



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: Bill Rust

From: Acting Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2009-023 Ahwahnee Cottages Satellite Dish Installation (24271)

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.

//David V. Uberuaga//  
David V. Uberuaga

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

Enclosure (with attachments)

cc: Statutory Compliance File



## Categorical Exclusion Form

**Project:** 2009-023 Ahwahnee Cottages Satellite Dish Installation

**PIN:** 24271

**Date:** May 19, 2010

**Project Description:** DNC will remove eight existing television antennas from the Ahwahnee Cottages and install one satellite dish in a pre-determined inconspicuous location to replace the current analog reception with digital TV to comply with the federal broadcasting upgrade program. An on-site review with the NPS and DNC occurred on March 26, 2009 to view and discuss two alternate locations recommended by DNC's satellite vendor for the satellite dish installation. Both alternatives have vegetation screening and allow for TV reception. Alternative Location 1 was preferred due to the location and opportunity for screening by trees and bushes. This alternative will require installation of a 10 foot mast in the ground approximately 24 inches deep by 16 inches wide. The mast and dish will be painted brown to blend with the surrounding trees and landscape. The dish is 24 inches with an elliptical shape. Additionally, one satellite dish will service multiple structures in the area. Acquiring reception at the other eight structures involves running cable on the ground surface between structures and hand burial of the cables with existing duff (pine needles, leaves, compost). Blackberry branches will be trimmed and removed from the areas where cable will be laid. Where the cable crosses an asphalt walk way, a 3" wide, 2" deep section will be cut into the walkway to accommodate the cable. Cold patch will be used to fill in the impacts to the asphalt walk way. See the site map for reference. Summary Scope of Work: 1. Remove obsolete antennas from the Cottages. 2. Locate and install satellite equipment in the vegetation area adjacent to Cottage 708 - see map. Paint the dish and mast brown. Mount the dish on a 10' tall mast in the soil. Run surface cable from the equipment to all Cottages. Cover with existing duff. 3. Run conduit from ground surface up the side of the cottage approximately 36" at pre-existing route for antenna reception. 5. Perform asphalt cuts approx 3" wide and 2" deep in the cottage walkways to accommodate satellite cables - repair with cold patch (see map for locations). 6. Activate pre-existing cable in each cottage to receive new digital TV transmission. Purchase and install HD TVs as needed.

**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.5. Installation of signs, displays, and kiosks.

**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.**

//David V. Uberuaga//

**Park Acting Superintendent**

5/06/09

**Date**

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Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in  
Yosemite National Park.*



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite NP  
Date: 04/16/2009

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

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

Today's Date: **April 20, 2009**

Date Form Initiated: **04/20/2009**

**A. PROJECT INFORMATION**

Park Name: **Yosemite NP**

Project Title: **2009-023 Ahwahnee Cottages Satellite Dish Installation**

PEPC Project Number: **24271**

Project Type: **Install satellite dish (OTHER)**

Project Location: County, State: **Mariposa, California** Other: Yosemite Valley

Project Leader: **Bill Rust**

**B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

DNC will remove eight existing television antennas from the Ahwahnee Cottages and install one satellite dish in a pre-determined inconspicuous location to replace the current analog reception with digital TV to comply with the federal broadcasting upgrade program. An on-site review with the NPS and DNC occurred on March 26, 2009 to view and discuss two alternate locations recommended by DNC's satellite vendor for the satellite dish installation. Both alternatives have vegetation screening and allow for TV reception. Alternative Location 1 was preferred due to the location and opportunity for screening by trees and bushes. This alternative will require installation of a 10 foot mast in the ground approximately 24 inches deep by 16 inches wide. The mast and dish will be painted brown to blend with the surrounding trees and landscape. The dish is 24 inches with an elliptical shape. Additionally, one satellite dish will service multiple structures in the area. Acquiring reception at the other eight structures involves running cable on the ground surface between structures and hand burial of the cables with existing duff (pine needles, leaves, compost). Blackberry branches will be trimmed and removed from the areas where cable will be laid. Where the cable crosses an asphalt walk way, a 3" wide, 2" deep section will be cut into the walkway to accommodate the cable. Cold patch will be used to fill in the impacts to the asphalt walk way. See the site map for reference. Summary Scope of Work: 1. Remove obsolete antennas from the Cottages. 2. Locate and install satellite equipment in the vegetation area adjacent to Cottage 708 - see map. Paint the dish and mast brown. Mount the dish on a 10' tall mast in the soil. Run surface cable from the equipment to all Cottages. Cover with existing duff. 3. Run conduit from ground surface up the side of the cottage approximately 36" at pre-existing route for antenna reception. 5. Perform asphalt cuts approx 3" wide and 2" deep in the cottage walkways to accommodate satellite cables - repair with cold patch (see map for locations). 6. Activate pre-existing cable in each cottage to receive new digital TV transmission. Purchase and install HD TVs as needed.

