



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

## Memorandum

To: Mark Husbands, Project Manager

From: Acting Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2009-063 El Portal Complex Parking Lot Install  
Renewable Energy Equipment (25847)

The Management Team has reviewed the proposed project/action and completed its environmental assessment documentation, and we have determined that there:

- Will not be any effect on threatened, endangered, or rare species and/or their critical habitat.
- Will not be any effect on historical, cultural, or archeological resources.
- 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:

- No mitigations identified.

//James F. Hammett//

David V. Uberuaga

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: **2009-063 El Portal Complex Parking Lot Install Renewable Energy Equipment**

PEPC ID: **25847**

Project Description: Project would install roof-mounted and shade structure-mounted photovoltaic panels in the El Portal Maintenance Complex and the El Portal Wastewater Treatment Plant. Total system size could range from 600kw - 745kw. In 2008, Yosemite spent \$339,000 on electric bills for the El Portal complex, using almost 3,000,000 kwh. This project could provide as much as 30-40% of the combined facilities' electricity needs. The shade structures would have other benefits, such as reducing algae growth in wastewater aeration ponds, shading government and private vehicles, and reducing the heating effect of exposed blacktop. All ground disturbance will be contained in paved areas. Trenching will be required to bury the 12" x 12" x 18" utility lines.

Shade structures would be metal, free-standing structures on two legs with a cantilevered deck tilted at about 10 degrees to the south. The decks are available in a range of sizes to match the parking area dimensions. The supports and trim can be painted to match area light poles or to meet other architectural objectives. Power to and from the structure would be subgrade. Night lighting could be provided beneath the shelters for safety purposes.

Project Location:  
**Mariposa County, CA**

Mitigations:  
• **No mitigations identified.**

Describe the category used to exclude action from further NEPA analysis and indicate the number of the category (see Section 3-4 of DO-12):

### **C.5 Installation of signs, displays, kiosks, etc.**

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 (e.g. all boxes in the ESF are marked "no") or conditions in Section 3-6 apply, and the action is fully described in Section 3-4 of DO-12.

Acting Park Superintendent  //James F. Hammett//

Date  7/21/09

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National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite NP  
Date: 06/25/2009

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)  
DO-12 APPENDIX 1**

Updated May 2007 - per 2004 DM revisions and proposed DO-12 changes

Today's Date: **June 26, 2009**

Date Form Initiated: **June 26, 2009**

**A. PROJECT INFORMATION**

Park Name: **Yosemite NP**

Project Title: **2009-063 El Portal Complex Parking Lot Install Renewable Energy Equipment**

PEPC Project Number: **25847** PMIS Number: **79595A**

Project Type: **Capital Improvement (CI)**

Project Location: County, State: **Mariposa, California**

Project Leader: **Mark Husbands**

**B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Project would install roof-mounted and shade structure-mounted photovoltaic panels in the El Portal Maintenance Complex and the El Portal Wastewater Treatment Plant. Total system size could range from 600kw - 745kw. In 2008, Yosemite spent \$339,000 on electric bills for the El Portal complex, using almost 3,000,000 kwh. This project could provide as much as 30-40% of the combined facilities' electricity needs. The shade structures would have other benefits, such as reducing algae growth in wastewater aeration ponds, shading government and private vehicles, and reducing the heating effect of exposed blacktop. All ground disturbance will be contained in paved areas. Trenching will be required to bury the 12" x 12" x 18" utility lines.

Shade structures would be metal, free-standing structures on two legs with a cantilevered deck tilted at about 10 degrees to the south. The decks are available in a range of sizes to match the parking area dimensions. The supports and trim can be painted to match area light poles or to meet other architectural objectives. Power to and from the structure would be subgrade. Night lighting could be provided beneath the shelters for safety purposes.

