Docket Number: 12

EL PORTAL WELL #1

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 #:** 012 **Docket Title** El Portal Well #1

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 #1

State: CA
County: 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: _____ ☐ Multiple PODs (see water right)
Qtr: _____ Qtr: _____ Sec: _____ T: _____ R: _____ PM: _____
Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____
UTM _____ , _____ Datum: _____

POU Name / Location: _____ ☐ Multiple POUs (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.

☐ Additional Page(s) Attached

06-26-1996: docket information mapping the well numbers with its docket number

NOTES TO THE FILE

YOSE 010: El Portal Well #2
YOSE 012: El Portal Well #1
YOSE 018: El Portal Well #3
YOSE 019: El Portal Well #4
YOSE 020: El Portal Well #5
YOSE 021: El Portal Well #6
YOSE 022: El Portal Well #7

June 26, 1996

The primary water supply for El Portal is from wells 2 through 7. Well 1 is no longer in use. All 7 wells are thought to tap the underflow of the Merced River. For information pertaining to land status and riparian rights common to all the above dockets, please refer to YOSE 012: El Portal Well #1.

Alice Johns
Hydrologist
Water Rights Branch
Water Resources Division

02 STATE

Yosemite National Park

EL PORTAL WELL #1

State Water Rights Documentation

11-05-1959: letter to executive officer, state water rights board from regional chief of operations regarding land purchased from the el portal mining company

WR Copy

L54

Region Four
180 New Montgomery Street
San Francisco 5, California

November 5, 1959

Re: Merced River
Water Rights

Mr. L. K. Hill
Executive Officer
State Water Rights Board
P. O. Box 1592
Sacramento 7, California

Dear Mr. Hill:

The land of the El Portal Mining Company at El Portal, California, is now in the ownership of the United States for use by the National Park Service.

We wish to have notices concerning water rights on the Merced River, which heretofore have been sent to the El Portal Mining Company, now addressed to the Regional Director, National Park Service, 180 New Montgomery Street, San Francisco 5, California.

It is our understanding the El Portal Mining Company no longer desires such notices.

In particular we wish to be notified of action to be taken by the State Water Rights Board in regard to Applications 16186 and 16187 of the Merced Irrigation District.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) JOHN B. WOSKY

John B. Wosky
Regional Chief of Operations

Copy to: Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro
Standard Oil Building
San Francisco 4, California

Copy to: Director

03 HISTORY

Yosemite National Park

EL PORTAL WELL #1

Land History

03-08-1960: memorandum to regional director from acting assistant chief of lands regarding completion of forms nps-l-1 el portal administrative site

W Klapp 03

L1425-OBL

March 8, 1960

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Four

From: Acting Assistant Chief of Lands

Subject: Completion of Forms NPS-L-1 El Portal Administrative Site, Yosemite National Park

Attached are three copies each of Form NPS-L-1 relating to the below described assemblies of documents filed in the National Park Service permanent land records, relating to acquisition of lands and/or interests in lands in the El Portal Administrative Site, authorized by the act of September 2, 1958 (72 Stat. 1772).

El Portal Administrative Site (Yosemite National Park) Deed No. 179-A purchased from El Portal Mining Company by deed of November 7, 1958, was accepted by the Assistant Director, National Park Service, as of April 13, 1959, the date of the Attorney General's final title opinion (copies previously supplied you), declaring a valid title vests in the United States. This instrument conveys to the United States approximately 972.00 acres of land in fee simple and quitclaims certain recited unpatented mining claims, mill sites and water rights. The acreages within the unpatented claims and sites are not included in the 972 acres.

El Portal Administrative Site (Yosemite National Park) deed No. 179-B, purchased from R. H. Cruikshank 19.99 acres of land by deed of January 1, 1959, was accepted by the Assistant Director as of July 29, 1959, the date of the Attorney General's final title opinion, declaring a valid title to be vested in the United States (copies of this opinion were previously supplied you).

El Portal Administrative Site (Yosemite National Park) Deed No. 179-C, purchased from Yosemite Natural History Association the unpatented Maby Mill Site claim on United States' land by quit-claim deed of May 13, 1959, accepted by the Assistant Director

as of November 18, 1959, the date of the opinion of the Assistant Solicitor, National Parks, that the quitclaim deed sufficed to release the interest of the locator (copies of this opinion were previously supplied you).

As indicated above, we have assigned the Yosemite National Park Deed numeral 179, with lettered suffixes A, B, C, for the three deeds, and will assign additional letters to 179, for what we believe will be a comparatively small number of acquisitions for the Administrative Site.

Please have entered upon the forms pertinent data appertaining to the lands at the time of the acquisition; retain two copies each in the field and return the originals of the form to this office.

