



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: Tony Brocchini

From: Acting Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2008-085 Programmatic Parkwide Sign and Pavement Marking Routine Replacement and Maintenance 2009-2013 (22758)

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:

- Presence/absence of historic properties to be determined on a case by case basis.
- Implement Consultation Procedures in 2009-2013 Programmatic Parkwide Sign and Pavement Marking Routine Replacement and Maintenance Project Description.

//David V. Uberuaga//
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: 04/09/2009

Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: 2008-085 Programmatic Parkwide Sign and Pavement Marking Routine Replacement and Maintenance 2009-2013

PIN: 22758

Date: November 8, 2010

Project Description: This categorical exclusion document (CE) will serve as a formal record for routine replacement and maintenance of signs and pavement marking for the years 2009-2013. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) directs agencies to use CEs for actions "which do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and which are therefore exempt from requirements to prepare an environmental impact statement" (40 CFR §1500-1508). This project is categorically exempt under NPS Director's Order #12, Action 3.4 C(8): Replacement in kind of minor structures and facilities with little or no change in location, capacity, or appearance -- for example, comfort stations, pit toilets, fences, kiosks, signs, and campfire circles. There are approximately 5000 regulatory and directional signs within the boundaries of Yosemite National Park and the El Portal Administrative Site. These signs cover approximately 950 miles of paved roadways, campgrounds, and major urban and parking areas within Yosemite National Park. Approximately 3.5 million visitors visit the park annually, with the majority using private vehicles. Clear and concise road signage and painted pavement marking that conforms to Federal Highway Administration's Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and NPS sign standards are mandatory for public safety. Signs are also necessary to promote compliance with parking and other regulations, and to provide visitors with wayfinding, location identification, and information along park roadways, paths, and in developed areas. Signage helps protect resources by directing visitors to use established pathways, thereby reducing shortcuts through sensitive resource areas. Signs also enhance compliance with food storage regulations intended to protect bears and other wildlife. Adequate signage improves the visitor experience by providing a sense of arrival, orienting visitors, and reducing excess traffic circulation due to missed turns. Routine sign and pavement marking maintenance is necessary to keep signage legible and consistent with NPS standards, as signs and painting deteriorate with age and weathering. The park roadways' variance from 1900 feet in elevation to 9960 feet in elevation causes a high rate of sign and pavement marking damage due to snow removal and UV damage. This categorical exclusion covers replacement in kind of: road signs (including motorist guidance and traffic regulatory signs), park and facility identity signs (including trailhead, campground, and building signs), and other roadway, parking, pedestrian, and multi-use path signs (including guide and regulatory signs). Road sign maintenance activities include replacement in kind of signs within the existing road prism, as well as pavement marking such as centerlines, fog lines, crosswalks, parking lot striping, and stop bars. Temporary emergency signs (duration of less than 90 days) are also covered under this CE. Emergency signs with a duration of greater than 90 days are not covered under this CE and would require a separate compliance process. This categorical exclusion is not intended to cover kiosks, interpretive signs, wayside or educational exhibits, signs in designated wilderness, backcountry trail signs, sign lighting, or temporary signs used during construction. Backcountry-type trail signs (i.e., unpainted metal signs displaying trail names and mileages using cut-out lettering) are covered under a Programmatic Trails CE. Maintenance on the lighting for signs in tunnels is covered under a Programmatic Utilities CE. Aside from signs in tunnels, there are no other lit signs in the park. This CE does not cover new permanent signs in new locations, relocation of

existing signs, or any changes to the appearance, content or color of existing signs. These actions would require a separate compliance process.

Consultation Procedures

This programmatic CE is subject to annual review. Project proponents and responsible parties will submit an annual workplan for all non-routine work to be performed under this programmatic CE each fiscal year to the Environmental Planning and Compliance Office (EPCO). Consultation with the division liaison and appropriate subject-matter experts in the Resources Management and Science Division (RMS) should also occur at this time.

Work performed under this CE must apply the techniques, protocols, and methodologies described below. Work must also occur without significant changes in technology, location, or appearance. Any new techniques, etc., or changes in the scope of work would trigger consultation with EPCO for review, including any requests for an amendment to the CE to cover the proposed changes. The standard for determining a significant change is based on the potential for increasing environmental impacts, as determined by the Environmental Screening Form (ESF), attached.

