



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.

## Categorical Exclusion Form

**Project:** Cascades PG&E Substation Wall Installation

**PEPC Project Number:** 74823

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

The project would provide a special use permit to Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) to improve the transformer oil spill prevention structures at the Cascades Substation along El Portal Road. This project is a Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Barrier that will reduce the potential risk of an oil splash resulting from a transformer malfunction. A masonry wall will replace the current fencing on the northwest, southwest, and southeast sections of the site. Instead of a wall, a drive-over berm will be constructed at the northeast side of the site to catch any runoff/oil spray coming from that direction and direct it into a SPCC pond which currently exists at the site. Due to wall construction and an increase of inflow from storm water runoff, a portion of the pond will be reconstructed to meet all SPCC requirements. Asphalt berms are currently in place to direct oil spray into the SPCC pond. Due to the poor condition of these asphalt berms, they will be replaced with concrete berms.

Project actions consist of the following:

1. Replacement of the existing fence (at the northwest, southwest, and southeast sides of the site) with a masonry wall.
  - a. This will consist of 120 linear feet of masonry wall.
  - b. Walls will stand 15' above the bottom elevation of the transformer.
  - c. Grade beams will be incorporated in line with the masonry wall.
  - d. Outrigger beams perpendicular to the wall will be located at intermediate points of the wall.
  - e. Pier foundations will be located at the end of the outrigger beams.
  - f. Work on the pier and shallow foundations will be performed by hand digging (unless a drill rig can be accommodated).
2. Construction of a drive-over berm and trenching with grating at northeast section of the site.
3. Modification of the existing SPCC pond walls as needed to accommodate the new wall barrier.
4. Replacement of the existing asphalt berms with concrete berms.
5. Patching of the existing SPCC ponds walls as needed.

**Mitigation(s):**

See Letter of Compliance Completion form for list of mitigations.

**CE Citation:** C.19 Construction or rehabilitation in previously disturbed or developed areas, required to meet health or safety regulations, or to meet requirements for making facilities accessible to the handicapped.

**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.

**Signature Superintendent:** /s/ Michael T. Reynolds      **Date:** 6/28/19  
Michael T. Reynolds

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

**Extraordinary Circumstances:**

<b>If implemented, would the proposal...</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>A.</b> Have significant impacts on public health or safety?	No	Improves public health and safety by installing protective structure to prevent oil introduction into the river.
<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

<b>Project Title:</b>	Cascades PG&E Substation Wall Installation
<b>PEPC Project Number:</b>	74823
<b>Project Type:</b>	Other Plan (PLAN)
<b>Project Location:</b>	
<b>County, State:</b>	Mariposa, California
<b>Project Leader:</b>	Joseph Llewellyn

### 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>Invasive Plants</i>	Potential	Issue: Earth-moving equipment may introduce non-native, invasive plants to the park.  Impact: Schedule heavy equipment inspection ahead of entry to park, as specified in mitigations.
Biological <i>Species of Special Concern or Their Habitat</i>	None	
Biological Vegetation <i>Vegetation</i>	None	
Biological Wildlife and/or Wildlife Habitat including terrestrial and aquatic species <i>Wildlife</i>	Potential	Issue: Proper food storage allows wildlife to retain their natural behaviors; inappropriate food storage may contribute to food conditioning of native wildlife.  Impact: Store food properly and educate workers about food storage, as indicated in mitigations.
Cultural Archeological	Potential	Issue: Unanticipated discoveries

Resources <i>Archeological resources</i>		Impact: Limit soil disturbance to that which was approved during the plan review process and educate workers on procedures for inadvertent archeological discoveries, as stipulated in the mitigations.
Cultural <i>Cultural Landscapes</i>	None	
Cultural <i>Ethnographic Resources</i>	None	Project was provided to tribes on April 2019 consultation spreadsheet. No known historic properties of religious or cultural significance identified.
Cultural <i>Museum Collections</i>	None	
Cultural Prehistoric/historic structures <i>Historic Structures</i>	Potential	Issue: Historic properties are adjacent to the work site (Power house).  Impact: Construct wall as stipulated in the mitigations to be sympathetic to the adjacent historic structure.
Geological <i>Geologic Features</i>	None	
Geological <i>Geologic Processes</i>	None	
Lightscares <i>Lightscares</i>	None	
Other <i>Human Health and Safety</i>	None	
Other Operational <i>Outside Contractors Working In Park</i>	Potential	Issue: Contractors will construct the wall.  Impact: Follow mitigation measures as stipulated.
Other <i>Other</i>	None	
Socioeconomic <i>Land Use</i>	None	
Socioeconomic <i>Minority and low-income populations, size, migration patterns, etc.</i>	None	
Socioeconomic <i>Socioeconomic</i>	None	
Soundscapes <i>Soundscapes</i>	None	
Viewsheds <i>Viewsheds</i>	None	

Visitor Use and Experience <i>Recreation Resources</i>	None	
Visitor Use and Experience <i>Visitor Use and Experience</i>	None	
Water <i>Floodplains</i>	None	
Water <i>Marine or Estuarine Resources</i>	None	
Water <i>Water Quality or Quantity</i>	Potential	Issue: Work will occur adjacent to Merced River. Purpose of project is to prevent spills. Impact: Follow mitigation measures as stipulated.
Water <i>Wetlands</i>	None	
Water <i>Wild and Scenic River</i>	Potential	Issue: Work occurs adjacent to Merced Wild and Scenic River but not within bed and banks and does not affect outstandingly remarkable values or free-flowing condition of river. Impact: Follow mitigation measures as stipulated.
Wilderness Wilderness	None	