J. Frederick Smith
Acting Assistant Chief of Lands

Duplicate

Attachments

Copy to: Mr. Smith (deed files)
Lands
Mr. Dunn

CRWSmith:ip

00-00-0000: deed - el portal mining company to the usa

[redacted]

No 1293

D E E D

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS THAT:

I. EL PORTAL MINING COMPANY, a California corporation, hereinafter called "Grantor," does hereby grant to THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA the following real property situate and located in the County of Mariposa, State of California, more particularly described as follows:

Parcel No. 1:

Section 16, Township 3 South, Range 20 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian;

The SE 1/4, S 1/2 NE 1/4, S 1/2 NE 1/4 NE 1/4, S 1/2 S 1/2 NE 1/4 NE 1/4 NE 1/4, S 1/2 SE 1/4 NW 1/4 NE 1/4, S 1/2 S 1/2 SW 1/4 NW 1/4 NE 1/4, SW 1/4 NW 1/4, S 1/2 SW 1/4, and NW 1/4 SW 1/4.

Parcel No. 2:

Section 17, Township 3 South, Range 20 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian;

The NW 1/4 SW 1/4, S 1/2 N 1/2, and NE 1/4 SW 1/4.

Parcel No. 3:

Section 18, Township 3 South, Range 20 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian;

The N 1/2 SE 1/4, SE 1/4 NW 1/4, SW 1/4 NE 1/4, and NE 1/4 SW 1/4.

Parcel No. 4:

A. North Barium Lode Claim
South Barium Lode Claim
Barium No. 1 Lode Claim
lying within Sections 18 and 19, Township 3 South, Range 20 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, all patented claims containing 61.979 acres.

B. East Baryte Lode Mining Claim, a patented mining claim, containing 19.688 acres, lying within Section 18, Township 3 South, Range 20 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

C. Barium No. 2 - Barium Claim Lode Mining Claim lying within Section 18, Township 3 South, Range 20 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, a patented mining claim containing 20.639 acres.

Subject to:

(a) The leases, licenses, easements, rights of way and grants described in Exhibit A attached hereto and hereby incorporated herein by reference;

(b) Lease dated April 1, 1947, executed by El Portal Mining Company, Lessor, to Standard Oil Company of California, Lessee, for terms and conditions therein set forth (recorded December 12, 1947, in Volume 24 of Official Records of Mariposa County, at page 47), as modified by document dated April 21, 1953 (recorded April 30, 1953, in Volume 43 of Official Records, page 24, Mariposa County Records);

(c) Any other leases, licenses, easements, rights of way or rights in possession of which Grantor did not have actual knowledge as of March 24, 1958.

II. Grantor does hereby quitclaim to THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA the following unpatented mining claims, unpatented millsites, and water rights:

Barium No. 3- lying within Section 18, Township 3 South, Range 20 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian;

Barium No. 6 - Lying within Section 19, Township 3 South, Range 20 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian;

Barium No. 4 - lying within Sections 7 and 18, Township 3 South, Range 20 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian;

Barium No. 5 - lying within Section 18, Township 3 South, Range 20 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian;

And Annex - lying within Section 18, Township 3 South, Range 20 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian;

East Baryte Millsite - lying within Section 18, Township 3 South, Range 20 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian;

North Barium Millsite - lying within Sections 18 and 19, Township 3 South, Range 20 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

Grantor's interest in any water rights used in connection with or appurtenant to any of the property, mining claims or millsites granted or quitclaimed in paragraphs I and II hereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, said El Portal Mining Company has caused its corporate name and seal to be affixed hereto and this instrument to be executed by its duly authorized officers.

Dated: November 7, 1958.

EL PORTAL MINING COMPANY,

By R W Brown
President

By E H Carter
Secretary

(6123)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA,
City and County of San Francisco. } ss.

On this 7th day of November, 1958, before me, HAZEL E. THOMPSON, a notary public in and for said city and county and state, personally appeared E. B. BROWN, known to me to be the president, and G. L. CARTER, known to me to be the secretary, respectively, of EL PORTAL MINING COMPANY, the corporation that executed the within instrument, and known to me to be the persons who executed the within instrument on behalf of the corporation therein named, and acknowledged to me that such corporation executed the same pursuant to its by-laws or a resolution of its board of directors.

