



Yosemite National Park

Docket Number: 9

YOSEMITE VALLEY WELL #2

Preliminary Docket Information

DOCKET INFORMATION FORM

Compiled by: Alexa Kreiling Date: 8/28/2025
 Initial Docket Information Form ☒ Amendment # (1,2,3 ...)
 Includes Confidential Content ☐

Park Unit: YOSE Docket #: 009 Docket Title Yosemite Valley Well #2

Docket Type:

Select all applicable: ☐ PC/V (pre-code/vested) ☐ APP (appropriative) ☒ RIP (riparian)
☒ FRR (federal reserved right) ☐ PWR (public water reserve) ☐ ACQ (acquired)
☐ GW (groundwater) ☐ Own (ownership) ☐ Other

Region:

☐ NER & NCR ☐ IMR
☐ SER ☐ MWR
☐ IMR ☒ PWR
☐ AKR

Source:

☒ Groundwater ☐ Spring (When recognized by the State as separate from groundwater and surface water)
☐ Surface Water
☐ Direct Diversion ☐ Diversion to Storage ☐ Instream Flow
 Name: Well #2 (2S/22E-19H1)

State: CACounty: Mariposa

Owner: US National Park Service (As listed by the State)

Application #: Date:

Permit #: Date Issued:

License / Certificate #: Priority Date:

Ruling/Order/Decree #: Date Issued:

Quantity: Rate: Duty:
 Units: ☐ cfs ☐ gpm ☐ afy ☐ other Units: ☐ cfs ☐ gpm ☐ afy ☐ other

Use(s): ☐ Domestic ☐ Livestock ☐ Irrigation ☐ Municipal ☐ Industrial/Commercial ☐ Wildlife ☐ Instream ☐ other

POD Name / Location: west of the Sentinel Bridge, near Yosemite Lodge ☐ Multiple PODs (see water right)

Qtr: Qtr: Sec: T: R: PM:

Latitude: Longitude:

UTM , Datum:

POU Name / Location: ☐ Multiple POU's (see water right)

Qtr: Qtr: Sec: T: R: PM:

Latitude: Longitude:

UTM , Datum:

Narrative / Remarks: Enter short narrative in the space below, attach additional page(s) as needed.

See notes to the file in the preliminary section.

NOTES TO THE FILE

Docket 008 Yosemite Valley Well #1
Docket 009 Yosemite Valley Well #2
Docket 030 Yosemite Valley Well #4

The following were excerpted from "DRAFT Hydrologist's Summary, Water Rights Assessment, Yosemite Valley, Yosemite National Park, August 23, 1996," filed in Docket 008 Yosemite Valley Well #1:

EXISTING WATER SUPPLY FOR YOSEMITE VALLEY

Yosemite Valley's water supply is produced by three wells (numbered 1, 2, and 4). Water storage for the system consists of a 2.5 million gallon storage tank. No other surface or ground-water diversions presently supply Yosemite Valley (Walls, Telephone Communications, 1996). Sewage effluent from Yosemite Valley is piped to El Portal for treatment, and the treated effluent is discharged to the Merced River at El Portal.

Wells 1, 2, and 4 are located west of the Sentinel Bridge, near Yosemite Lodge and are shown on the attached map. Specific information for each well, obtained from hydrologic records in the Water Resource Division's files, is in TABLE 1.

Espinoza (1983) reported daily water use for 1981 to be a little less than 2,000,000 gpd in the summer and 800,000 gpd in the winter, with a daily minimum of about 301,600 gpd and a daily maximum of 3,909,600 gpd. Total use for 1981 was reported to be about 400,000,000 gallons.

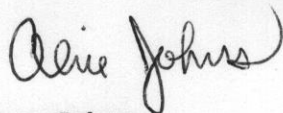
PREVIOUS WATER SUPPLIES TO THE VALLEY

In 1935 (NPS, 1935) Yosemite Valley's water supply was from a surface diversion on Illilouette Creek, supplemented by diversions from two springs, with diversions from the Merced River on an emergency basis. Prior to 1971 (Franks, 1984), the valley's supply was from a diversion on the Merced River at Happy Isles, augmented when necessary by diversions from two springs 1/4 mile southwest of Happy Isles (McClelland and Hotchkiss, 1974). By 1983 (Espinoza, 1983), the Merced River and Well #1 were the primary source of supply, and the springs were no longer used. Well #2 was drilled in 1975 and #4 in 1985. However, these were not tied into the valley system until the mid-1980's. The Valley Water System was rehabilitated in 1985 (Kennedy/Jenks/Chilton, 1989), and, presumably, Wells 1, 2, and 4, then became the source of supply.

