# 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: Tom Medema, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Acting Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2009-103 El Portal Reconfiguration of Distribution Lines Foresta Road and Buckeye Court (27669)

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.

*//Charles Cuvelier//* (acting)
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.*

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite NP
Date: 10/23/2009

# Categorical Exclusion Form

**Project:** 2009-101 El Portal Reconfiguration of Distribution Lines Foresta Road and Buckeye Court

**PEPC ID:** 27669

**Project Description:** The project involves the reconfiguration of existing distribution electrical facilities within the El Portal Administrative Site. The Yosemite Institute is currently in the process of constructing a replacement residential structure on Lot 42, also known as 5627 Foresta Road. As part of the original approved Categorical Exclusion 2007-072 (El Portal Yosemite Institute 5627 Foresta Road: Deconstruction and Rebuild #18912) the electrical service to the previous residence was to be removed and replaced with a new underground electrical service from an existing electrical pole. Upon examination, the distribution load to the existing residences was found to be unbalanced. Correction is needed before the new electrical service can be provided to the new Yosemite Institute residential structure.

Operating within normal practices, Pacific, Gas and Electric designed a new layout of distribution electrical facilities in the immediate vicinity. The new configuration includes placing a new pole, transformer, and associated electrical connections, adjacent to the residences and the National Park Service facility.

**Project Locations:**

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.13 Issuance of rights-of-way for overhead utility lines to an individual building or well from an existing line where installation will not result in significant visual intrusion and will involve no clearance of vegetation other than for placement of poles.

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 (i.e., 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.

**Park Acting Superintendent**__*//Charles Cuvelier//* (acting)__
**Date**___11/25/2009_____

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

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite NP
Date: **10/23/2009**

# ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 10/19/2009

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

## A. PROJECT INFORMATION

**Park Name:** Yosemite NP
**Project Title:** 2009-101 El Portal Reconfiguration of Distribution Lines Foresta Road and Buckeye Court
**PEPC Project Number:** 27669
**Project Type:** Power Pole Installation (OTHER)
**Project Location:** County, State: Mariposa, California District: El Portal
**Project Leader:** Sean McCabe

**Preliminary drawings attached?** Yes

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

## B. RESOURCE EFFECTS TO CONSIDER:

| Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources | No Effect | Negligible Effects | Minor Effects | Exceeds Minor Effects | Data Needed to Determine/Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Geologic resources – soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc. | No | | | | The addition of a new pole will include a hole to be dug two feet in diameter by 40 inches deep. |
| 2. From geohazards | No | | | | |
| 3. Air quality | No | | | | |
| 4. Soundscapes | | Negligible | | | Temporary noises will be included in the drilling. |
| 5. Water quality or quantity | No | | | | |
| 6. Streamflow characteristics | No | | | | |
| 7. Marine or estuarine resources | No | | | | |
| 8. Floodplains or wetlands | No | | | | |

| **Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources** | **No Effect** | **Negligible Effects** | **Minor Effects** | **Exceeds Minor Effects** | **Data Needed to Determine/Notes** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9. Land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use | No | | | | |
| 10. Rare or unusual vegetation – old growth timber, riparian, alpine | No | | | | |
| 11. Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat | No | | | | |
| 12. Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites | No | | | | |
| 13. Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat | No | | | | |
| 14. Unique or important fish or fish habitat | No | | | | |
| 15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal) | No | | | | |
| 16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc. | No | | | | |
| 17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources | No | | | | |
| 18. Archeological resources | No | | | | |
| 19. Prehistoric/historic structure | No | | | | |
| 20. Cultural landscapes | No | | | | |
| 21. Ethnographic resources | No | | | | |
| 22. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections) | No | | | | |
| 23. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure | No | | | | |
| 24. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc. | No | | | | |
| 25. Energy resources | No | | | | |
| 26. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies | No | | | | |

| Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources | No Effect | Negligible Effects | Minor Effects | Exceeds Minor Effects | Data Needed to Determine/Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 27. Resource, including energy, conservation potential, sustainability | No | | | | |
| 28. Urban quality, gateway communities, etc. | No | | | | |
| 29. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity | No | | | | This project entails maintenance of utility lines. |
| 30. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)? | No | | | | |

**C. MANDATORY CRITERIA**

| Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal: | Yes | No | N/A | Comment or Data Needed to Determine |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety? | | N | | |
| 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? | | N | | |
| C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))? | | N | | |
| D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? | | N | | |
| E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects? | | N | | |
| F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects? | | N | | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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? | | N | | |
| 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? | | N | | |
| I. Violate a federal law, or a state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment? | | N | | |
| J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)? | | N | | |
| 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 Order 13007)? | | N | | |
| 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)? | | N | | |

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.

