



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: Jim Vandenberg, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Acting Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2009-084 Yosemite Lodge Replace Balcony Decks, Railings, and Privacy Partitions (27101)

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:

- Ensure that all equipment and materials brought into the park are free of non-native, invasive plants and animals, and noxious weeds. All staff working on site shall be informed of and follow best management practices for preventing the introduction and spread of non-native, invasive species as described in Division 1 Specifications, Section 1335.
- Ensure that any waste materials from the project are recycled.

//Luis Shram// (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.*



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: 2009-084 Yosemite Lodge Replace Balcony Decks, Railings, and Privacy Partitions

PEPC ID: 27101

Project Description: This project will replace the balcony railings, decks and privacy partitions at many lodging buildings at the Yosemite Lodge and will match recent work completed to bring uniformity to the Yosemite Lodge units and provide safe handrails and decks.

Phase 1 consists of the development of schematic design, drawings, and construction documents (plans and specifications) for project team review and approval. Minor structural analysis to select balconies will be performed. The majority of the work will replace components as they currently exist (with the exception that railings will be replaced with metal instead of wood).

Phase 2 consists of constructing the new balcony decks, railings, and privacy partitions as detailed in the construction documents.

Justification: The existing wood railings, partitions, and decking are rotted or defective and in need of replacement.

Project Goals:

- Provide safe, structurally sound railings, decks and privacy partitions.
- Bring a uniform appearance to the Yosemite Lodge structures.

Scope of Work:

- Investigating and identifying facilities that are in need of replacement due to structural deficiencies or damage. (A structural engineer will be retained to determine structural deficiencies and provide recommendations for replacement).
- Removing of all wood handrails, defective deck lumber and rotted privacy partitions.
- Fabricating and installing metal hand railings to match the recently constructed balconies, consistent with Building 3200 (Laurel) and 3300 (Juniper).
- Replacing rotted deck boards and supports, as needed.
- Replacing deficient wood privacy partitions, as needed.
- Painting all work to match existing color of buildings.

The following buildings require new railings constructed of metal and will likely require new decking and partitions due to rotted wood components:

- 4200 (Elderberry)
- 4300 (Willow)
- 4400 (Cottonwood)
- 4500 (Manzanita)
- 4600 (Azalea)

- 4700 (Birch)

The following buildings have recently replaced railings, but may require new privacy partitions:

- 3200 (Laurel)
- 3300 (Juniper)
- 3400 (Hemlock)
- 3500 (Maple)
- 3600 (Alder)

The following buildings appear to be in fairly good condition, but will replace the wood railings with metal to bring uniformity to the facilities. The stairways may require replacement as was done on the other buildings at the Yosemite Lodge.

- 4101-4109 (Aspen)
- 4111-4119 (Dogwood)
- 4121-4129 (Tamarack)

Operational Concerns:

- Work will be scheduled and designed to minimize impact on concessionaire operations and visitor experience.
- Construction activities are weather dependent.
- A small staging area will be used within the concessionaire land assignment. Established staging areas are located to the west of the Lodge near the bus parking area, and south of the 4100 buildings by the Fire and Service road.

Project Locations:

Mariposa County, CA

Mitigations:

- Ensure that all equipment and materials brought into the park are free of non-native, invasive plants and animals, and noxious weeds. All staff working on site shall be informed of and follow best management practices for preventing the introduction and spread of non-native, invasive species as described in Division 1 Specifications, Section 1335.
- Ensure that any waste materials from the project are recycled.

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

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.

Park Acting Superintendent //Luis Shram// (acting)

Date 10/26/09

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



ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 10/01/2009

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

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: **Yosemite NP**
 Project Title: **2009-084 Yosemite Lodge Replace Balcony Decks, Railings, and Privacy Partitions**
 PEPC Project Number: **27101**
 Project Type: **Capital Improvement (CI)**
 Project Location: **County, State: Mariposa, California** District: **Yosemite Valley**
 Project Leader: **Jim Vandenberg**

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 | | | | |
| 2. From geohazards | No | | | | |
| 3. Air quality | | Negligible | | | Temporary air emissions from equipment used to perform the project work. |
| 4. Soundscapes | | Negligible | | | There are temporary noises associated with the replacement project. |
| 5. Water quality or quantity | No | | | | |
| 6. Streamflow characteristics | No | | | | |
| 7. Marine or estuarine resources | No | | | | |
| 8. Floodplains or wetlands | No | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|--|----|------------|--|--|---|
| 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 | | | | Yosemite National Park is a World Heritage site; no historic properties would be adversely affected by implementing this project. |
| 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) | | Negligible | | | See Comment 1, below. |
| 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 | | Negligible | | | Yosemite Valley Historic District. |
| 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 | | | | |
| 27. Resource, including | No | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|----|--|--|--|--|
| energy, conservation potential, sustainability | | | | | |
| 28. Urban quality, gateway communities, etc. | No | | | | |
| 29. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity | No | | | | |
| 30. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)? | No | | | | |