TABLE 1. Well designations, locations, and comments, for Yosemite Valley water-supply wells.

WELL DESIGNATION	LOCATION	COMMENTS
Well #1 (2S/22E-19J1)	About 150 feet west of Yosemite Creek and about 250 northwest of the confluence of Merced River and Yosemite Creek	Total well depth is 520 feet, and well is screened from 429 to 459 feet and 479-509 feet. The well is under artesian pressure. A well test by the driller indicated a yield of 800 gpm with 80 ft of drawdown after 12 hours.
Well #2 (2S/22E-19H1)	About 90 feet east of Yosemite Creek and about 90 feet south of garage at Superintendent's residence.	Total well depth is 707 feet, and well is screened from 499-519, 559-579, 642-662, and 680-700 feet. The well is under artesian pressure. A well test by the driller indicated a yield of 640 gpm with 178 ft. of drawdown after 10 hours.
Well #4 (2S/22E-19K1)	Precise description of location not available. From map attached to this report, it appears that well is southwest of well 1 about 250 feet, and about 200 feet west of the confluence of Yosemite Creek and the Merced River.	Total well depth is 800 feet, and well is screened from 360-460, 540-580, 620-640, and 740-780 feet. The well is under artesian pressure. A well test indicated of yield of 1200 gpm with 40 ft of drawdown after 24 hours.

The NPS can probably rely upon riparian rights (to surface flow, underflow, and flow in known and definite underground channels, as applicable), rights to percolating ground water (as applicable), or possibly Federal reserved rights to support ground-water withdrawals in Yosemite Valley.



Alice Johns
Hydrologist
Water Rights Branch
Water Resources Division

07 OTHER

Yosemite National Park

YOSEMITE VALLEY WELL #2

Other Supporting Information



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Water Resources Division
1201 Oak Ridge Drive, Suite 250
Fort Collins, Colorado 80525-5596

IN REPLY REFER TO:

August 26, 1996

L54(2380)
YOSE/Water Rights

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park, Attention: Mark Butler
Michael Morelli, Team Captain, DSC-PM

From: Chief, Water Rights Branch

Subject: Water Rights Assessment, Yosemite Valley

Mark Butler, Yosemite National Park (YOSE), and Mike Morrelli, Denver Service Center, requested that the Water Rights Branch provide a draft water rights assessment for Yosemite Valley (attached). The assessment, along with an assessment which was drafted for El Portal (See my June 27, 1996 Memorandum to you) was requested to assist park and DSC staff in addressing water right issues, if any, associated with the Yosemite Valley Implementation Plan currently being drafted.

The attached draft assessment may contain sensitive material. Therefore, prior to releasing the report or relying upon its conclusions, I recommend that it be reviewed and approved by the Field Solicitor (SOL). I anticipate that a due date for comments and for a final water rights report suitable for public release will be determined by you, in consultation with SOL and me.

Attachment

(all w/out attachment)
cc: YOSE - Butler, Olsen, Walls
Pacific Field Area - Kilgore
Pacific Great Basin SSO - Turnbull, Kolipinski
SOL (San Francisco) - Mihan
DSC - Stone
2380 (E:mail) - Kimball, Jackson, Flora, Walker

*For Attachment
See YOSE - 0008,
Test Well #1*

*A. Johns
8/28/96*

08 MAPMISC

Yosemite National Park

YOSEMITE VALLEY WELL #2

Maps and Miscellaneous Information

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

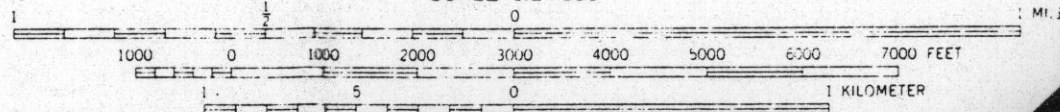
MAP OF YOSEMITE VALLEY

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, CALIFORNIA
MARIPOSA COUNTY