Hazel E. Thompson
NOTARY PUBLIC
in and for the City and County of
San Francisco, State of California

My Commission Expires October 14, 1959

EXHIBIT A

Leases

Lot Number	Tenant
1	Mrs. M. Johnson
2	A. Sellenrick
3	W. E. Brantley
4	Eloise A. Queroz
5	R. E. Brantley
6	R. J. Kirk
7	Mrs. N. W. Bredeman
8	Wallis Gullic
9	H. S. Anderson
10	J. C. Wright
11	Lee Youd
12	A. J. Kohler
11A	A. Carroll Parish
13	J. Hansen
14	Margaret Bolin
16	Pauline Landy
17	Gladys Reed
18	H. Y. Reeves
19	Robert Babcock
20	T. H. Murphy
21	Fletcher Acord
22	G. A. Dukes

Lot Number	Tenant
23	Carroll Clark
24	William Elliott
25	Mrs. Anne Hulme
26	Mrs. Bebe Cline
27	James Ray
28	H. L. Odgers
29	Iva Mercer
30	Raymond T. Munson
31	Mrs. Esther Shiveley
32	Vernon Webb
33	Segrid Nelson
33A-33B	T. Freitas
34	Anne Dusterhoft
35	Maggie Zimmerman
37	F. McCleese
39	Clyde Gann
40	Robert F. and Mildred Powell
53	D. McElligott
54	W. Zollers
55	Robert Ringrose
56	Ivan Wiswall
57	B. F. Hickok
58	Otto Rinquist
59	Walter J. Fitzpatrick

Lot Number	Tenant
60	Peter Taglio
61	H. F. Boughton
62	B. Laughter
63	Anna Phillips
64	Y. L. Marshall
64A	Mary A. Dirting
65	A. Muller
66-67	W. A. Sayers
68	El Portal Food Market (W. A. Neubert)
79	R. G. Brown
82	J. S. Murphy
83	J. Vence
84	Manuel Senna
85	Laura M. Moore
86	John Walliser
87	J. J. Murphy
88	Stanley Hollingsworth
89	James Price
93	Post Office (D. D. Shepherd)
94	E. Bartsch
96	F. Barthlome
97	H. Salmon
99	D. C. Munley
100	Post No. 2971, Veterans of Foreign Wars
101	W. W. Williams

Lease covering Inn and Coffee Shop with W. E. Brantley, commenced August 1, 1947, renewed to July 31, 1962, by extension of lease dated February 15, 1955.

Lease dated September 24, 1957, covering food market on Highway 140, with W. A. Neubert, to expire March 31, 1962.

Lease with Standard Oil Company of California dated January 22, 1957, and expiring August 31, 1959, covering areas used for bulk plant and cottages.

Lease with Standard Oil Company of California covering Station 8746, extended to March 31, 1967, by letter dated August 27, 1957.

Lease for garage with William J. Leary, assigned to A. Sellenrick on March 29, 1950, to expire on October 31, 1959; covering a concrete block building adjacent to the post office on the side of the post office toward the Standard Oil bulk plant.

Rights of Way

1. Certain rights of way granted to the San Joaquin Light and Power Corporation pursuant to resolutions of vendor's directors dated December 28, 1932, and covering the following property:

(a) A strip of land one hundred (100) feet wide, lying fifty (50) feet (measured at right angles) on each side of the following described line:

Beginning at a point on the West line of the SE 1/4 NW 1/4 Section 18, and distant thereon 1088 feet South from the NW corner thereof and running thence N. 57° 06' E. a distance of 213 feet to a point thence N. 50° 46' E. a distance of 1122 feet to a point; thence S. 70° 12' E. a distance of 1736 feet to a point; thence N. 83° 37' E. a distance of 281 feet to a point; thence N. 66° 57' E. 293 feet to a point on the East line of the claim "Annex" which point is 589 feet South from the NE corner thereof. Also, beginning again on the West line of the S 1/2 of the NW 1/4 of Section 17 and distant thereon 1060 feet North from the SW corner thereof and running thence N. 80° 04' E. a distance of 888 feet to a point; thence N. 78° 41' E. 700 feet to a point on the North line of the S 1/2 of the NW 1/4 of Section 17, which point is approximately 1550 feet E. from the NW corner thereof.

(b) A strip of land ten (10) feet wide, lying five (5) feet (measured at right angles) on each side of the center line described in said resolutions.

2. Rights of way granted to the Pacific Gas and Electric Company for a single line of poles granted pursuant to a resolution of vendor's directors dated December 20, 1939, and covering the following property:

Certain strips of land, ten (10) feet in width and lying five (5) feet on each side of the following described center lines:

1. Beginning at a point from which the quarter corner common to said Sections 17 and 18 bears North 3° 47' West 364.2 feet distant, and running thence South 75° 13' West 379.7 feet; thence South 71° 13' West 374 feet; thence South 63° 59' West 165 feet, more or less, to a point in an existing electric transmission line of Licensee crossing said premises.

2. Beginning at said point from which said quarter corner bears North 3° 47' West 364.2 feet distant, and running thence North 75° 13' East 794.3 feet, more or less, to a point in said premises.

3. Right of way granted to Pacific Gas and Electric Company for extension of a line and one pole granted pursuant to a resolution of vendor's directors dated September 22, 1948, and covering certain property in section 17, M.D.B.& M., Mariposa County, to furnish service to two additional tenants in the property known as "On-the-Hill" at El Portal.