Preliminary drawings attached? **Yes**

Is project a hot topic (controversial or sensitive issues that should be brought to attention of Regional Director)? **No**

**C. RESOURCE EFFECTS TO CONSIDER:**

<b>Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources</b>	<b>No Effect</b>	<b>Negligible Effects</b>	<b>Minor Effects</b>	<b>Exceeds Minor Effects</b>	<b>Data Needed to Determine/Notes</b>
1. Geologic resources – soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc.		X			Pole burial will include 1' diameter x 3' deep. Trenching includes 12" x 12" x 18".
2. From geohazards	X				
3. Air quality	X				
4. Soundscapes	X				
5. Water quality or quantity	X				
6. Streamflow characteristics	X				
7. Marine or estuarine resources	X				
8. Floodplains or wetlands	X				
9. Land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use	X				
10. Rare or unusual vegetation – old growth timber, riparian, alpine	X				
11. Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat	X				
12. Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites	X				
13. Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat	X				
14. Unique or important fish or fish habitat	X				
15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)	X				
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.	X				
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources	X				

18. Archeological resources	X				
19. Prehistoric/historic structure	X				
20. Cultural landscapes	X				
21. Ethnographic resources	X				
22. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections)	X				
23. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure	X				
24. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.	X				
25. Energy resources	X				
26. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies	X				
27. Resource, including energy, conservation potential, sustainability	X				
28. Urban quality, gateway communities, etc.	X				
29. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity	X				The shade structures will reduce the maintenance complex's electrical dependency and improve the park's long-term management of resources.
30. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?	X				

Comments:

**D. MANDATORY CRITERIA**

<b>Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Comment or Data Needed to Determine</b>
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?		X		

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?		X		
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?		X		
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		X		
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		X		
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		X		
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?		X		
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?		X		
I. Violate a federal law, or a state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		X		
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		X		
K. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive		X		

Order 13007)?				
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)?		X		

For the purpose of interpreting these procedures within the NPS, any action that has the potential to violate the NPS Organic Act by impairing park resources or values would constitute an action that triggers the DOI exception for actions that threaten to violate a federal law for protection of the environment.

**E. OTHER INFORMATION**

Are personnel preparing this form familiar with the site? **Yes**

Did personnel conduct a site visit? **Yes, Project Management staff.**

Is the project in an approved plan such as a General Management Plan or an Implementation Plan with an accompanying NEPA document? **No**

Are there any interested or affected agencies or parties? **No**

Has consultation with all affected agencies or tribes been completed? **No**

Are there any connected, cumulative, or similar actions as part of the proposed action? (e.g., other development projects in area or identified in GMP, adequate/available utilities to accomplish project)? **No**

**F. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM SIGNATORIES**

<u>Interdisciplinary Team</u>	<u>Field of Expertise</u>
David V. Uberuaga	Acting Superintendent
Jim Hammett	Acting Deputy Superintendent
Kristina Rylands	Acting Chief of Planning
Mark Butler	Chief of Project Management
Katariina Tuovinen	Chief of Administration Management
Dennis Mattiuzzi	Chief of Facilities Management
Niki Nicholas	Chief of Resources Management & Science
Marty Nielson	Chief of Business and Revenue Management
Tom Medema	Acting Chief of Interpretation and Education
Steve Shackelton	Chief Ranger
Mark Husbands	Project Leader
Elexis Mayer	Environmental Planning and Compliance
Jeannette Simons	Program Manager
Renea Kenec	NHPA Specialist
	NEPA Specialist

**G. SUPERVISORY SIGNATORY**

*Based on the environmental impact information contained in the statutory compliance file and in this environmental screening form, environmental documentation for this stage of the subject project is complete.*

Recommended:

<b>Compliance Specialists</b>	<b>Date</b>
<u>//Renea Kennec//</u> Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec	<u>6/26/09</u>
<u>//Elexis Mayer//</u> Compliance Program Manager – Elexis Mayer	<u>7/7/09</u>
<u>//Mark A. Butler//</u> Chief, Project Management – Mark Butler	<u>7/18/09</u>

Approved:

<b>Acting Superintendent</b>	<b>Date</b>
<u>//James F. Hammett//</u> David V. Uberuaga	<u>7/21/09</u>

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## PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: **June 26, 2009**

### PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite NP

Project Number: 25847

Project Type: Capital Improvement (CI)

