



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: Kim Tucker, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2010-053 The Ahwahnee Hotel Interior Decoration Projects 2010-11 Programmatic (31487)

The Leadership 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 consultation with the park Reserved Property Team and the park Historical Architect.

\\Don. L Neubacher \\
Don L. Neubacher

Enclosure (with attachments)

cc: Statutory Compliance File



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: 2010-053 The Ahwahnee Hotel Interior Decoration Projects 2010-11 Programmatic

PEPC Project Number: 31487

Project Description: This Programmatic Categorical Exclusion (CE) is intended to cover various interior decorating and furnishing projects at The Ahwahnee, a National Historic Landmark that the concessionaire operates and should expire upon to end of the current concessions contract on September 30, 2011. All projects at The Ahwahnee performed under this CE will be informed by the Reserve Property Plan, historic research and park-approved historic studies such as the 2010 Historic Structures Report and the 2010 Historic Furnishings Report. The intended goal for each project is to enhance the historic character of this landmark building by restoring historic furnishings appropriately to the period of significance (POS) of the building (1927-1942), and to appropriately decorate spaces in these buildings to either reflect or be compatible with the period of significance. Interior decorating and furnishing projects covered by this CE include soft good purchasing, interior paint, wall and window coverings, carpeting, guest room furniture purchase and placement, public space furnishings, reupholstering of reserve property and historic furnishings, and bathroom fixture replacement. All projects covered by the CE will be interior to these structures. This CE does not cover any modifications to historic buildings and structures. All furnishing projects will be limited to refurbishment and compatibility with the period of significance, and any additional furnishings that are required for operational and modern use, will be designed to be compatible to the historic structure's period of significance.

Interior Decoration and Soft Good Renovation Activities

Work covered by this programmatic CE includes, but is not limited to, the activities listed below.

Fixture Replacement: Work consists of replacing non-original fixtures such as sinks, faucets, and lamps that would enhance the historical character of the period of significance and meet sustainability objectives (i.e. low flow toilets and shower heads, etc). Non-original electrical and/or plumbing fixtures are not required to be replaced in kind, as long as replacement or upgrading does not adversely affect the character of the structure or the surrounding historic materials. Any original electrical or plumbing fixtures will be retained and not replaced under this programmatic CE.

Painting: Work consists of interior painting. Paint will be chosen in consultation with History, Architecture, and Landscapes (HAL) and Business and Revenue Management (BRM) staff. Appearance must be consistent with the historic character of the period of significance.

Floor coverings: Work consists of installing floor covering materials where installation does not involve damage to historic material. Floor covering will be chosen in consultation with HAL and BRM. Appearance must be consistent with the historic character of the period of significance and meet NPS 48-standards for visitor accommodations and services.

Window covering (interior): Work consists of replacing non-original interior window and wall coverings that maintain the historical character of the period of significance, and upgrades that do not damage historic materials, such as siding or walls. Coverings will be chosen in consultation with HAL and BRM staff. Appearance must be consistent with the historic character of the period of significance and meet NPS 48-standards for visitor accommodations and services.

Furnishing reupholster: Work consists of reupholstering Reserve Property and historic furniture that will maintain the historic character of the period of significance. Reupholstery for each piece will be chosen in consultation with the Reserve Property committee, of which include representatives from HAL and BRM staff. Work to historic furnishings will be done by skilled professionals in the field of furniture restoration.

Interior decoration and furnishings placement: Work consists of decorating guest rooms and interior public spaces with non-original furnishings that compliment the historic character of the period of significance without creating a false sense of history. Compatible furnishings will be chosen in consultation with HAL and BRM staff. Furniture placement (though variable in an operating hotel) may require consultation with park staff. Appearance will be consistent with the historic character of the period of significance, as determined by the Historic Structures Reports and Historic Furnishings Report.