4. Grant of certain rights to the State of California, Division of Highways, pursuant to a resolution of vendor's directors dated August 1, 1951, including a grant deed to approximately 51/100ths of an acre opposite the North Barium mining claim for the purpose of rerouting the highway.

5. Agreement for contacts to poles in connection with line running from well to motor at El Portal, entered with Pacific Gas and Electric Company, pursuant to a resolution of vendor's directors dated September 24, 1952.

6. License for use of a road running over claims under lease to National Lead Company granted to Incline Mining Company pursuant to a resolution of vendor's directors dated March 31, 1954.

7. Grant of right of way to The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company pursuant to a resolution of vendor's directors dated April 30, 1956, and covering the following real property in Mariposa County, California:

The Southwest quarter of the Northwest quarter (SW 1/4 of NW 1/4) of Section 16 and the Southeast quarter of the Northeast quarter (SE 1/4 of NE 1/4) of Section 17, both in Township 3 South, Range 20 East, M.D.B.& M.

Said right of way is a strip of land ten (10) feet in width, five (5) feet on each side of the centerline as now surveyed by Grantee and staked upon the above described real property, except at those locations where it is necessary to construct, locate and install guys, with anchorage; thence said right of way is to include said guys and anchors which are not to be constructed beyond a maximum distance of twenty-five (25) feet from said centerline.

8. Grant of right of way to the Mariposa County Road Department pursuant to a resolution of vendor's directors dated April 30, 1956, and covering an area 40 feet wide, 20 feet on each side of the central line of the old Yosemite Valley Railroad Grade, not including that portion of the grade passing through the town of El Portal.

9. Grant of right of way to The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, pursuant to a resolution of vendor's directors dated June 1, 1956, for installation of a telephone line to the school at El Portal.

10. Grant and donation to the State of California, Division of Highways, pursuant to a resolution of vendor's directors dated December 12, 1956, of a parcel of land 450 feet long and having a width varying from 41 feet to 56 feet, for widening of highway, reserving water rights and mineral rights in the deed.

11. Rights of way owned by the State of California covering approximately 1.5 miles of California State Highway 140.

12. Whatever rights may be held by the County of Mariposa in connection with the so-called "Davis Road" and the road to the El Portal Grammar School.

13. Certain rights granted to T. C. Wooten and the A-1 Television and Radio Service for television and radio service transmission, including rights to maintain wires and a distribution center, all as more specifically set forth in an agreement dated November 20, 1956, by and between vendor and T. C. Wooten.

14. Rights of way or easements held by El Portal Water Company for certain underground pipe lines servicing vendor's lessees.

15. All rights of way or easements held by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company in, over or upon the subject property.

16. All rights of way or easements held by The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company in, over or upon the subject property.

Recorded at the Request of
R. H. Bordeaux
Dec. 1 1955, at — min.
past 12 o'clock P.M. in
Vol. 64 of Official Records,
page 358.
Mariposa County Records
Recorder
Deputy Recorder
Fee $ 1.10

PHOTOGRAPHED AND INDEXED

PATENTS, DEEDS, GRANTS & AGREEMENTS

El Portal, Mariposa County

on Land now held by El Portal Mining Co.

Compiled by L. Spaulding Dec. 5, 1957

ITEM	DATE OF DOCUMENT	INSTRUMENT	PARTIES	DESCRIPTION & TERMS All land is in T3S, R20E MDM	SOURCE OF INFORMATION	RECORDED Vol. & Page
1	Aug. 1, 1884	Homestead Cert. No. 1578	Leonidas G. Wharton	160 Acres SW¼NW¼ Sec 16, S½NE¼, SE¼NW¼ Sec. 17	Washington, DC Tract Book, BLM	Stockton 4 - 460
2	Aug 17, 1888	Homestead Receipt # 5158	Oliver W. Ward	160 Acres SE¼NW¼, SW¼NE¼, NW¼SE¼, NE¼SW¼ Sec 18	do	not found
3	Oct. 16, 1890	M.B.L. Warrant No. 80680 (State of Calif.)	Augustus H. Ward	NE¼SE¼ Sec 18, N½SW¼, SW¼NW¼ Sec 17 160A	do	Act of 1847 vol 169 (Warrant vol 1130) Page 214
4	Dec 20, 1890	Patent	W.R. Birmingham Charles W. Mott	E½, S½SW¼, NW¼SW¼ Sec 16, 440 A.	Abstract Las Mariposa Land Co.	Mariposa Co. Patents R-64
5	Apr. 21, 1893	Grant Deed	W.R. Birmingham & wife grant to James H. Martin	½ interest in Item 4	do	Mariposa Co. Deeds 14-121
6	Sep 1, 1893	Grant Deed	Charles W. Mott grant to James H. Martin	½ interest in Item 4	do	Mariposa Co. Deeds 15-83
7	May 9, 1902	Grant Deed	James H. Martin grant to A. H Ward	All of Items 5 & 6	do	Mariposa Co. Deeds 21-52
8	Jan 2, 1907	Grant Deed	Augustus H. Ward to Ward Land Co.	Granted to Ward Land Co. 1. Land described Items 1, 2, 3, & 4 (SW¼NW¼ S16 not included?) 2. Water Right - Moss Cr. - County vol. 2, pg 218 3. Water Right - 'B' System, " vol. 2 pg 220 4. Right of Way - power line - County Agreements vol. T pg. 78-80	do	Mariposa Co. Deeds 23-153
9	Oct. 5, 1907	Grant Deed	Augustus H. Ward and Ward Land Co to Yosemite Valley R.R	Grant to Yosemite Valley RR 1. Irregular Parcel, 15.2 acres in NE¼ S17 2. Right of Way, 100' wide RR S17 & 18 3. Right of Way, 50' wide wagon Rd. S16 & 17 Conditions a. Land reverts to Ward Land Co on abandonment of R.R. b. Mineral rights reserved c. Water Rights - Merced & tributaries reserved by Ward Land Co	do	Mariposa Co. Deeds 23-206