Required Mitigation Measures

The Sign Shop must implement, in consultation with the park's subject matter experts, the following overarching conditions:

- Sign Shop personnel are responsible for coordination of activities with the park Wildlife Management Branch Chief and the park Vegetation Management Branch Chief in RMS to ensure the protection of natural resources, including special status species.
- The Sign Shop is responsible for coordination of activities with the park Archeologist and the Branch Chief for History, Architecture, and Landscapes in RMS and the park Native American Liaison to ensure the protection of cultural resources, including cultural landscapes, historic or prehistoric archeological sites, and American Indian Traditional Cultural Properties that are listed or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

For detailed mitigation measures, see the attached Mitigation Measures table.

Routine Sign and Pavement Marking Replacement and Maintenance Activities

- Replace signs.
- Repaint and recoat signs and posts.
- Straighten signs.
- Clear brush and fallen branches from in front of signs to maintain line of sight. Occasionally may require tree removal or trimming .
- Repaint pavement markings, using MUTCD approved specifications and water-based paint only.
- Replace centerline reflectors.

Sign Types

1. Motorist Guidance and Traffic Regulatory Signs: All signs regulating or controlling the flow of vehicular movement. These signs comply with the MUTCD rules, requirements and

specifications, except for exceptions outlined in the 1973 Memorandum of Understanding between FHWA and the National Park Service concerning traffic control devices on roads in national parks, as amended in 2006 (attached).

2. Safety Signs: Signs are chosen that apply to the situation depending upon the hazardous condition. Safety and closure signs state the regulatory authority.

3. Park and Facility Identity Signs: These include signs marking main park entrances, primary trailheads, named secondary and tertiary trailheads, visitor centers, and other facilities. The NPS arrowhead will be used on park identity signs, and will be displayed first. Where graphic representation is not possible, the words 'National Park Service' may be used. Interagency or gateway signs may require separate review.

4. Guide Signs: These include informational, guide, identification, destination, and wayfinding signs on roadways, multi-use paths, and other areas of pedestrian use. Park signs will be consistent with the specifications under NPS Director's Order #52C (attached), its companion Sign Standards Reference Manual, and the UniGuide Standards manual.

5. Regulatory Signs: These must be enforceable under CFR, Title 36, or State codes. Universal symbols are used whenever available and practical.

6. Park-Owned Buildings - Interior and Exterior Signs: These comply with NPS Director's Order #52C, its companion Sign Standards Reference Manual, and the UniGuide Standards manual, when possible. Any repairs to or replacement of historic signs must match existing signs and require consultation with the appropriate subject-matter experts in RMS and Facilities Management.

Sign Specifications

Sign Materials:

- Routed wood
- Routed/engraved miscellaneous
- Vinyl
- Wood substrate
- Aluminum substrate
- Engraveable plastics
- Nickel plated nuts, bolts
- Clear coats, polyurethane coating (protective coating)

Mounting Materials:

- Wood posts, painted/sealed in sealskin color (all exterior signs)
- Metal highway posts
- Break-away type metal highway posts (chain control and 'icy' signs only)
- Self-weathering type steel posts (in campgrounds)
- Extruded posts
- Galvanized steel (temporary emergency signs)

Sign Design: All traffic control signs comply with the MUTCD. All signs, where possible, conform to the NPS UniGuide Sign Standards. Facilities do not exist for Braille ADA compliance; however, colors for handicapped spaces are ADA compliant.

Mounting Procedures: Signposts are 4 x 4 inches to 4 x 6 inches in width and require 6- to 12-inch diameter holes, 2 to 3 feet deep. Post holes are excavated by hand with a post hole digger and/or shovel. If appropriate, concrete will be poured to mount the sign. Where concrete bases are used, the concrete will always be buried. Some signs only require driving sign stakes into the ground, with no digging required for signposts. Road signs are located at a minimum of 6-7 feet from the fog line.

Pavement Marking Types

1. Roadway Pavement Markers: Includes centerlines and fog lines (shoulder striping). These activities are carried out through contract work. Also includes reflectors in the center line.