Consultation Procedures

The Concessionaire must implement, in consultation with the park subject matter experts, the following process prior to implementing redecoration or furnishing restoration at National Historic Landmark properties:

- 1) Acquire approval from the Division Chief of Business and Revenue Management to allow project to proceed through the internal review and subject matter expert consultation process.
- 2) Utilize source information provided at the Yosemite Resource Library.
- 3) Acquire approval from the Chief of Business and Revenue Management to allow project to proceed through the internal review process.
- 4) Host a kick-off meeting with representatives from the park to present the proposed redecoration project. Design boards will be presented that show the interior decorating elements to be implemented (i.e. fabric color swatches, paint colors, non-historic furnishings to include). These design boards will convey that the proposal is consistent with the historic character of the period of significance and will be informed by the 2010 Historic Structure Report, 2010 Historic Furnishing Report, and other historical documents and/or interim drafts.
- 5) BRM/HAL will have 10 working days to approve design proposals. Approval must be obtained via a signed form. Upon approval of the design boards, materials will be ordered and an "implementation" schedule will be issued to the park for review.
- 6) Park staff will be invited to make site visits during the implementation.
- 7) Photo documentation will take place before and upon completion of each project.
- 8) Park staff will be invited to a site walk to view the completed project.

Work performed under this CE must apply the techniques, protocols, and methodologies described below. Work must also occur without significant changes in technology, location, capacity, or appearance. Any new techniques, etc., or significant changes in the scope of work would trigger consultation with the Environmental Planning and Compliance Office for review, including any requests for an amendment to the CE to cover the proposed changes.

Required Mitigation Measures

The Concessionaire will implement, in consultation with the park subject matter experts, the following overarching conditions in order to minimize potential impacts to a level of insignificance.

Natural Resources

- Natural Resources will not be affected by any of the work proposed to be covered under this CE. All proposed work will be to the interior of National Historic Landmark Buildings. Staging for these projects will be localized and occur on paved surfaces at the “back-dock” of these properties.

Cultural Resources

- The approval of all redecoration and furnishing of historic buildings and structures is contingent upon a determination of no adverse impact to cultural resources. The Concessionaire is responsible for coordination of activities with the park HAL to ensure the protection of cultural resources.
- The approval of all redecoration and furnishing of historic buildings and structures is contingent upon operations approval by the park division of Business and Revenue Management. The Concessionaire is responsible for coordination of activities with the park branch of Concessions Management to ensure conformance with the Concessions contract and approved operations.
- Any work to Reserved Property will be coordinated through the Reserved Property Committee.
- Establishment of on-site staging areas on hardened surfaces requires coordination with hotel management.
- Redecoration activities on all historic buildings and structures require review and approval by HAL, and BRM staff. Work will be described by presentation of design boards and other guiding documents to HAL and BRM. Upon approval of the design boards by HAL and BRM staff, the Concessionaire may proceed with the project. Review will ensure that all proposals are made using proper materials and methods, and will protect and preserve the historic character of the buildings.
- All work will require before and after photo-documentation that meets specifications listed in the park’s 1999 Programmatic Agreement (4” x 6” black and white, digital and print, on archival quality materials) to be submitted to the park archives.
- Repairs, replacement, and upgrading of fixtures to meet code and operational goals will only occur when: materials are replaced in kind, non-original fixtures are replaced, or repairs maintain the historical character of the period of significance, and upgrades do not damage historic materials.

Project Location:

Mariposa County, CA

Mitigations:

- Ensure consultation with the park Reserved Property Team and the park Historical Architect.

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.4 Routine maintenance and repairs to cultural resource sites, structures, utilities and grounds under an approved Historic Structures Preservation Guide or Cyclic Maintenance Guide; or if the action would not adversely affect the cultural resource.

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 or conditions in Section 3-6 apply, and the action is fully described in Section 3-4 of DO-12.

Park Superintendent *\\Don. L Neubacher *

Date 9/9/10



ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: **08/03/2010**

Updated May 2007 - per 2004 Departmental Manual revisions and proposed Director's Order 12 changes

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
Project Title: 2010-053 The Ahwahnee Hotel Interior Decoration Projects 2010-11
Programmatic
PEPC Project Number: 31487
Project Type: Facility Rehabilitation (FR)
Project Location: County, State: Mariposa, California
Project Leader: Kim Tucker

Preliminary drawings attached? No

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	No				
4. Soundscapes	No				
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				

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
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.
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				Visitor experience will be enhanced by restoring the historic furnishings to the period of significance.
18. Archeological resources	No				
19. Prehistoric/historic structure		Negligible			The Ahwahnee Hotel National Historic Landmark.
20. Cultural landscapes	No				
21. Ethnographic resources	No				
22. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections)		Negligible			All projects within this programmatic will be informed by the Reserve Property Plan.
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				