ITEM	DATE OF DOCUMENT	INSTRUMENT	PARTIES	DESCRIPTION & TERMS	SOURCE OF INFORMATION	RECORDED Vol. & Page
10	Aug 10, 1908	Agreement	Ward Land Co. 1ST Thomas Prather, Augustus H. Ward } 2ND Yosemite Terminal Co 3RD	Whereas, Ward Land Co - is owner of certain land in S 16, 17 & 18 - granted Right of Way to YVRR - reserved right to use wagon road - reserved water rights - leased land in Sec. 16, 17 & 18 to Yosemite Term. Co - reserved land for canal from Crane Cr. & Merced R. - reserved 2 acres in NW¼ Sec 16 - leased certain land in S 18 to F.M. Smith - has right to construct pole line Ward Land Co. sells to { Thomas Prather 2/3 interest; Augustus H. Ward 1/3 " } in property: 1. Land in Sec. 16 except wagon road 2. Right to use wagon road 3. Right of way for dam, canal, etc. 4. Strip of Land 50' wide. Sec. 16, 17 & 18 5. 2 Acres of Land in Sec. 16 6. Right of way for ditch reserved from F.M. Smith lease 7. Right to construct pole line along R.R. Ward Land Co. and Yosemite Terminal Co. Sell to { Thomas Prather 2/3 interest; Augustus H. Ward 1/3 " } in land and property: 1. Water Right - Merced River - 'B' System { Recorded July 15, 1902; " Feb 15, 1905 } 2. All of Water in Merced River in Sec. 16 3. All of water in Crane Creek in Sec 16 Except:- water diverted in Sec 17 to Hennessy Ranch - water from Crane Cr. required for use at hotel at El Portal AGREED that Ward Land Co and Yosemite Terminal Co.: 1. Shall have right to use water of Crane Cr. for operating existing power plant at El Portal 2. (power rights) 3. Shall have right to all water of Merced River and Crane Creek not used by party of 2nd part 4. Shall not interfere with appropriation of water of Merced River and Crane Creek by party of 2nd part and shall, when requested, prosecute all others attempting to appropriate or divert any water of Crane Creek or Merced River	Abstract Las Mariposas Land Co	Mariposa Co. Agreements Vol. T pg. 200

ITEM	DATE OF DOCUMENT	INSTRUMENT	PARTIES	DISCRIPTION & TERMS	SOURCE OF INFORMATION	RECORDED Vol. & Page
11	Nov. 1, 1909	Grant Deed	Thomas Prather and Augustus H. Ward to Merced River Elec. Co.	Rights, titles, interests & estates described in Agreement of Aug 10, 1908 (Item 10)	Abstract Las Mariposas Land Co.	Mariposa Co. Deeds 25-192
12	Dec 28, 1911	Grant Deed	Merced River Elec. Co. to Merced River Elec. Power Co.	All lands, water rights owned by Merced River Elec. Co (Item 11) including: 1. Land in Sec. 16 2. Easement for waterworks Sec. 16, 17 & 18 3. 100' strip of land in NW¼ Sec. 16 4. Water Rights - Crane Creek & Merced R. except reservation by Ward Land Co & Yosemite Term. 5. Water Right - Merced R. of Oct 2. 1911 6. Special Use Permit - Right of way within Stanislaus Nat. Forest by Secty. Interior dated Aug 4, 1910	do	Mariposa Co. Deeds 26-60
13	Mar 6, 1913	Grant Deed	Same as Item 12	New deed of conveyance correcting mistakes in Deed of Dec. 28, 1911 (Item 12)	do	Mariposa Co. Deeds 27-21
14	Feb 8. 1915	Grant Deed	Merced River Elec. Power Co to Merced River Elec. Co.	All property described in Deed of Mar 6, 1913 (Item 13)	do	Mariposa Co. Deeds 27-181