2. Stop Sign Markings: Stop bars (limit bars) and 'Stop Ahead' lettering.

3. Crosswalks:

4. Handicap Marking: Handicap space marking is done using a stencil.

5. Parking Lot Striping:

6. Loading Areas: Loading and unloading area lettering, striping, and/or curb painting.

Project Locations:

Mariposa County, CA

Mitigations:

- Presence/absence of historic properties to be determined on a case by case basis.
- Implement Consultation Procedures in 2009-2013 Programmatic Parkwide Sign and Pavement Marking Routine Replacement and Maintenance Project Description.

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

5/15/09

Date

*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: 04/09/2009

ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)
DO-12 APPENDIX 1

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

Today's Date: **April 9, 2009**

Date Form Initiated: **04/09/2009**

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: **Yosemite NP**

Project Title: **2008-085 Programmatic Parkwide Sign and Pavement Marking Routine Replacement and Maintenance 2009-2013**

PEPC Project Number: **22758**

Project Type: **Facility Maintenance (FM)**

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

Project Leader: **Tony Brocchini**

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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5. Parking Lot Striping:

6. Loading Areas: Loading and unloading area lettering, striping, and/or curb painting.

Preliminary drawings attached? **No**

Background information 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:

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 –		X			Replacement of signs will

soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc.					require 6" - 12" diameter and 2' - 3' deep holes. The majority of signs are within the road prism.
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				To avoid the spread of non-native, invasive plant and animal species, all fill, mulch, reseeding, and sod material brought into the park must be 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 and the Invasive Plant Management Plan for Yosemite National Park.
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.	X				
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources	X				
18. Archeological resources		X			Mitigated; resetting a signpost in a new post hole requires consultation with the park Archeologist in RMS to identify potential to affect archeological sites, and to determine appropriate treatment measures when necessary. T-post installation does not require archeological clearance. Presence/absence of historic properties to be determined on a case by case basis.
19. Prehistoric/historic structure		X			In the unlikely event that previously unknown cultural resources are encountered during routine sign maintenance, Signs staff will temporarily suspend work in the immediate area and contact RMS to evaluate the materials and determine appropriate action. Presence/absence of historic properties to be determined on a case by case basis.
20. Cultural landscapes		X			In the unlikely event that previously unknown cultural resources are encountered during

					routine sign maintenance, Signs staff will temporarily suspend work in the immediate area and contact RMS to evaluate the materials and determine appropriate action. Presence/absence of historic properties to be determined on a case by case basis.
21. Ethnographic resources	X				
22. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections)	X				
23. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure	X				
24. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.	X				
25. Energy resources	X				
26. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies	X				
27. Resource, including energy, conservation potential, sustainability	X				
28. Urban quality, gateway communities, etc.	X				
29. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity	X				
30. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?	X				

Comments:

D. 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?		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		See C. Potential Resource Effects to Consider #15, above.

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
Dennis Mattiuzzi	Acting Deputy Superintendent
Linda Dahl	Chief of Planning
Mark Butler	Acting Chief of Project Management

Katariina Tuovinen Dennis Mattiuzzi Niki Nicholas Marty Nielson Tom Medema Steve Shackelton Tony Brochini Teri Tucker Jeannette Simons Renea Kennec	Acting Chief of Administration Management Chief of Facilities Management Chief of Resources Management & Science Chief of Business and Revenue Management Acting Chief of Interpretation and Education Chief Ranger Project Leader Acting Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager NHPA Specialist NEPA Specialist
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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:

Compliance Specialist	Date
<u>//Renea Kennec//</u> Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec	<u>5/6/09</u>
<u>//Teri Tucker//</u> Acting Compliance Program Manager – Teri Tucker	<u>5/11/09</u>
<u>//Mark A. Butler//</u> Acting Chief, Project Management – Mark Butler	<u>5/13/09</u>

Approved:

Acting Superintendent	Date
<u>//David V. Uberuaga//</u> David V. Uberuaga	<u>5/15/09</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: **April 9, 2009**

PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite NP

Project Number: 22758

Project Type: Facility Maintenance (FM)

Project Location: County, State: Mariposa, California District, Section: Parkwide.

