction.
 - Each new tower would require the installation of 4 micropiles (each 6-inch diameter) and 2 grounding rods (5/8-inch grounding rods set 6 feet apart, extending 8 feet in deep). Micropiles will be drilled using helicopter assistance for the placement of a temporary drilling platform (approximately 12 by 15 feet in size) on top of the ground. Each micropile will be set into bedrock (the exact depth of penetration will be determined in the field, but engineers anticipate that bedrock is shallow at the proposed project sites).
 - Existing poles and towers would be removed using helicopter assistance, as poles are not accessible by road. Removal of the existing poles would require minimal digging (soil disturbance would be limited to the area disturbed during their initial installation).
- Insulator counter weights would be installed at 16 towers to mitigate conductor clearance to the towers (no ground disturbance)
- Bird spikes would be installed at all structures (no ground disturbance)
- The existing conductor line will be replaced (no ground disturbance)

All repairs and improvements shall be completed in accordance with the California Public Utilities Commission General Order 95, Rules for Overhead Electric Line Construction (https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/gos/GO95/go_95_startup_page.html).

The subsurface vertical soil disturbance will not exceed 15-feet in depth and is associated with installing the new towers. Penetration for the micropile installation is not expected to exceed 15-feet as engineers anticipate that bedrock is located at 3-4 feet in this area.

Equipment and materials staging for this work is anticipated to occur in multiple locations. The large existing staging area along the east bank of the Merced River between the Rancheria Flat housing complex and the El Portal Waste Water Treatment Plant may be used as will an empty lot associated with the privately owned lodge immediately west of the park. Improvements to the staging areas are not anticipated. Helicopter landing areas have not been fully identified; all landing areas will be on existing paved areas. Potential landing areas include the Crane Flat Helibase (fully paved) and a private parking area just west of the park entrance on Highway 140 (fully paved). These areas will be used to stage the helicopter and tower components, drill equipment, and conductors.

A previous project (PEPC 86795) proposed the removal of brush along the power lines 6 feet in either direction of the electrical towers for 5.1 miles. This work was planned to occur between September 2019 and February 2020. This project also included the subsequent identification of potential hazard trees that threaten to impact the transmission line if they fall, as many trees in the corridor perished in the 2018 Ferguson Fire and pose an increased risk of toppling onto the line. The tree removal phase would begin in July 2020 and be completed by August 2020, ahead if implemented the proposed project.

Mitigation(s):

- *Project Scope:*
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- If previously unknown archeological resources are discovered during construction, all work in the immediate vicinity (600 feet) of the discovery shall be halted until the resources are identified and documented and an appropriate mitigation strategy developed, if necessary, in accordance with pertinent laws and regulations, including the stipulations of the 2008 Programmatic Agreement Among the National Park Service (U.S. Department of the Interior), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers.
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 - Proper food storage is required by law. Project staff must call the Save-a-Bear hotline (209) 372-0322 to report overflowing trash containers, improperly stored food, or bear sightings.

CE Citation: C.3 Routine maintenance and repairs to non-historic structures, facilities, utilities, grounds and trails.

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: Cicely Muldoon
Cicely Muldoon, Acting Superintendent

Date: 01/20/2020

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

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:	Replace 5.1 Miles of the Park's Primary Electrical Transmission Line
PEPC Project Number:	84699
Project Type:	Repair/Rehabilitation (REHAB)
Project Location:	
County, State:	Mariposa, California
Project Leader:	Rick Hall

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

See Categorical Exclusion Form

C. RESOURCE IMPACTS TO CONSIDER:

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Air Air Quality	None	
Biological Nonnative or Exotic Species <i>Earth moving equipment;</i> <i>non-native plants</i>	Potential	Issue: Earth moving and excavation equipment has the potential to introduce non-native plants to the park. Impact: Follow resource protection measures to prevent invasive plant introductions.
Biological Species of Special Concern or Their Habitat <i>Special status raptors; Rare plants</i>	Potential	Issue: Special status raptors have the potential to be disturbed by helicopter flights. Project has the potential to impact rare plants. Impact: Follow resource protection measures to avoid impacts to wildlife and rare plants.
Biological Vegetation	None	
Biological Wildlife and/or Wildlife Habitat including terrestrial and aquatic species	Potential	Issue: Wildlife may become food conditioned if project staff do not store food and trash appropriately. Impact: Store food and trash in accordance with park regulations; follow resource protection measures.