Comments:

1. Ensure that all equipment and materials brought into the park are free of non-native, invasive plants and animals, and noxious weeds. All staff working on the project shall be informed of and follow best management practices for preventing the introduction and spread of non-native, invasive species as described in Division 1 Specifications, Section 1355.

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? **No**

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

| <u>Interdisciplinary Team</u> | <u>Field of Expertise</u> |
|-------------------------------|---|
| David V. Uberuaga | Acting Superintendent |
| Katariina Tuovinen | Acting Deputy Superintendent |
| Kristina Rylands | Acting Chief of Planning |
| Mark Butler | Chief of Project Management |
| Katariina Tuovinen | Chief of Administration Management |
| Paul Laymon | Acting 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 |
| Jim Vandenberg | Project Leader |
| Elexis Mayer | Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager |
| Jeannette Simons | NHPA Specialist |
| Renea Kennece | 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 Specialists | Date |
|--|-----------------|
| <u>//Renea Kennece/</u> Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennece | <u>10/1/09</u> |
| <u>//Elexis Mayer//</u> Compliance Program Manager – Elexis Mayer | <u>10/20/09</u> |
| <u>//Mark A. Butler//</u> Chief, Project Management – Mark Butler | <u>10/21/09</u> |

Approved:

| Acting Superintendent | Date |
|---|-----------------|
| <u>//Luis Shram// (acting)</u> David V. Uberuaga | <u>10/26/09</u> |

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

PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: **October 1, 2009**

PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite NP

Project Number: 27101

Project Type: Capital Improvement (CI)

Project Location: County, State: Mariposa, California District, Section: Yosemite Valley,

Project Manager: Jim Vandenberg

Project Title: 2009-084 Yosemite Lodge Replace Balcony Decks, Railings, and Privacy Partitions

PARK ESF ADDENDUM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

| ESF Addendum Questions | Yes | No | N/A | Data Needed to Determine/Notes |
|---|------------|-----------|------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1.SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST | | | | |
| 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 | | |
| 6.NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST | | | | |
| 7. Entail ground disturbance? | | X | | |
| 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 | | |
| 12.WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST | | | | |
| 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 | | |
| 100. WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST | | | | |
| 101. Within designated Wilderness? | | X | | |
| 102. Within a Potential Wilderness Addition? | | X | | |



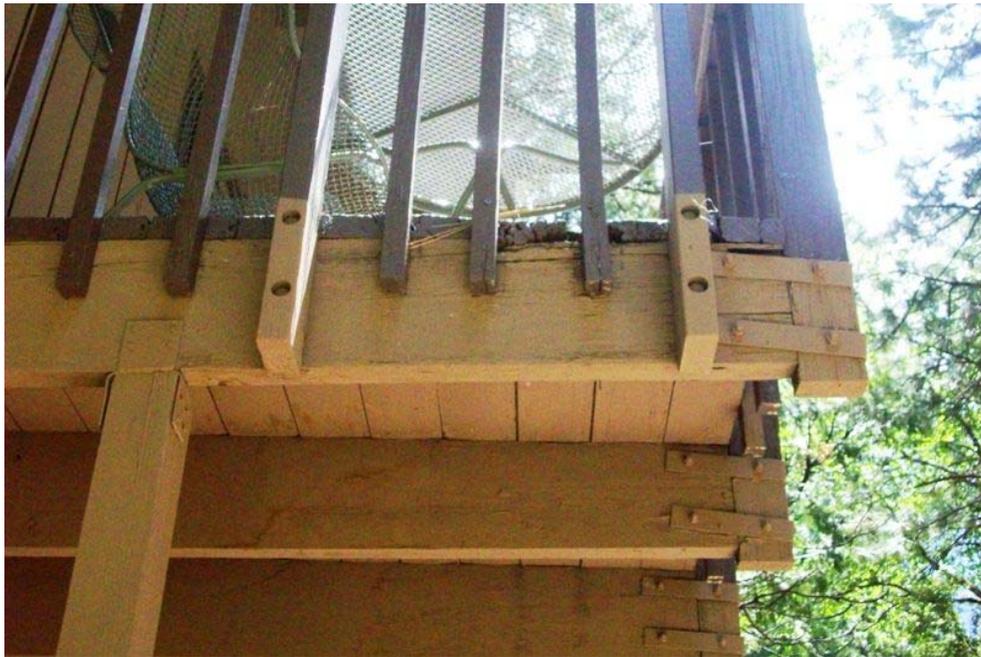
Deteriorated privacy partitions in need of replacement.