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			The satellite dish mast will be buried 24" deep in a hole 16" in diameter.
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			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	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				The Ahwahnee Hotel guest experience will be enhanced by the installation of the satellite dish.
18. Archeological resources		X			Yosemite Valley Archeological District; there are no archeological concerns with this project.
19. Prehistoric/historic structure		X			Ahwahnee Hotel National Historic Landmark; the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect."
20. Cultural landscapes		X			Yosemite Valley Historic District; the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect."
21. Ethnographic resources		X			Yosemite Valley American Indian Traditional Cultural Property; the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect."
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				
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		Mitigated; the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect."
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 Order 13007)?		X		
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? **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**

## F. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM SIGNATORIES

<u>Interdisciplinary Team</u>	<u>Field of Expertise</u>
David V. Uberuaga	Acting Superintendent
Larry Harris	Acting Deputy Superintendent
Linda Dahl	Chief of Planning
Mark Butler	Acting Chief of Project Management
Katariina Tuovinen	Acting 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
Bill Rust	Project Leader
Teri Tucker	Acting Environmental Planning and Compliance
Jeannette Simons	Program Manager
Renea Kennec	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 Specialist</b>	<b>Date</b>
<u>//Renea Kennec//</u> Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec	<u>4/20/09</u>
<u>//Teri C. Tucker//</u> Acting Compliance Program Manager – Teri Tucker	<u>4/21/09</u>
<u>//Mark A. Butler//</u> Acting Chief, Project Management – Mark Butler	<u>5/04/09</u>

Approved:

<b>Acting Superintendent</b>	<b>Date</b>
<u>//David V. Uberuaga//</u> David V. Uberuaga	<u>5/06/09</u>

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Yosemite National Park.*

## PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: **April 20, 2009**

### PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite NP

Project Number: 24271

Project Type: Install satellite dish (OTHER)

Project Location: County, State: Mariposa, California      Other: Yosemite Valley

