



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:** Geoffrey Lane, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

**From:** Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

**Subject:** NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2010-080 Ahwahnee Rehabilitate Historic Light Fixtures (33737)

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:

- Submit an Accident Prevention Plan to the Safety Office prior to beginning work.

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 33737.

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

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 National Park  
Date: 12/15/2010

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## Categorical Exclusion Form

**Project:** 2010-080 Ahwahnee Rehabilitate Historic Light Fixtures

**PEPC Project Number:** 33737

**Project Description:**

This project will address the immediate safety concerns related to the original light fixtures in The Ahwahnee hotel during phase 1 and minor conditions during phase 2. The recent lighting condition assessment of the original light fixtures has concluded that there are seismic and electrical safety issues that should be immediately addressed.

The 24 fixtures that received a rating of 5 in the condition assessment are not anchored to meet seismic safety codes and the 111 fixtures that received a rating of 4 have some electrical concerns that require urgent action. These fixtures rated with these two concern levels require immediate attention and will be addressed in the phase of this project. The remaining fixtures rated 1, 2, and 3 will be addressed in the second phase of the project.

Work will be conducted by a qualified lighting technician with expertise in historic light fixtures and electrical safety in accordance with the guidance provided in the condition assessment. The original lighting manufacturer is still in business and has been consulted on the scope of work. Consultation with History, Architecture and Landscape will occur throughout the duration of this project.

The original light fixtures at the Ahwahnee are character defining features of the National Historic Landmark. Ensuring that these fixtures are in good condition is essential to the protection of the historic integrity of the facility, and to the safety of guests and employees of the Ahwahnee.

**Project Locations:**

Mariposa County, CA

**Mitigations:**

- Submit an Accident Prevention Plan to the Safety Office prior to beginning work.

**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 (e.g. all boxes in the ESF are marked "no") or conditions in Section 3-6 apply, and the action is fully described in Section 3-4 of DO-12.

Park Superintendent \\Don L. Neubacher\\

Date 1-5-11

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Yosemite National Park  
Date: 12/15/2010

## ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

### DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 12/15/2010

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:** 2010-080 Ahwahnee Rehabilitate Historic Light Fixtures  
**PEPC Project Number:** 33737  
**Project Type:** Capital Improvement (CI)  
**Project Location:**  
**County, State:** Mariposa , California **District, Section:** Yosemite Valley,  
**Project Leader:** Geoffrey Lane

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				

<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>
8. Floodplains or wetlands	No				
9. Land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use	No				
10. Rare or unusual vegetation – old growth timber, riparian, alpine	No				
11. Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat	No				
12. Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites	No				Yosemite National Park is a World Heritage Site.
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 the updated safety features on the light fixtures.
18. Archeological resources	No				

<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>
19. Prehistoric/historic structure		Negligible			Ahwahnee Hotel National Historic Landmark; 55943.
20. Cultural landscapes		Negligible			Yosemite Valley Historic District.
21. Ethnographic resources	No				
22. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections)	No				
23. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure	No				
24. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.	No				
25. Energy resources	No				
26. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies	No				
27. Resource, including energy, conservation potential, sustainability	No				
28. Urban quality, gateway communities, etc.	No				
29. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity	No				
30. Other important	No				

<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>
environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?					

### **C. 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?		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 Ahwahnee Hotel is a National Historic Landmark; the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see the attached Preservation Assessment form.
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		No		

<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>
by 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		

#### **D. OTHER INFORMATION**

1. Are personnel preparing this form familiar with the site? Yes
2. Did personnel conduct a site visit? Yes
3. Is the project in an approved plan such as a General Management Plan or an Implementation Plan with an accompanying NEPA document? No
4. Are there any interested or affected agencies or parties? No
5. Has consultation with all affected agencies or tribes been completed? Not Applicable
6. 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)? Yes