**D. OTHER INFORMATION**

Are personnel preparing this form familiar with the site? Yes

Did personnel conduct a site visit? Yes, Business and Revenue 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

**E.INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM SIGNATORIES**

| **Interdisciplinary Team** | **Field of Expertise** |
|---|---|
| David V. Uberuaga | Acting Superintendent |
| Dennis Schramm | Acting Deputy Superintendent |
| Kristina Rylands | Chief of Planning |
| Mark Butler | Chief of Project Management |
| Katariina Tuovinen | Chief of Administration Management |
| Paul Laymon | 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 |
| Marty Nielson | Project Leader |
| Elexis Mayer | Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager |
| Jeannette Simons | NHPA Specialist |
| Renea Kennec | NEPA Specialist |

**F. 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:*

| Compliance Specialist | Date |
|---|---|
| ___*//Renea Kennec//*____<br>Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec | __10/28/09____ |
| ___*//Elexis Mayer//*_____<br>Compliance Program Manager – Elexis Mayer | __11/17/09____ |
| ___*//Mark A. Butler//*____<br>Chief, Project Management – Mark Butler | ___11/19/09___ |

*Approved:*

| Acting Superintendent | Date |
|---|---|
| ___*//Charles Cuvelier//* (acting)___<br>David V. Uberuaga | __11/25/09____ |

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# PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: **October 23, 2009**

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

Park Name: Yosemite NP

Project Number: 27669

Project Type: Power Pole Installation (OTHER)

Project Location: County, State: Mariposa, California District, Section: El Portal,