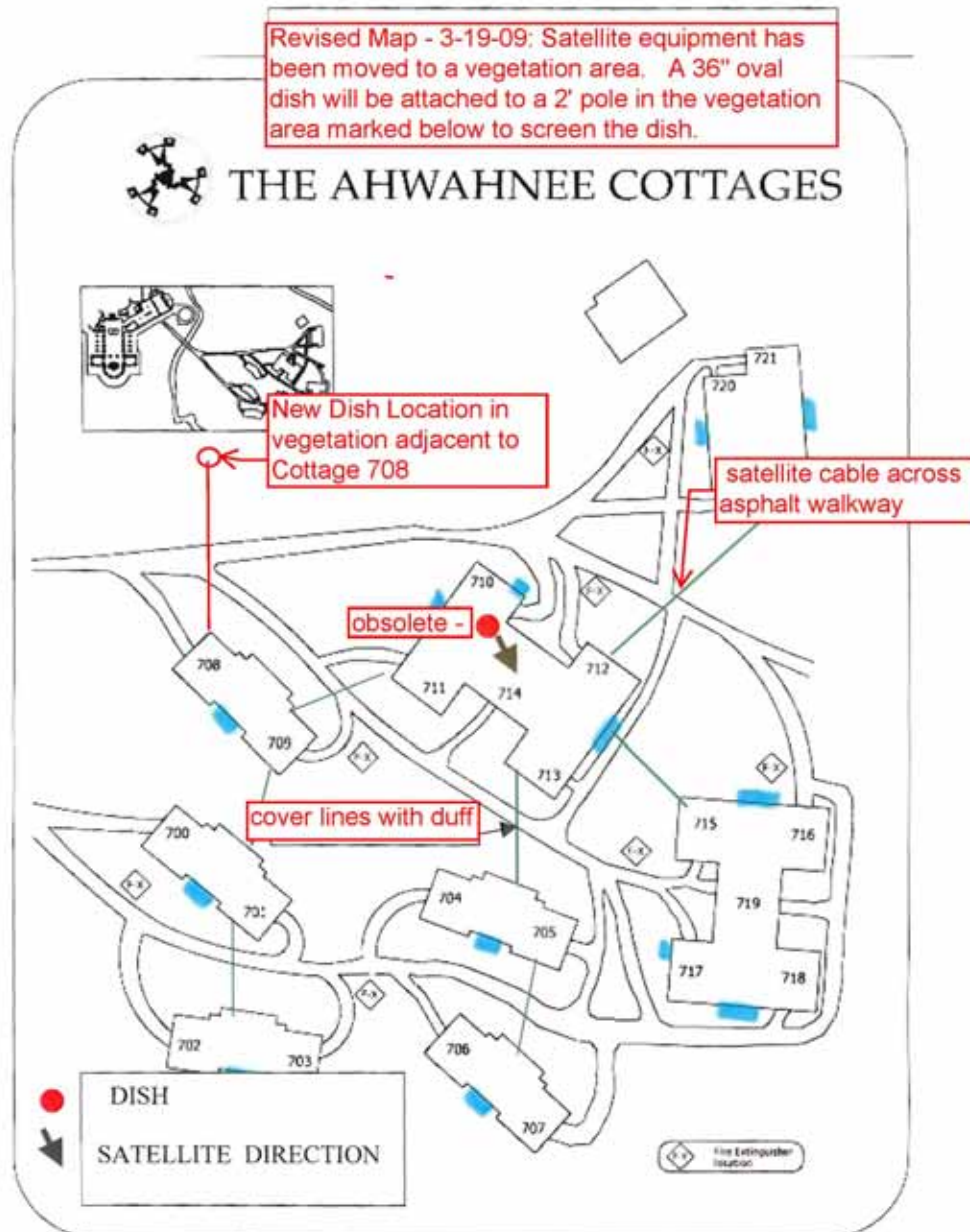
Project Manager: Bill Rust

Project Title: 2009-023 Ahwahnee Cottages Satellite Dish Installation

### 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			The satellite dish mast will be buried 24" deep in a hole 16" in diameter.
8. Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?	X			Yosemite Valley Archeological District; there are no archeological concerns with this project.
9. Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?	X			This project does not entail any alteration to the Ahwahnee Hotel. Yosemite Valley Historic District; the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect."
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			Ahwahnee Hotel; 55943.
12.WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST				
13. Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor? (Name the 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		X		

area?				
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? If Yes, WSRA Section 7 determination required.		X		
23. Will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values? If Yes, WSRA Section 7 determination required.		X		
100. WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST				
101. Within designated Wilderness?		X		
102. Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?		X		











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## 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: **Ahwahnee Cottages Satellite Dish Installation**     Date: **April 16, 2009**     PEPC

Project Number: **24271**

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

DNC will remove eight existing television antennas from the Ahwahnee Cottages and install one satellite dish in a pre-determined inconspicuous location to replace the current analog reception with digital TV to comply with the federal broadcasting upgrade program.

An on-site review with the NPS and DNC occurred on March 26, 2009 to view and discuss two alternate locations recommended by DNC's satellite vendor for the satellite dish installation. Both alternatives have vegetation screening and allow for TV reception. Alternative Location 1 was preferred due to the location and opportunity for screening by trees and bushes. This alternative will require installation of a 10 foot mast in the ground approximately 24 inches deep by 16 inches wide. The mast and dish will be painted brown to blend with the surrounding trees and landscape. The dish is 24 inches with an elliptical shape.

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Summary Scope of Work: 1. Remove obsolete antennas from the Cottages. 2. Locate and install satellite equipment in the vegetation area adjacent to Cottage 708 - see map. Paint the dish and mast brown. Mount the dish on a 10' tall mast in the soil. Run surface cable from the equipment to all Cottages. Cover with existing duff. 3. Run conduit from ground surface up the side of the cottage approximately 36" at pre-existing route for antenna reception. 5. Perform asphalt cuts approx 3" wide and 2" deep in the cottage walkways to accommodate satellite cables - repair with cold patch (see map for locations). 6. Activate pre-existing cable in each cottage to receive new digital TV transmission. Purchase and install HD TVs as needed.

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

   No

**X** Yes, Source or reference: **Yosemite Valley Historic District; Ahwahnee Hotel National Historic Landmark; Yosemite Valley Archeological District; Yosemite Valley American Indian Traditional Cultural Property.**

   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):

Archeological resources affected?

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

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

Cultural landscapes affected?

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

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

Name and number(s): **Ahwahnee Hotel National Historical Landmark**

NR status: **7 - A designated National Historic Landmark**

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. 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: **April 16, 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: **04/14/2009**

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: **04/07/2009**

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**

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☒ Historical Landscape Architect

Name: **David Humphrey**

Date: **04/02/2009**

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**

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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:    4/28/09

**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    //David V. Uberuaga//

Date:    5/06/09

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