## 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
Kinzie Gordon	Project Leader
Elexis Mayer	Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager
Elexis Mayer	Acting Historic Preservation Officer
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
<u>//Peter Lenz//-for</u> Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec	<u>12-23-2010</u>
<u>//Elexis Mayer//</u> Compliance Program Manager – Elexis Mayer	<u>12-23-2010</u>
<u>//Mark A Butler//</u> Chief, Project Management – Mark Butler	<u>12-28-2010</u>

### Approved:

Superintendent	Date
<u>//Don L. Neubacher//</u> Don L. Neubacher	<u>1-5-2010</u>

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National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park  
Date: 12/15/2010

## PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: December 15, 2010

### PROJECT INFORMATION

**Park Name:** Yosemite National Park  
**Project Title:** 2010-080 Ahwahnee Rehabilitate Historic Light Fixtures  
**PEPC Project Number:** 33737  
**Project Type:** Capital Improvement (CI)  
**Project Location:**  
**County, State:** Mariposa , California **District:** Yosemite Valley  
**Project Leader:** Geoffrey Lane

### PARK ESF ADDENDUM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
<b>SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST</b>				
Listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (Federal or State)?		No		
Species of special concern (Federal or State)?		No		
Park rare plants or vegetation?		No		
Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above?		No		
<b>NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST</b>				
Entail ground disturbance?		No		
Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?		No		
Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?	Yes			All light fixtures will be repaired. Some anchoring systems will have to be replaced with replicas. Replica anchoring systems will be cosmetically identical to existing anchors but will conform to current safety codes in-wall. The original lighting

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
				manufacturer will be consulted throughout the process.
Has a National Register form been completed?	Yes			National Register #77000149.
Are there any structures on the park's List of Classified Structures in the area of potential effect?	Yes			Ahwahnee Hotel National Historic Landmark; LCS #55943.
<b>WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST</b>				
Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor?	Yes			Merced River.
Fall within the bed and banks AND will affect the free-flow of the river?		No		
Have the possibility of affecting water quality of the area?		No		
Remain consistent with its river segment classification?	Yes			
Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River?		No		
Will the project encroach or intrude upon the Wild and Scenic River corridor?		No		
Will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values?		No		
Consistent with the provisions in the Merced River Plan Settlement Agreement?	Yes			
<b>WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST</b>				
Within designated Wilderness?		No		
Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?		No		



DRAFT June 2010

ID# CPW9

Safety rating: 4

**Location:** Porte Cochere right side hanging (right side is the entrance side to the Ahwahnee)

**Dimensions:** 31"L X 19"W

**Circa:** 1920's

Quantity: 6

**Description:** 4-panel decorative sheet steel exterior lantern that is chain suspended with wrought iron loops to a wrought steel ceiling canopy. Mitered steel joints are soldered together. Amber glass.



**Condition:** Wire is concealed beyond porcelain socket but exposed wire above loop is worn and brittle to the touch. Fixture is not internally grounded or polarized. Socket is loose. Overall structural integrity of wall sconce is sound. Original brown paint is worn.

**Recommendations:** Rewire entire lantern with a minimum of 105 degree Celsius UL listed UV safe wire or greater. Properly polarize fixture and leave an internally grounded wire for a future grounded system. Replace porcelain socket with new. Leave no exposed wire nuts in view to the eye. Tighten up fixture so that no sockets are loose but do not over tighten so metal does not begin to stress. Use jam nuts on all 1/8 27 threaded socket extensions and all threaded nipples that are going into couplings. Tin all electrical leads properly with non-acid flux and use 95/5 solder. De-burr all excess metal from internal wire paths so the new wire will not have insulation damage.