06 DATA

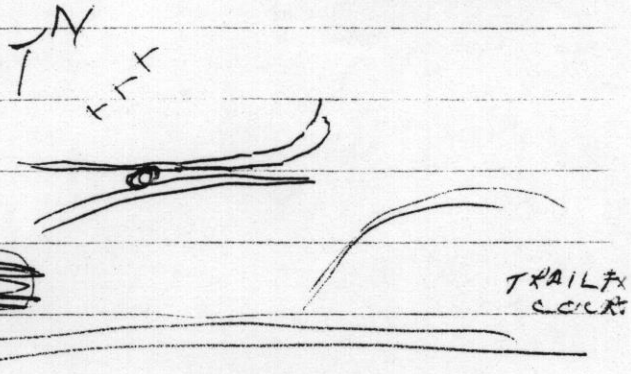
Yosemite National Park

EL PORTAL WELL #1

Supporting Hydrologic Data

01-30-1981: rough field notes on site visit

rough field notes of .3/BK, site visit 1/23/81 1/30/81



dug well

3.4
.8
4.2

turbine pump
(corrugated steel) casing diameter 4.2 feet
(black) inner pump casing 3.4 feet
(black) height of inner casing 4.2 feet
(corrugated steel) height of casing appox 0.2 feet

02-26-1979: letter to supervising sanitary engineer from the superintendent regarding well logs

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
P.O. BOX 577
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, CALIFORNIA 95389

IN REPLY REFER TO: D5039

FEB 20 1979

RECEIVED
Western Regional Office
FEB 21 '79

Regional Director	
Dep. Regional Dir.	
Administration	
Operations	
Res. Mgmt. Plan	
EEO	
Public Affairs	

Action Taken

Mr. Gunter A. Redlin
Supervising Sanitary Engineer
Sanitary Engineering Section
Department of Health Services
5545 East Shields Avenue
Fresno, CA 93727

Dear Mr. Redlin:

Enclosed are copies of the four well logs which you requested in your letter of October 18, 1978. A log of Yosemite Valley Well No. 2 was delivered to you on January 30 by Bill Matteson, but the copy enclosed has been updated with the USGS well number.

The "Water Well Report" for El Portal No. 1 was fabricated by drawing upon the memories of those who were involved in digging this well. Unfortunately, it is the best we can do as no written records were made at the time.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Leslie P. Arnberger

Leslie P. Arnberger
Superintendent

Enclosures 4

bcc:
(WR)RW - Division of Water Resources, w/c enc.

WATER WELL REPORT

EL PORTAL #1

1. Owner:

   U.S. Dept of Interior
   National Park Service
   Yosemite National Park
   Yosemite National Park, CA 95389

2. Location of Well:

   El Portal, Mariposa County;
   Twp. 3S, Rng. 20E, Sec. 18;
   About 50 ft. north of Merced
   River at east end of Rancheria
   Flat.

3. Type of Work:

   New well

4. Use:

   Municipal

5. Equipment:

   Hand tools

6. Casing:

   Corrugated Metal Pipe,
   Galvanized
   Diameter: 4 ft. from
   0' to 10', 3'-8" from
   10' to 20'

7. Perforations or Screen:

   None. Water enters well
   at bottom and between
   casing sections.

8. Construction:

   Sanitary Seal? No
   Strata Sealed? No

9. Water Level:

   5 ft. below surface
   (Static)

10. Well Tests:

    With drawdown to bottom
    of well, 180 gpm could
    be pumped indefinitely.*

11. Well Log:

    Depth: 20 ft.