Project Manager: Tony Brocchini

Project Title: 2008-085 Programmatic Parkwide Sign and Pavement Marking Routine Replacement and Maintenance 2009-2013

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			Replacement of signs will require 6" - 12" diameter and 2' - 3' deep holes. The majority of signs are within the road prism. Resetting a signpost in a new post hole requires consultation with the park Archeologist in RMS to identify potential to affect archeological sites, and to determine appropriate treatment measures when necessary. T-post installation does not require archeological clearance.
8. Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?	X			Resetting a signpost in a new post hole requires consultation with the park Archeologist in RMS to identify potential to affect archeological sites, and to determine appropriate treatment measures when necessary. T-post installation does not require archeological clearance.
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 and Tuolumne Rivers.
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		

Topic	Mitigation Measures	Timeframe
Natural Resources	To avoid the spread of non-native, invasive plant and animal species, all fill, mulch, reseeded, and sod material brought into the park must be 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 and the <i>Invasive Plant Management Plan</i> for Yosemite National Park.	Prior to project activities
	The Sign Shop will consult with the park Wildlife Management Branch Chief in RMS when maintenance activities could occur in an area that may affect sensitive wildlife, including nesting birds, or when potential to disrupt wildlife exists.	Prior to project activities
	The Sign Shop will consult with the park Wildlife Management Branch Chief and the park Vegetation Management Branch Chief in RMS when maintenance activities could occur in an area that may affect special status species.	Prior to project activities
Cultural Resources	Resetting a signpost in a new post hole requires consultation with the park Archeologist in RMS to identify potential to affect archeological sites, and to determine appropriate treatment measures when necessary. T-post installation does not require archeological clearance.	Prior to and concurrent with project activities
	Although not expected, should previously unknown American Indian burial sites be discovered during routine sign maintenance, provisions outlined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act and its implementing regulations will be followed.	Concurrent with project activities
	In the unlikely event that previously unknown cultural resources are encountered during routine sign maintenance, Signs staff will temporarily suspend work in the immediate area and contact RMS to evaluate the materials and determine appropriate action.	Concurrent with project activities
Operations	Underground Service Alert (USA Dig) will be contacted a minimum of 48 hours prior to any planned digging to locate utilities.	Prior to project activities
	Approvals from external agencies will be obtained prior to sign maintenance or replacement outside of the park. If the agency consultation indicates the need for a significant alteration in the sign's location, the Sign Shop will be informed of the change and will initiate a separate compliance process if necessary.	Prior to project activities



ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

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

2. Project Description:

- a. Project Name: **2008-085 Programmatic Parkwide Sign and Pavement Marking Routine Replacement and Maintenance 2009-2013** Date: **April 9, 2009** PEPC Project ID Number: **22758**
- b. Describe project and area of potential effects (as defined in 36 CFR 800.2[c])

This categorical exclusion document (CE) will serve as a formal record for routine replacement and maintenance of signs and pavement marking for the years 2009-2013. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) directs agencies to use CEs for actions "which do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and which are therefore exempt from requirements to prepare an environmental impact statement" (40 CFR 1500-1508). This project is categorically exempt under NPS Director's Order #12, Action 3.4 C(8): Replacement in kind of minor structures and facilities with little or no change in location, capacity, or appearance -- for example, comfort stations, pit toilets, fences, kiosks, signs, and campfire circles.

There are approximately 5000 regulatory and directional signs within the boundaries of Yosemite National Park and the El Portal Administrative Site. These signs cover approximately 950 miles of paved roadways, campgrounds, and major urban and parking areas within Yosemite National Park. Approximately 3.5 million visitors visit the park annually, with the majority using private vehicles. Clear and concise road signage and painted pavement marking that conforms to Federal Highway Administration's Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and NPS sign standards are mandatory for public safety. Signs are also necessary to promote compliance with parking and other regulations, and to provide visitors with wayfinding, location identification, and information along park roadways, paths, and in developed areas. Signage helps protect resources by directing visitors to use established pathways, thereby reducing shortcuts through sensitive resource areas. Signs also enhance compliance with food storage regulations intended to protect bears and other wildlife. Adequate signage improves the visitor experience by providing a sense of arrival, orienting visitors, and reducing excess traffic circulation due to missed turns.