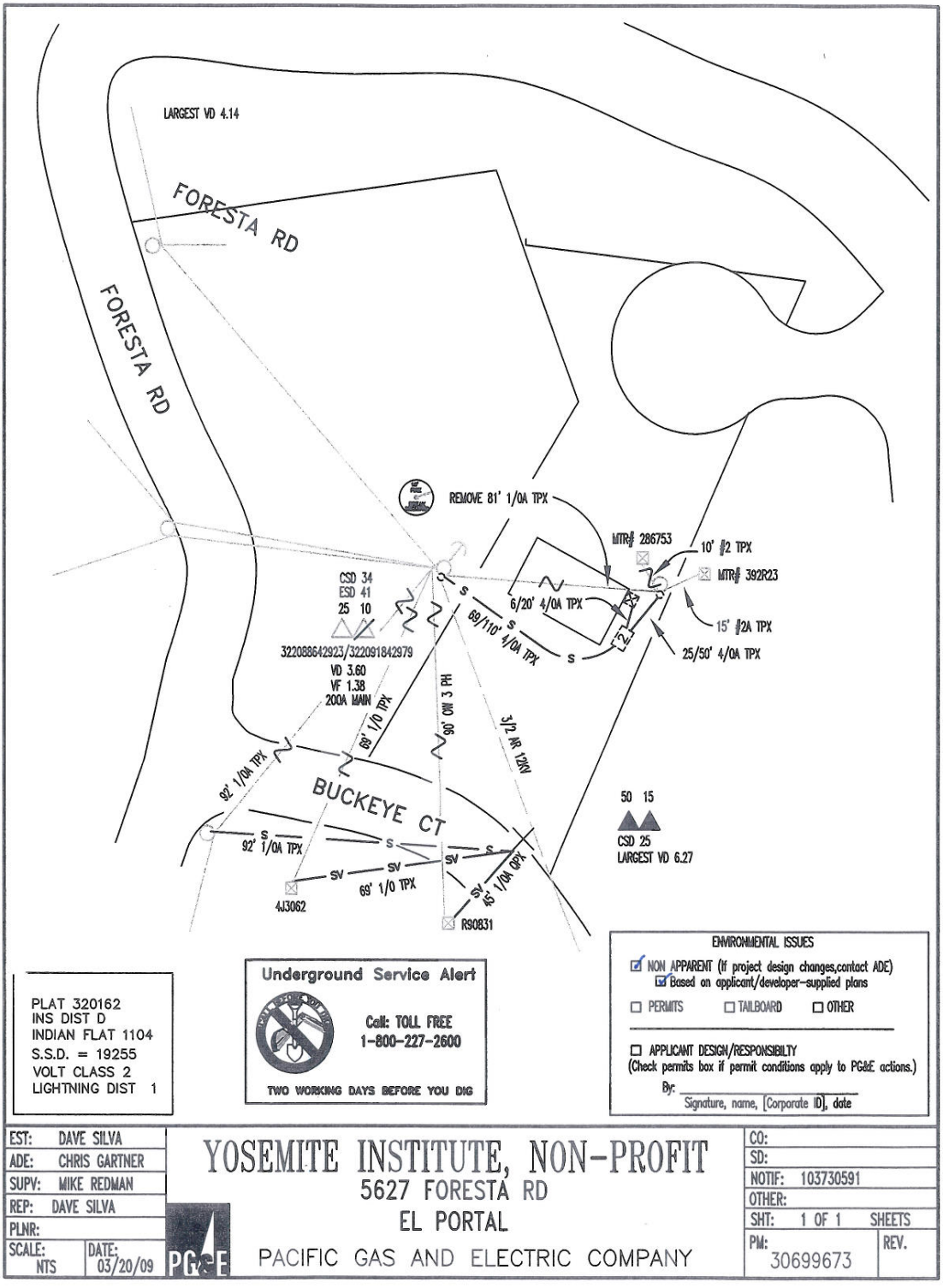
Project Manager: Sean McCabe

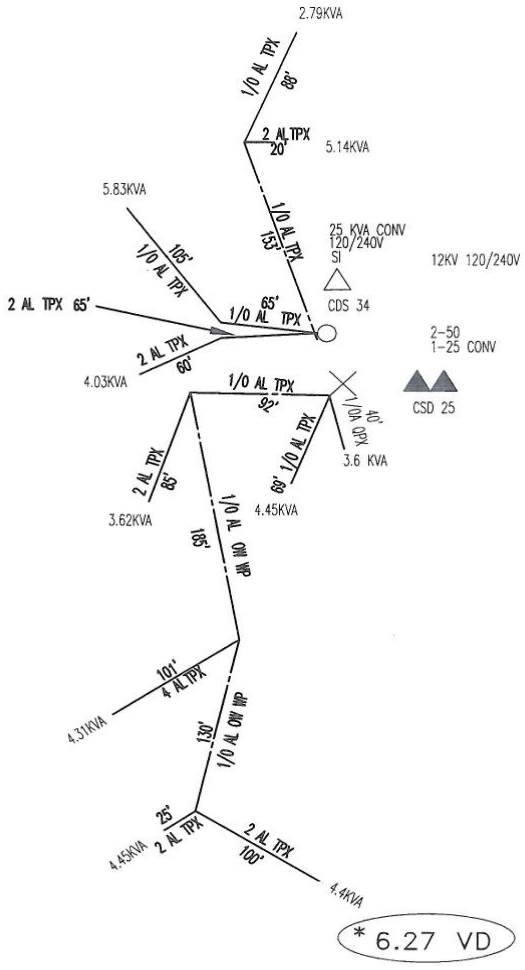
Project Title: 2009-101 El Portal Reconfiguration of Distribution Lines Foresta Road and Buckeye Court

**PARK ESF ADDENDUM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

| **ESF Addendum Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** | **Data Needed to Determine/Notes** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST | | | | |
| 1. Listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (Federal or State)? | | X | | |
| 2. Species of special concern (Federal or State)? | | X | | |
| 3. Park rare plants or vegetation? | | X | | |
| 4. Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above? | | X | | |
| NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST | | | | |
| 5. Entail ground disturbance? | X | | | Pole installation includes 2 feet in diameter by 40 inches deep. |
| 6. Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect? | | X | | No historic properties affected. |
| 7. Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape? | | X | | |
| 8. Has a National Register form been completed? | | X | | |
| 9. Are there any structures on the park's List of Classified Structures in the area of potential effect? | | X | | |
| WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST | | | | |
| 10. Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor? | X | | | Merced River. |
| 11. Fall within the bed and banks AND will affect the free-flow of the river? | | X | | |
| 12. Have the possibility of affecting water quality of the area? | | X | | |
| 13. Remain consistent with its river segment classification? | | | X | |
| 14. Protect and enhance river ORVs? | | | X | |
| 15. Fall within the River Protection Overlay? | | X | | |
| 16. If Yes, remain consistent with conditions of the River Protection Overlay? | | | X | |

| ESF Addendum Questions | Yes | No | N/A | Data Needed to Determine/Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 17. Remain consistent with the areas Management Zoning? | | | X | |
| 18. Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River? | | X | | |
| 19. Will the project encroach or intrude upon the Wild and Scenic River corridor? | | X | | |
| 20. Will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values? | | X | | |
| WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST | | | | |
| 21. Within designated Wilderness? | | X | | |
| 22. Within a Potential Wilderness Addition? | | X | | |