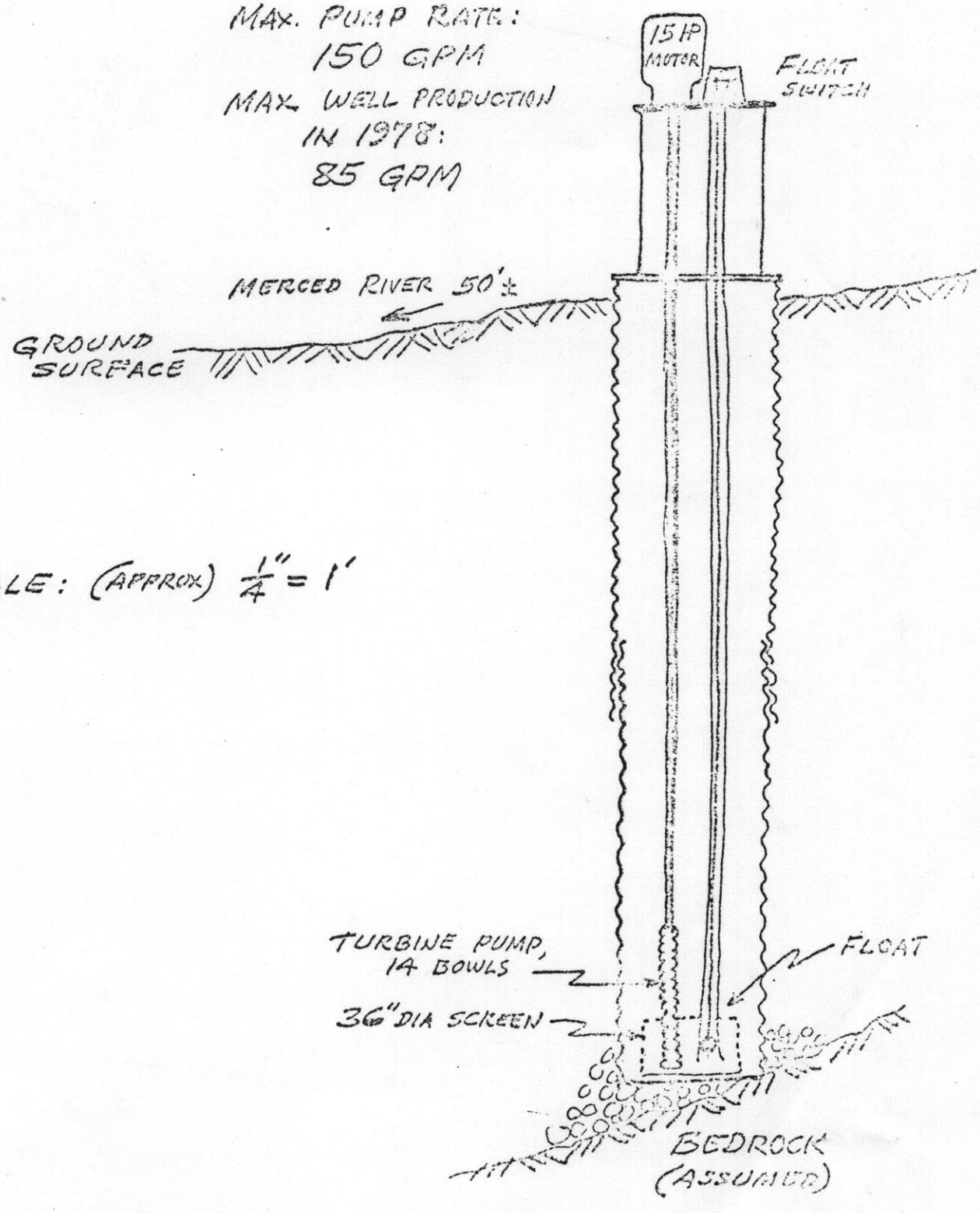
    All material removed
    consisted of topsoil,
    river sand and gravel
    and cobbles.

    Work started and
    completed: 1960
    by National Park Service

*Note: In recent years the surrounding strata have become sanded in, reducing the sustained yield to 85 gpm (1978).

EL PORTAL
WATER WELL #1

MAX. PUMP RATE:
150 GPM
MAX. WELL PRODUCTION
IN 1978:
85 GPM



SCALE: (APPROX) $\frac{1}{4}$" = 1'

07-03-1967: memorandum to assistant director of operations from supervisory hydraulic engineer regarding chemical analysis for water sample

Roberts
Fields
Kotzmann
Miller

L54 LWSSC July 3, 1967

YOSE

Memorandum

To: Assistant Director of Operations
Attention: Chief, Branch of Water Resources

From: Supervisory Hydraulic Engineer

Subject: Chemical Analysis for Water Sample -- El Portal Well -- for Water Rights Docket #6, Yosemite

Attached for filing in your docket #WR-6 YOSE is a copy of a chemical analysis of a water sample -- by the California Department of Public Health in 1960 -- for the subject well. This well is the one mentioned in the memoranda for March 25, 1960 and June 4, 1959 in the docket. We have filed a copy in our docket and are sending one to the park superintendent by copy of this memo.