<i>Wildlife behavior; food conditioning</i>		
Cultural Archeological Resources <i>Archeological resources</i>		Issue: Presently unknown archeological resources may be discovered through the course of project implementation. Impact: Follow resource protection measures regarding inadvertent discoveries.
Cultural Cultural Landscapes	None	
Cultural Ethnographic Resources	None	
Cultural Museum Collections	None	
Cultural Prehistoric/historic structures	None	
Geological Geologic Features	None	
Geological Geologic Processes	None	
Lightscares Lightscares	None	
Other Human Health and Safety <i>Hazardous working conditions</i>	Potential	Issue: Project involves work on steep slopes and heavy equipment/helicopter use. Impact: Follow human health and safety guidelines outlined.
Other Operational <i>Helicopter use; traffic control; planned power outages.</i>	Potential	Issue: Helicopters will be used in project construction. Traffic control may be needed to facilitate certain project actions. Planned power outages will be required for certain parts of project implementation. Impact: Follow communication and coordination guidelines outlined for helicopter use, traffic control, and construction related planned power outages. Project will have a positive long-term impact on park operations from improvements to the electrical transmission system that will improve system reliability and decrease the likelihood of unplanned power outages.
Other Other	None	
Socioeconomic Land Use	None	
Socioeconomic Minority and low-income populations, size, migration patterns, etc.	None	

Socioeconomic Socioeconomic	None	
Soundscapes Soundscapes <i>Helicopter noise</i>	Potential	Issue: Helicopter operations generate noise. Impact: Temporary, short term impacts from helicopter noise will result from this project.
Viewsheds Viewsheds	None	
Visitor Use and Experience Recreation Resources <i>Traffic control</i>	Potential	Issue: Project may require short term traffic control along El Portal Road, resulting in minor travel delays. Impact: Project may result in short-term, temporary travel delays due to traffic control during certain portions of construction.
Visitor Use and Experience Visitor Use and Experience <i>Visitor experience</i>	Potential	Issue: The existing electrical system is at the end of its service life and will increasingly require emergency repairs and/or result in unplanned power outages. Impact: Project will have a positive long-term impact on park operations from improvements to the electrical transmission system that will improve system reliability and decrease the likelihood of unplanned power outages.
Water Floodplains	None	
Water Marine or Estuarine Resources	None	
Water Water Quality or Quantity	None	
Water Wetlands	None	
Water Wild and Scenic River	None	
Wilderness 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: Replace 5.1 Miles of the Park's Primary Electrical Transmission Line

Prepared by: Ninette Daniele **Date Prepared:** 12/23/2019 **Telephone:**

PEPC Project Number: 84699

Locations:

County, State: Mariposa, CA

Describe project: See Categorical Exclusion form.

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

The APE includes the transmission line corridor within the park boundary including the El Portal Road from which it can be seen and the proposed staging areas along the road. Work does not extend into the U.S. Forest Service lands which abut the park. The work on the transmission lines would be within an approximate 4-foot buffer of the existing lines. Replacement of the tower line structures would be in the same vicinity as existing towers and could include work to stabilize the towers.

Because the line runs along El Portal Road, the transmission line is visible for those driving along the road, however the canyon is narrow and rugged which limits views. There are no trails within this portion of the canyon; the visual APE is primarily from the road corridors. It is minimally visible from viewing areas/pullouts along the lower portion of New Big Oak Flat Road that extends from Crane Flat to the Valley floor. The transmission line is not visible from the community of Foresta.

The subsurface vertical APE will not exceed 15-feet in depth and is associated with installing the new towers. Penetration for the micropile installation is not expected to exceed 15-feet (engineers anticipate bedrock at 3-4 feet).

Equipment and materials staging: The large existing staging area along the east bank of the Merced River between the Rancheria Flat housing complex and the El Portal Waste Water Treatment Plant may be used as will an empty lot associated with the privately owned lodge immediately west of the park. Improvements to the staging areas are not anticipated. Helicopter landing areas have not been fully identified; all landing areas will be on existing paved areas. Potential landing areas include the Crane Flat Helibase (fully paved) and a private parking area just west of the park entrance on Highway 140 (fully paved). These areas will be used to stage the helicopter and tower components, drill equipment, and conductors.

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

No

X	Yes
	Source or reference:

4. Potentially Affected Resource(s):

Archeological Resources Present: No

Archeological Resources Notes: Due to the steep terrain, the project area has only been partially surveyed for archeological sites. Archeological survey has been completed for approximately 30 percent of the project area using modern techniques with poor to good ground visibility. This includes the staging areas and parts of the transmission line. Locations that were not surveyed are typically very steep, rocky, difficult to access, and too hazardous for survey crews to investigate. No archeological sites have been identified in the project area. The extremely steep slope also suggests that the likelihood of encountering cultural materials is very low.

No archeological resources would be affected along El Portal Road where equipment would be stored on existing paved areas. These areas have been archeologically surveyed with no cultural materials identified. Since project staging is anticipated to only occur in paved locations, it does not present any archeological concerns. Likewise, no archeological resources have been identified at the staging areas in the Crane Flat Helibase, which is fully paved.

No known archeological sites would be disturbed by actions proposed in this project. Replacement of existing towers and construction of new towers would occur within hazardous areas too dangerous for survey crews. It is possible that historical materials, such as hardware, insulators, and possibly other refuse associated with original construction and subsequent maintenance of the utility line would be encountered. The extremely steep slope also suggests that the likelihood of encountering cultural materials is very low. Project staff will receive training on how to recognize, protect, and report any unanticipated discoveries. The contractor will also be instructed on how to promptly report and protect any unanticipated findings. The park's compliance archeologist has assessed the project as having no adverse effects to archeological properties.