LARGEST VD 4.14
FORESTA RD
FORESTA RD
REMOVE 81' 1/0A TPX
MTR# 286753
10' #2 TPX
MTR# 392R23
15' #2A TPX
25/50' 4/0A TPX
6/20' 4/0A TPX
89/110' 4/0A TPX
CSD 34
ESD 41
25 10
322088642923/322091842979
VD 3.60
VF 1.38
200A MAIN
69' 1/0 TPX
3/2 OW 3 PH
3/2 AR 12KV
92' 1/0A TPX
BUCKEYE CT
92' 1/0A TPX
69' 1/0 TPX
45' 1/0A TPX
4J3062
R90831
50 15
CSD 25
LARGEST VD 6.27
PLAT 320162
INS DIST D
INDIAN FLAT 1104
S.S.D. = 19255
VOLT CLASS 2
LIGHTNING DIST 1
Underground Service Alert
Call: TOLL FREE
1-800-227-2600
TWO WORKING DAYS BEFORE YOU DIG
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
NON APPARENT (If project design changes,contact ADE)
Based on applicant/developer-supplied plans
PERMITS
TAILBOARD
OTHER
APPLICANT DESIGN/RESPONSIBILITY
(Check permits box if permit conditions apply to PG&E actions.)
By:
Signature, name, [Corporate ID], date
EST: DAVE SILVA
ADE: CHRIS GARTNER
SUPV: MIKE REDMAN
REP: DAVE SILVA
PLNR:
SCALE: NTS
DATE: 03/20/09
YOSEMITE INSTITUTE, NON-PROFIT
5627 FORESTA RD
EL PORTAL
PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
CO:
SD:
NOTIF: 103730591
OTHER:
SHT: 1 OF 1 SHEETS
PM: 30699673
REV.




PROPOSED SECONDARY SKETCH
JOB REQUIRES TX UPGRADE
TO ACCOUNT FOR VOLTAGE DROP

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| EST: DAVE SILVA | YOSEMITE INSTITUTE, NON-PROFIT | CO: | |
| ADE: CHRIS GARTNER | 5627 FORESTA RD | SD: | |
| SUPV: MIKE REDMAN | EL PORTAL | NOTIF: 103730591 | |
| REP: DAVE SILVA | PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY | OTHER: | |
| PLNR: | | SHT: | SHEETS |
| SCALE: 1"=100' / DATE: 04/22/09 | | PM: 30699673 | REV. |

Existing Power Pole

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite NP
Date: 10/23/2009

# ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

## A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

**1. Park:** Yosemite NP **Park District:** El Portal

**2. Project Description:**

**a. Project Name:** 2009-101 El Portal Reconfiguration of Distribution Lines Foresta Road and Buckeye Court

**b. Date:** October 23, 2009

**c. PEPC Project ID Number:** 27669

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

___ No
_X_ Yes, Source or reference: El Portal Archeological District.

___ 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 Resources:** 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:** Renea Kennec **Date:** October 23, 2009 **Title:** Environmental Protection Specialist **Telephone:** 209-379-1038

**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 ] Archeologist
Name: Laura Kirn
Date: 10/13/2009
Comments:

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* [ ]
Assessment of Effect: _X_ 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)]

---

[ X ] Historical Architect
Name: Sueann Brown
Date: 10/08/2009
Comments:

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* [ ]
Assessment of Effect: _X_ 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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[ X ] 106 Advisor
Name: Jeannette Simons

Date: 10/26/2009
Comments: A level One Cultural Landscape Inventory was made in 2005; the cultural landscape as a historic district does not seem to maintain integrity as a Historic Property.

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* [ ]
Assessment of Effect: _X_ No Historic Properties Affected __ No Adverse Effect __ Adverse Effect __ Streamlined Review
Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

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[ X ] Anthropologist
Name: Jeannette Simons
Date: 10/26/2009
Comments: American Indian Liaison. Project is within the boundary of an American Indian traditional use area, but the project will not impact the traditional resources.

*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:

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[ X ] Historical Landscape Architect
Name: David Humphrey
Date: 10/08/2009
Comments: None.

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* [ ]
Assessment of Effect: _X_ 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 ___X__ 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: _____

[ X ] 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: ___10/28/09_____

**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 ___*//Charles Cuvelier//* (acting)_____

Date: ___11/25/2009_____

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