Project Location: County, State: Mariposa, California

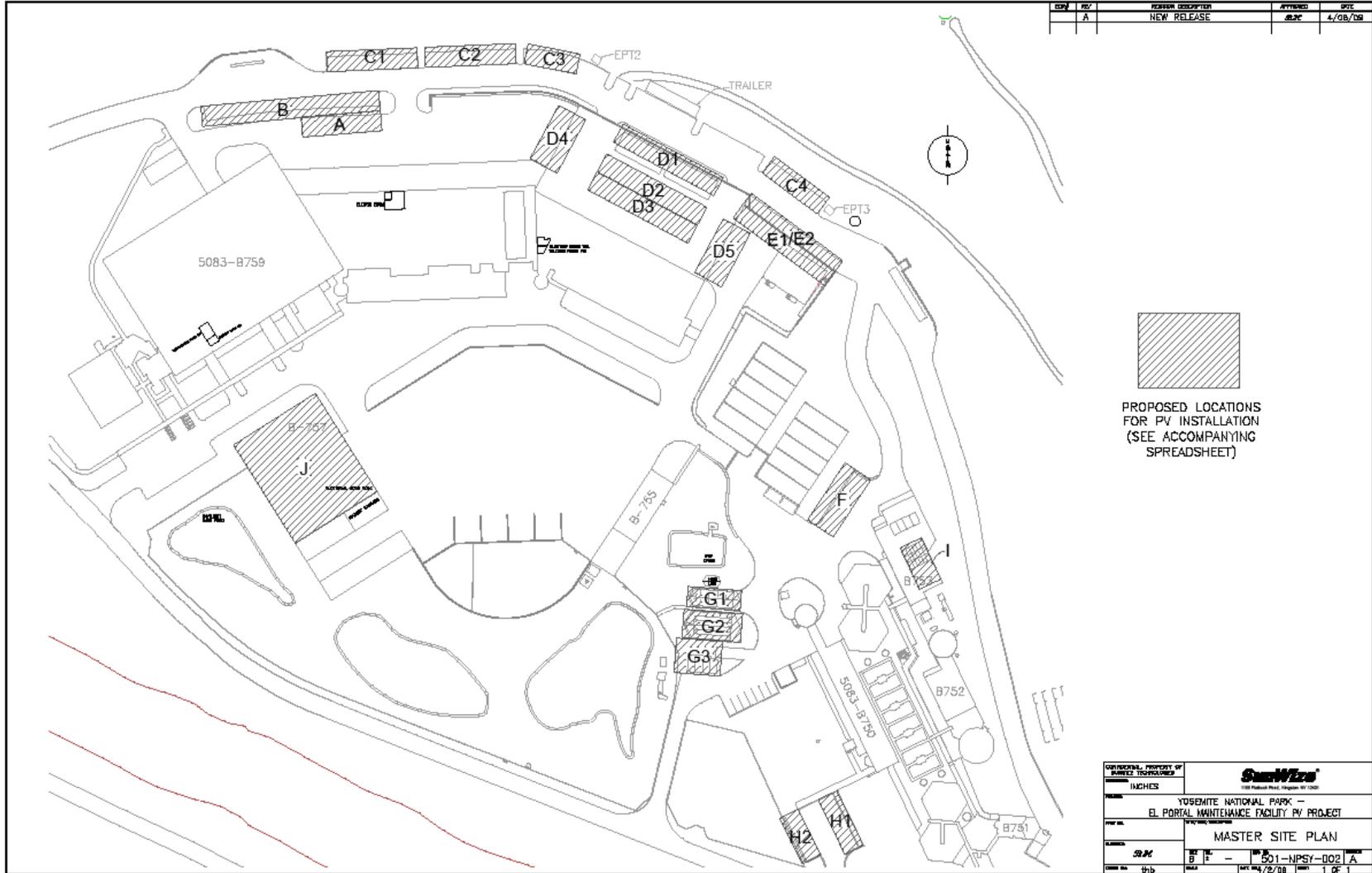
Project Manager: Mark Husbands

Project Title: 2009-063 El Portal Complex Parking Lot Install Renewable Energy Equipment

### PARK ESF ADDENDUM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
<b>1.SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST</b>				
2. Listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (Federal or State)?		X		
3. Species of special concern (Federal or State)?		X		
4. Park rare plants or vegetation?		X		
5. Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above?		X		
<b>6.NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST</b>				
7. Entail ground disturbance?	X			Pole installation is 1' x 3' and trenching includes 12" x 12" x 18".
8. Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?		X		
9. Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?		X		
10. Has a National Register form been completed?		X		
11. Are there any structures on the park's List of Classified Structures in the area of potential effect?		X		
<b>12.WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST</b>				
13. Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor?	X			Merced River.
14. Fall within the bed and banks AND will affect the free-flow of the river?		X		
15. Have the possibility of affecting water quality of the area?		X		
16. Remain consistent with its river segment classification?			X	