Deteriorated privacy partitions in need of replacement.



Balcony deck and railing to be replaced.



Deteriorated balcony deck and railings.



Rotted deck to be replaced



Balcony railing to be replaced.



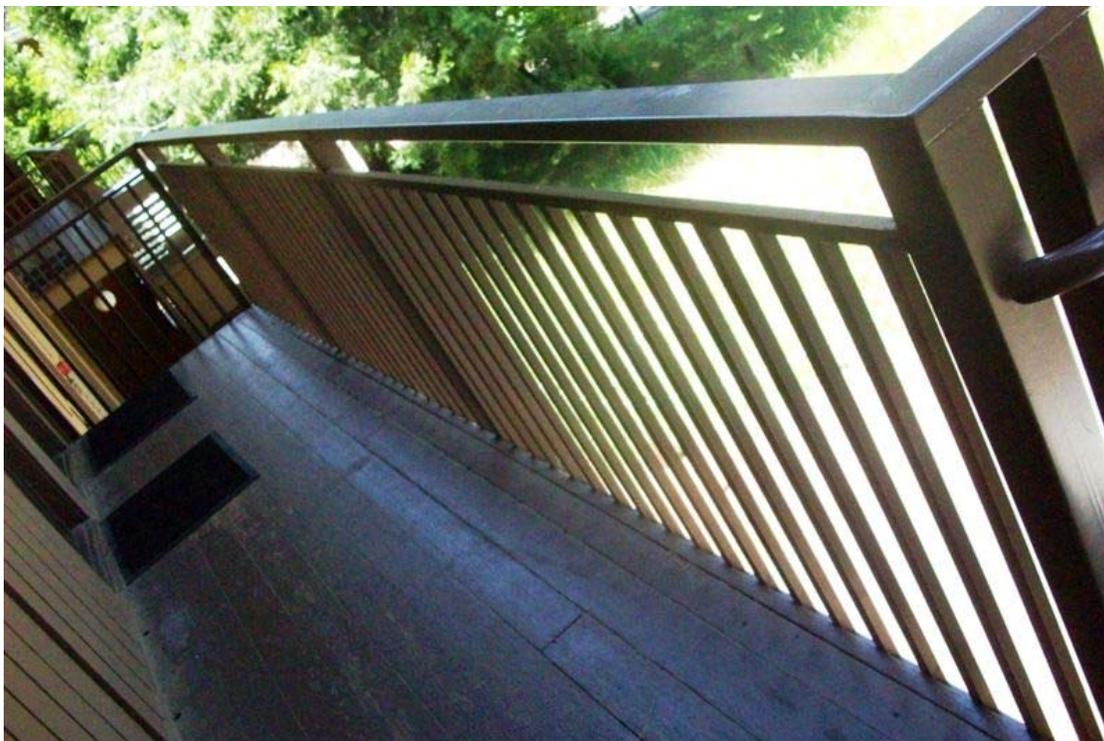
Existing balcony at Yosemite Lodge.



Recently replaced balcony at Yosemite Lodge. New balcony decks, railings, and partitions will look like this.



Recently replaced railings and decks



Recently replaced railings and decks.



ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

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

2. Project Description:

a. Project Name: **2009-084 Yosemite Lodge Replace Balcony Decks, Railings, and Privacy Partitions**

b. Date: **October 1, 2009**

c. PEPC Project ID Number: **27101**

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

No

Yes, Source or reference: **Yosemite Valley Historic 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:

Cultural landscapes affected?

Name and number(s): **Yosemite Valley Historic District**

NR status: **1 - Listed in Register and documented**

5. The proposed action will: (check as many as apply)

Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure

Replace historic features/elements in kind

Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure

Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)

Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape

Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible

Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible

Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources

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 Kenne** Date: **October 1, 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:

Historical Architect
Name: **Sueann Brown**
Date: **09/14/2009**
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: **Park Specific Programmatic Agreement**

Historical Landscape Architect
Name: **David Humphrey**
Date: **08/10/2009**
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: **Park Specific Programmatic Agreement**

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

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: _____

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: 10/9/09

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 //Luis Shram// (acting)

Date: 10/26/09

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