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
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				

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?		No		
B. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?		No		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))?		No		
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		No		
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		No		
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		No		
G. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by		No		

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
either the bureau or office?				
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?		No		
I. Violate a federal law, or a state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		No		
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		No		
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)?		No		
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)?		No		

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>
Don L. Neubacher	Superintendent
Kathleen Morse	Chief of Planning
Mark Butler	Chief of Project Management
Katariina Tuovinen	Chief of Administration Management
Ed Walls	Chief of Facilities Management
Niki Nicholas	Chief of Resources Management & Science
Marty Nielson	Chief of Business and Revenue Management
Tom Medema	Chief of Interpretation and Education
Charles Cuvelier	Chief of Visitor and Resource Protection
Kim Tucker	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 Specialists	Date
<p>_____ <i>\\ Renea Kennec \\</i> _____ Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec</p>	<p>_____ <u>9/8/10</u> _____</p>
<p>_____ <i>\\ Sue Clark \\ - acting</i> _____ Compliance Program Manager – Elexis Mayer</p>	<p>_____ <u>9/8/10</u> _____</p>
<p>_____ <i>\\ Mark A Butler \\</i> _____ Chief, Project Management – Mark Butler</p>	<p>_____ <u>9/9/10</u> _____</p>

Approved:

Superintendent	Date
<p>_____ <i>\\Don L. Neubacher \\</i> _____ Don L. Neubacher</p>	<p>_____ <u>9/9/10</u> _____</p>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 08/20/2010

PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: August 20, 2010

PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
Project Title: 2010-053 The Ahwahnee Hotel Interior Decoration Projects 2010-11
 Programmatic
PEPC Project Number: 31487
Project Type: Facility Rehabilitation (FR)
Project Location: County, State: Mariposa, California
Project Leader: Kim Tucker

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)?		No		
2. Species of special concern (Federal or State)?		No		
3. Park rare plants or vegetation?		No		
4. Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above?		No		
NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST				
5. Entail ground disturbance?		No		
6. Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?		No		
7. Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?		No		This CE does not cover any modifications to the historic building.
8. Has a National Register form been completed?	Yes			The Ahwahnee National Historic Landmark nomination form was completed in 1987.
9. Are there any structures on the	Yes			List of Classified Structures #55943.

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
park's List of Classified Structures in the area of potential effect?				
WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST				
10. Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor? (Name the river corridor)		No		
11. Fall within the bed and banks AND will affect the free-flow of the river?		No		
12. Have the possibility of affecting water quality of the area?		No		
13. Remain consistent with its river segment classification?		No		
14. Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River?		No		
15. Will the project encroach or intrude upon the Wild and Scenic River corridor?		No		
16. Will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values?		No		
17. Consistent with the provisions in the Merced River Plan Settlement Agreement?	Yes			
WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST				
18. Within designated Wilderness?		No		
19. Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?		No		



ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park **Park District:**

2. **Project Description:**

a. **Project Name:** 2010-053 The Ahwahnee Hotel Interior Decoration Projects 2010-11 Programmatic

b. **Date:** August 20, 2010

c. **PEPC Project ID Number:** 31487

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

 No

 X Yes, Source or reference: **Ahwahnee Hotel National Historic Landmark.**

 X 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:**

Historical structures/resources affected?

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)

 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:

No Assessment of Effect mitigations identified.

7. Supporting Study Data:

8. Attachments:

Maps Archeological survey, if applicable Drawings Specifications Photographs

Scope of Work Site plan List of Materials Samples Other:

Prepared by: Erin Davenport **Date:** August 20, 2010 **Title:** Environmental Protection Specialist **Telephone:** 209-379-1067

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:

Archeologist

Name: Laura Kirn

Date: 07/26/2010

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:

Historical Architect

Name: Sueann Brown

Date: 08/04/2010

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: Streamlined Review (PE)

Exclusion ID's: 1. Preservation Maintenance and Repair of Historic Properties

Historical Landscape Architect

Name: David Humphrey

Date: 08/11/2010

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, Historian, 106 Advisor, Other Advisor, Anthropologist

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.)

1) Preservation Maintenance and Repair of Historic Properties

Explanation:

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 Simmons\\

Date: 9-8-10

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 Superintendent \\Don L. Neubacher\\

Date: 9-9-10