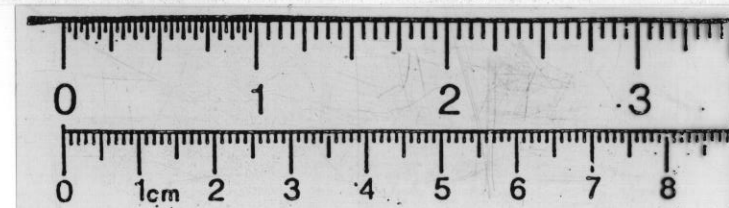
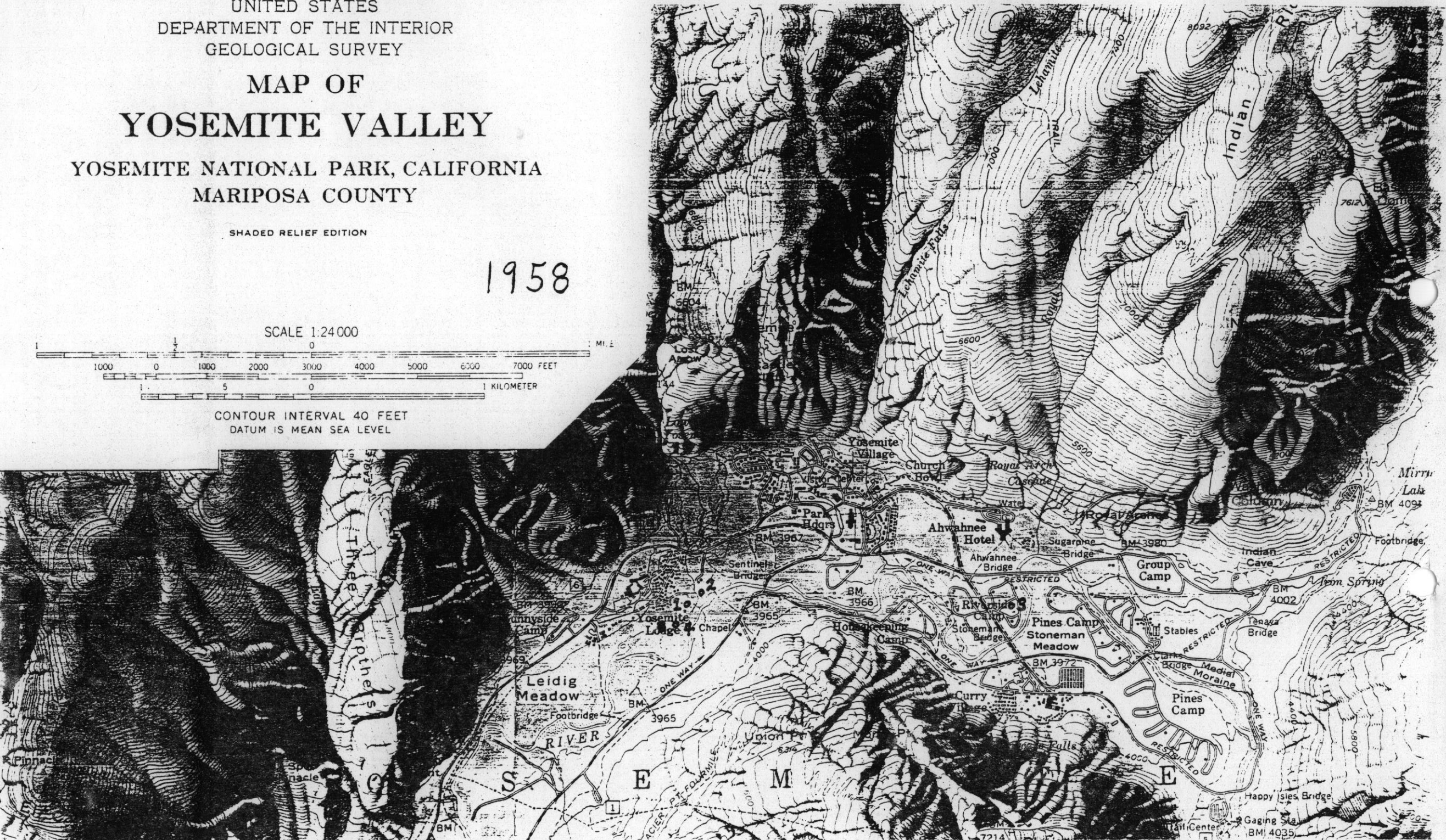
SHADED RELIEF EDITION

1958

SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 40 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



Docket Information

Number of Documents in Docket : 5

Documents Dated from : 00-00-1958 to 08-28-2025

Docket Compiled: 1/29/2026