DRAFT June 2010

THE ADWADNEE  
Historic Furnishings Report

**ID#** EW3

**Safety rating:** 4

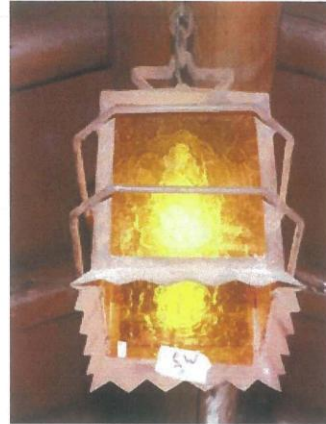
**Location:** Entrance walkway 3<sup>rd</sup> lantern

**Dimensions:** 30"L X 9"W

**Circa:** 1920's

**Quantity:** 9

**Description:** 4-panel decorative sheet steel exterior lantern that is chain suspended with wrought iron loops to a wrought steel ceiling canopy. Mitered steel joints are soldered together. Amber glass



**Condition:** Wire is concealed beyond porcelain socket but exposed wire above loop is old and brittle. Fixture is not internally grounded. Socket is loose. Tabs are broken. Overall structural integrity of lantern is sound. Original brown paint is worn.

**Recommendations:** Rewire entire fixture with a minimum of 105 degree Celsius UL listed UV safe wire or greater. Properly polarize fixture and leave an internally grounded wire for a future grounded system. Leave no exposed wire nuts in view to the eye. Secure all wire to fixture so that it is not loose. Replace porcelain socket with new. Tighten up fixture so that socket is loose but do not over tighten so metal does not begin to stress. Use jam nuts on all 1/8 27 threaded socket extensions and all threaded nipples that are going into couplings. Tin all electrical leads properly with non-acid flux and use 95/5 solder. De-burr all excess metal from internal wire paths so the new wire will not have insulation damage. Repair support tabs.



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park  
Date: 12/22/2010

## ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

### A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park    **Park district (optional):** Yosemite Valley

2. **Project Description:**

a. **Project Name:** Ahwahnee Rehabilitate Historic Light Fixtures

b. **Date:** December 22, 2010

c. **PEPC Project ID Number:** 33737

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

   No

  X   Yes, Source or reference:    Ahwahnee Hotel National Historic Landmark; 55943.

  X   Check here if no known cultural resources will be affected

4. **Potentially Affected Resource:**

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)**

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

  Yes   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

  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:**

None

**8. Attachments:**

☐ Maps ☐ Archeological survey, if applicable ☐ Drawings ☐ Specifications ☐ Photographs  
☐ Scope of Work ☐ Site plan ☐ List of Materials ☐ Samples ☐ Other:

**Prepared by** Renea Kennec **Date:** December 22, 2010 **Title:** **Telephone:** 209-379-1038

**B. REVIEWS BY CULTURAL RESOURCE SPECIALISTS**

The park Historic Preservation Officer requested review by the park's cultural resource specialist/advisors as indicated by check-off boxes or as follows:

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☒ Historical Architect

Name: Gabrielle Harlan

Date: 12/16/2010

*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: 11/23/2010

*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, Archeologist, Historian, 106 Advisor, Other Advisor, Anthropologist

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### **C. PARK SECTION HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### 1. Assessment of Effect:

\_\_\_\_\_ No Historic Properties Affected \_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_ No Adverse Effect \_\_\_\_\_ Adverse Effect

#### 2. Compliance requirements:

[ ☐ ] A. STANDARD 36 CFR PART 800 CONSULTATION

Further consultation under 36 CFR Part 800 is needed.

[ ☒ ] B. STREAMLINED REVIEW UNDER THE 2008 SERVICEWIDE PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT (PA)

The above action meets all conditions for a streamlined review under section III of the 2008 Servicewide PA for Section 106 compliance.

APPLICABLE STREAMLINED REVIEW Criteria  
(Specify 1-16 of the list of streamlined review criteria.)

#### 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 Historic Preservation Officer

Name: Elexis Mayer

Title: Acting Historic Preservation Officer

Date: December 22,2010

**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 Historic Preservation Officer** \\Elexis Mayer\\

**Date:** 12-23-10

**Signature of Superintendent** \\Don L. Neubacher\\

**Date:** 1-5-11

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Office in Yosemite National Park.*