Historical Structures/Resources Present: Yes

Property Name: Crane Flat Fire Lookout **LCS:** 226304

Property Name: Yosemite Hydroelectric Power Plant **LCS:**

Property Name: Merced Canyon Travel Corridor **LCS:**

Historical Structures/Resources Notes: Yosemite Hydroelectric Power Plant: The line extends to the hydroelectric station. The building was determined eligible for National Register (NR) listing in 1982. The line repair will not affect the building and will have negligible effects to the setting.

Merced Canyon Travel Corridor: The line lies upslope, and to the north, of the boundary for the corridor but crosses El Portal Road where the line connects with the electrical substation. The SHPO concurred with the eligibility of the road for NR listing in 1997; the line post-dates the period of development. The line is visible from El Portal Road and is part of its setting. Repairs and replacement of the existing lines will be visible from the road but are outside the travel corridor boundaries. The proposed repairs/replacements will not significantly alter views within the corridor.

New Big Oak Flat Road: The line is located below and outside the boundary of the road. The SHPO concurred with a DOE for the road in 2004. The line is visible from pullouts along the lower portion of the road. Line repairs/replacement will be visible from the road but are outside the boundaries. Many repairs and the addition of new towers will be visible from, but will not adversely affect, viewing areas from the road. The views from the short section of the road where the line is visible from will not change. The lines are an existing part of the setting

and the project will not significantly alter it.

Crane Flat Fire Lookout: The lookout was listed in the NR in 1996 and currently functions as a helibase; helicopters will be staging and landing here on existing paved areas. The project will not physically affect the lookout; use as a project heliport will be temporary.

The line and its associated towers and foundation pads, including the portion within the park, were assessed as being ineligible for NR listing by the Sierra National Forest (SHPO concurred in a 2017 letter).

Cultural Landscapes Present: No

Cultural Landscapes Notes: The project area is located outside the Yosemite Valley historic district (NRIS 04001159).

Ethnographic Resources Present: No

Ethnographic Resources Notes: The park's anthropologist has reviewed the APE for the project and has not identified any ethnographic resources within the APE. This project was included on the June 2019 project spreadsheet distributed to traditionally associated American Indian tribes and groups, with a request for their assistance in identifying historic properties with religious and cultural significance. No properties were identified by the tribes.

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.)

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: 12/05/2019

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

[X] Anthropologist

Name: Scott Carpenter

Date: 12/05/2019

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

[X] Archeologist

Name: Wesley Wills

Date: 10/28/2019

Comments: The project will not occur within or adjacent to any documented archeological sites. However, the project area has only been partially surveyed. Locations that have not been surveyed are too steep and dangerous for field crews to visit. The steepness of the terrain makes the likelihood of encountering prehistoric cultural materials very low.

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: Since portions of the project area are too dangerous for archeological survey, prior to the start of work construction crews will be given an educational talk that will identify common archeological materials, measures for protecting these resources, and procedures for prompt reporting of any inadvertent discoveries.

Doc Method: Standard 4-Step Process

[X] Historian

Name: Scott Carpenter

Date: 12/05/2019

Comments: Transmission line determine not-eligible for NRHP with SHPO Concurrence

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: Since no historic buildings or other structures within APE, not need for Historical Architect Review.

Doc Method: Standard 4-Step Process

[X] **Historical Landscape Architect**

Name: Kimball Koch

Date: 12/05/2019

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

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
X	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.

[] **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. Undertaking Related to Park Specific or Another Agreement**

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under another document such as a park, region or statewide agreement established in accord with 36 CFR 800.7 or 36 CFR 800.14.

[] **D. Combined NEPA/NHPA Process**

Process and documentation required for the preparation of an EA/FONSI or an EIS/ROD to comply with Section 106 is in accord with 36 CFR 800.8.c.

[] **E. Memo to Project File**

3. Consultation Information

SHPO Required: Yes

SHPO Sent: Dec 5, 2019

SHPO Received: Jan 8, 2020

THPO Required: Yes

THPO Sent: Jun 8, 2019

THPO Received: No comments/response received

SHPO/THPO Notes:

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.)

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

- All project staff will be trained by NPS Cultural Resources staff prior to project implementation on how to recognize, protect, and report any unanticipated discoveries. The contractor will also be instructed on how to promptly report and protect any unanticipated findings.
- If previously unknown archeological resources are discovered during construction, all work in the immediate vicinity (600 feet) of the discovery shall be halted until the resources are identified and documented and an appropriate mitigation strategy developed, if necessary, in accordance with pertinent laws and regulations, including the stipulations of the 2008 Programmatic Agreement Among the National Park Service (U.S. Department of the Interior), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers.
- Only project activities described in PEPC 84699 and explicitly approved by the NPS are authorized. Any additional actions or modifications to the project must be approved by the NPS and may require separate compliance and/or consultations under the National Historic Preservation Act.

6. Assessment of Effect Notes:

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

Acting NHPA Specialist

Madelyn Ruffner

Date:

01/10/2020

Madelyn Ruffner

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:

Cicely Muldoon

Date:

01/20/2020

Cicely Muldoon, Acting Superintendent

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