17. Protect and enhance river ORVs?			X	
18. Fall within the River Protection Overlay?		X		
19. If Yes, remain consistent with conditions of the River Protection Overlay?			X	
20. Remain consistent with the areas Management Zoning?			X	
21. Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River?		X		
22. Will the project encroach or intrude upon the Wild and Scenic River corridor?		X		
23. Will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values?		X		
<b>100. WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST</b>				
101. Within designated Wilderness?		X		
102. Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?		X		





**Powerport examples.** Product finish, support position, and size can be modified with some limitations.





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## ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

### A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. Park: **Yosemite NP** Park District: **Parkwide**

2. Project Description:

a. Project Name: **2009-063 El Portal Complex Parking Lot Install Renewable Energy Equipment**

Date: **June 25, 2009** PEPC Project ID Number: **25847**

b. Describe project and area of potential effects (as defined in 36 CFR 800.2[c])

Project would install roof-mounted and shade structure-mounted photovoltaic panels in the El Portal Maintenance Complex and the El Portal Wastewater Treatment Plant. Total system size could range from 600kw - 745kw. In 2008, Yosemite spent \$339,000 on electric bills for the El Portal complex, using almost 3,000,000 kwh. This project could provide as much as 30-40% of the combined facilities' electricity needs. The shade structures would have other benefits, such as reducing algae growth in wastewater aeration ponds, shading government and private vehicles, and reducing the heating effect of exposed blacktop. All ground disturbance will be contained in paved areas. Trenching will be required to bury the 12" x 12" x 18" utility lines.

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3. Has the area of potential effects been surveyed to identify cultural resources?

No

Yes, Source or reference:

Check here if no known cultural resources will be affected. (If this is because area has been disturbed, please explain or attach additional information to show the disturbance was so extensive as to preclude intact cultural deposits.)

4. Potentially Affected Resource(s): **None**

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)

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

No 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. 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.**

7. Supporting Study Data:

(Attach if feasible; if action is in a plan, EA or EIS, give name and project or page number.)

8. Attachments:

Maps  Archeological survey, if applicable  Drawings  Specifications  Photographs  
 Scope of Work  Site plan  List of Materials  Samples  Other:

Prepared by: **Jeannette Simons**    Date: **June 25, 2009**    Title: **Historic Preservation Officer**  
Telephone: **209-379-1372**

## **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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Archeologist

Name: **Laura Kirn**

Date: **06/25/2009**

Comments: YOSE 1999 PA, Stipulation VII.C.2.

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance*

Assessment of Effect:  No Historic Properties Affected     No Adverse Effect     Adverse Effect  
 Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method: **Park Specific Programmatic Agreement**

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[  ] Historical Architect

Name: **Sueann Brown**

Date: **06/25/2009**

Comments:

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

Assessment of Effect:  No Historic Properties Affected     No Adverse Effect     Adverse Effect     Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method: **No Potential to Cause Effects [800.3(a)(1)]**

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[  ] Historical Landscape Architect

Name: **David Humphrey**

Date: **06/25/2009**

Comments: **None.**

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

Assessment of Effect:  No Historic Properties Affected     No Adverse Effect     Adverse Effect     Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: **None.**

Doc Method: **No Potential to Cause Effects [800.3(a)(1)]**

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No Reviews From: **Curator, Historian, 106 Advisor, Other Advisor, Anthropologist**

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

1. Assessment of Effect:

No Historic Properties Affected     No Adverse Effect     Adverse Effect

2. Compliance requirements:

[  ] 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.

Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

E. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS SATISFIED BY USE OF NEPA

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

F. No Potential to Cause Effects [800.3(a) (1)]

G. STIPULATIONS/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.

Recommended by Park Section 106 coordinator:

Signature of Historic Preservation Officer  //Jeannette Simons//

Date:  6/29/09

**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.

Signature of Acting Superintendent  //James F. Hammett//

Date:  7/21/09

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