Routine sign and pavement marking maintenance is necessary to keep signage legible and consistent with NPS standards, as signs and painting deteriorate with age and weathering. The park roadways' variance from 1900 feet in elevation to 9960 feet in elevation causes a high rate of sign and pavement marking damage due to snow removal and UV damage.

This categorical exclusion covers replacement in kind of: road signs (including motorist guidance and traffic regulatory signs), park and facility identity signs (including trailhead, campground, and building signs), and other roadway, parking, pedestrian, and multi-use path signs (including guide and regulatory

signs). Road sign maintenance activities include replacement in kind of signs within the existing road prism, as well as pavement marking such as centerlines, fog lines, crosswalks, parking lot striping, and stop bars. Temporary emergency signs (duration of less than 90 days) are also covered under this CE. Emergency signs with a duration of greater than 90 days are not covered under this CE and would require a separate compliance process.

This categorical exclusion is not intended to cover kiosks, interpretive signs, wayside or educational exhibits, signs in designated wilderness, backcountry trail signs, sign lighting, or temporary signs used during construction. Backcountry-type trail signs (i.e., unpainted metal signs displaying trail names and mileages using cut-out lettering) are covered under a Programmatic Trails CE. Maintenance on the lighting for signs in tunnels is covered under a Programmatic Utilities CE. Aside from signs in tunnels, there are no other lit signs in the park. This CE does not cover new permanent signs in new locations, relocation of existing signs, or any changes to the appearance, content or color of existing signs. These actions would require a separate compliance process.

Consultation Procedures

This programmatic CE is subject to annual review. Project proponents and responsible parties will submit an annual workplan for all non-routine work to be performed under this programmatic CE each fiscal year to the Environmental Planning and Compliance Office (EPCO). Consultation with the division liaison and appropriate subject-matter experts in the Resources Management and Science Division (RMS) should also occur at this time.

Work performed under this CE must apply the techniques, protocols, and methodologies described below. Work must also occur without significant changes in technology, location, or appearance. Any new techniques, etc., or changes in the scope of work would trigger consultation with EPCO for review, including any requests for an amendment to the CE to cover the proposed changes. The standard for determining a significant change is based on the potential for increasing environmental impacts, as determined by the Environmental Screening Form (ESF), attached.

Required Mitigation Measures

The Sign Shop must implement, in consultation with the park's subject matter experts, the following overarching conditions:

- Sign Shop personnel are responsible for coordination of activities with the park Wildlife Management Branch Chief and the park Vegetation Management Branch Chief in RMS to ensure the protection of natural resources, including special status species.
- The Sign Shop is responsible for coordination of activities with the park Archeologist and the Branch Chief for History, Architecture, and Landscapes in RMS and the park Native American Liaison to ensure the protection of cultural resources, including cultural landscapes, historic or prehistoric archeological sites, and American Indian Traditional Cultural Properties that are listed or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

For detailed mitigation measures, see the attached Mitigation Measures table.

Routine Sign and Pavement Marking Replacement and Maintenance Activities

- Replace signs.
- Repaint and recoat signs and posts.
- Straighten signs.
- Clear brush and fallen branches from in front of signs to maintain line of sight. Occasionally may require tree removal or trimming.
- Repaint pavement markings, using MUTCD approved specifications and water-based paint only.
- Replace centerline reflectors.

Sign Types

1. Motorist Guidance and Traffic Regulatory Signs: All signs regulating or controlling the flow of vehicular movement. These signs comply with the MUTCD rules, requirements and specifications, except for exceptions outlined in the 1973 Memorandum of Understanding between FHWA and the National Park Service concerning traffic control devices on roads in national parks, as amended in 2006 (attached).

2. Safety Signs: Signs are chosen that apply to the situation depending upon the hazardous condition. Safety and closure signs state the regulatory authority.

3. Park and Facility Identity Signs: These include signs marking main park entrances, primary trailheads, named secondary and tertiary trailheads, visitor centers, and other facilities. The NPS arrowhead will be used on park identity signs, and will be displayed first. Where graphic representation is not possible, the words 'National Park Service' may be used. Interagency or gateway signs may require separate review.

4. Guide Signs: These include informational, guide, identification, destination, and wayfinding signs on roadways, multi-use paths, and other areas of pedestrian use. Park signs will be consistent with the specifications under NPS Director's Order #52C (attached), its companion Sign Standards Reference Manual, and the UniGuide Standards manual.

5. Regulatory Signs: These must be enforceable under CFR, Title 36, or State codes. Universal symbols are used whenever available and practical.

6. Park-Owned Buildings - Interior and Exterior Signs: These comply with NPS Director's Order #52C, its companion Sign Standards Reference Manual, and the UniGuide Standards manual, when possible. Any repairs to or replacement of historic signs must match existing signs and require consultation with the appropriate subject-matter experts in RMS and Facilities Management,

Sign Specifications

Sign Materials:

- Routed wood
- Routed/engraved miscellaneous
- Vinyl
- Wood substrate
- Aluminum substrate

- Engraveable plastics
- Nickel plated nuts, bolts
- Clear coats, polyurethane coating (protective coating)

Mounting Materials:

- Wood posts, painted/sealed in sealskin color (all exterior signs)
- Metal highway posts
- Break-away type metal highway posts (chain control and 'icy' signs only)
- Self-weathering type steel posts (in campgrounds)
- Extruded posts
- Galvanized steel (temporary emergency signs)

Sign Design: All traffic control signs comply with the MUTCD. All signs, where possible, conform to the NPS UniGuide Sign Standards. Facilities do not exist for Braille ADA compliance; however, colors for handicapped spaces are ADA compliant.

Mounting Procedures: Signposts are 4 x 4 inches to 4 x 6 inches in width and require 6- to 12-inch diameter holes, 2 to 3 feet deep. Post holes are excavated by hand with a post hole digger and/or shovel. If appropriate, concrete will be poured to mount the sign. Where concrete bases are used, the concrete will always be buried. Some signs only require driving sign stakes into the ground, with no digging required for signposts. Road signs are located at a minimum of 6-7 feet from the fog line.

Pavement Marking Types

1. Roadway Pavement Markers: Includes centerlines and fog lines (shoulder striping). These activities are carried out through contract work. Also includes reflectors in the center line.

2. Stop Sign Markings: Stop bars (limit bars) and 'Stop Ahead' lettering.

3. Crosswalks:

4. Handicap Marking: Handicap space marking is done using a stencil.

5. Parking Lot Striping:

6. Loading Areas: Loading and unloading area lettering, striping, and/or curb painting.

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

 X No

 Yes, Source or reference: **Park-Wide APE; presence/absence of historic properties to be determined on a case by case basis.**

 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): **Park-Wide permit; presence/absence of resources determined on a site by site basis.**

Historical structures/resources affected?

Name and number(s): **Park-Wide permit; presence/absence of resources determined on a site by site basis.**

Cultural landscapes affected?

Name and number(s): **Park-Wide permit; presence/absence of resources determined on a site by site basis.**

Ethnographic resources affected?

Name and number(s): **Park-Wide permit; presence/absence of resources determined on a site by site basis.**

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.)

- **Presence/absence of historic properties to be determined on a case by case basis.**
- **Implement Consultation Procedures in 2009-2013 Programmatic Parkwide Sign and Pavement Marking Routine Replacement and Maintenance Project Description.**

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 9, 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:

☒ Archeologist

Name: Laura Kirn

Date: 03/30/2009

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**

☒ Historical Architect

Name: Sueann Brown

Date: 03/30/2009

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**

☒ Historian

Name: Patrick Chapin

Date: 03/26/2009

Comments: None

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance ☐

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

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: **None**

☒ 106 Advisor

Name: Jeannette Simons

Date: 04/06/2009

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:

Implement 2009-2013 Programmatic Parkwide Sign and Pavement Marking Routine Replacement and Maintenance Project Description.

Doc Method: **Park Specific Programmatic Agreement**

☒ Anthropologist

Name: Jeannette Simons

Date: 04/06/2009

Comments: American Indian Liaison

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:

Implement Consultation Procedures in 2009-2013 Programmatic Parkwide Sign and Pavement Marking Routine Replacement Project Description.

Doc Method: **Park Specific Programmatic Agreement**

☒ Historical Landscape Architect

Name: **David Humphrey**

Date: **02/24/2009**

Comments: **None.**

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance ☐

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

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

No Reviews From: **Curator, Other Advisor**

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: 5/14/09

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: 5/15/09

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