William E. Fields

Attachment

Copy to:

Superintendent, Yosemite

JRoberts/vb
6/30/67

05-02-1960: memorandum to chief, wodc from superintendent regarding chemical analysis for water sample

IN REPLY REFER TO:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

~~D2615~~
L54

May 2, 1960

Memorandum

To: Chief, WODC

From: Superintendent, Yosemite

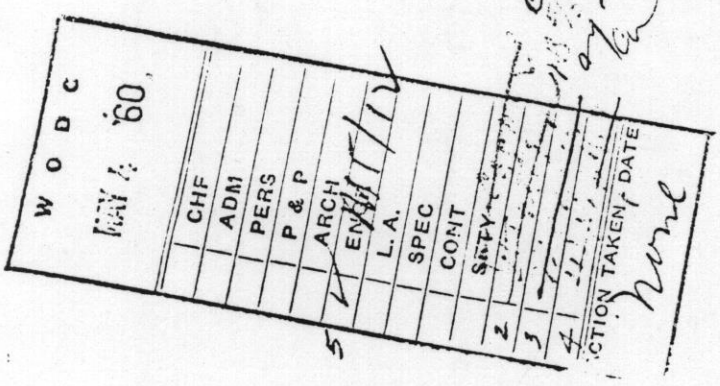
Subject: Chemical Analysis for Water Sample, El Portal Well

Attached are two copies of the subject analysis which was made by the California Department of Public Health. This information was requested by Project Supervisor Ralph Stratton.

John C. Preston
Superintendent

In duplicate

Attachment



STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
SANITATION LABORATORY AND BRANCH PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

SAMPLE FOR CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

Date Received 3/22/60 leave | Lab. No. Blank 1337 | BSE Serial Number C 8181

Name and Address of Owner; or Source: Yosemite National Park

Sampling Point: El Portal Well | Collected By: Berry | Date and Hour Collected: 3/21/60 11:45 AM

SEND REPORTS TO: ☐ District Office ☐ Health Officer ☑ Owner ☐ Other (specify) _____

Reason for Testing: Requested by Park Engineers Office

TYPE OF SAMPLE: ☑ Drinking Water ☐ Raw Surface Water ☐ Sewage (chlorinated? _____) ☐ Trade Waste ☐ Other (specify) _____

CHECK ANALYSES DESIRED — RESULTS ARE EXPRESSED AS mg/liter

☑ Total Solids	32.4	☑ Ca	2.5	☑ Cl⁻	3.9
(mg/l as $CaCO_3$)		☑ Mg	1.8	☑ $SO_4^=$	4.8
☑ Hardness	13.5	☑ Fe (Total)	0.08	☑ F^-	0.02
☑ HCO_3^-	16.0	☑ Mn	0.00	☑ NO_3^- as N	0.05
☑ $CO_3^=$	—	☑ Na	2.9	☐ BOD	
☑ OH^-	—	☑ K	0.8	☑ pH	6.9
☑ Total Alk.	16.0				

☐ Radioactivity (μμc/liter or gram)

OTHER SPECIFIC ANALYSES DESIRED AND REMARKS

Clear, No Sediment
Normal Odor

4-2060 Date Reported | ALS Analyst

(Rev. III 2-1-59) Form LAB-1605

Rec'd w/mi. Fields' SC memo to asst Dir Ops. 7/3/67.

FORM 10-174
(Rev. 1/56)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

REPORT 7 SPL

COMPLETION REPORT OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

REGION	AREA	COUNTY	STATE
IV	Yosemite National Park	Mariposa	California

PROJECT OR JOB TITLE: Utilities (Water & Sewer)
PCP NO.: M-78

LOCATION IN AREA: El Portal Trailer Village
MASTER PLAN NO.: NP-YOS- (To be Assigned)
BUILDING NO.: --

WORKING DRAWING NO. AND TITLE: NP-YOS-3449 Water & Sewer Systems, El Portal Trailer Court

APPROPRIATION TITLE AND SYMBOL: 14X1035 Construction, National Park Service
ACCOUNT NO.: B-8-YOSE

CONTRACT NO.: 14-10-444-491
DATE WORK STARTED: August 1959
DATE WORK COMPLETED: March 1960

NAME OF CONTRACTOR: Thomas Construction Co.
ADDRESS: Fresno, California

COST ANALYSIS

CONSTRUCTION ITEMS	QTY.	UNIT COST IN PLACE	TOTAL COST IN PLACE
Sewer System	various	various	$58,594.30
Water System	"	"	46,596.36
Total Construction			$105,190.66
PS&S (19.06%)			20,049.34
		TOTAL	$125,240.00

Verified by Field Finance Office

Supervisory Accountant

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES

PERSONAL SERVICES	EQUIPMENT	MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES

OTHER: PS&S $20,049.34

CHANGE ORDERS

ORIGINAL CONTRACT AMOUNT	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
$107,352.50	Add $2,156.00		
FINAL CONTRACT AMOUNT	**FOURTH**	**FIFTH**	**SIXTH**
$105,190.66			

THIS PROJECT OR JOB HAS BEEN COMPLETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPROVED DRAWINGS, SPECIFICATIONS, AUTHORIZED CHANGES

SUBMITTED BY (Name and title): Ralph M. Stratton
Ralph M. Stratton, WODC Project Supervisor — DATE: August 22, 1960

APPROVED BY (Name and title)
John C. Preston, Superintendent — DATE: August 22, 1960

(ATTACH NARRATIVE STATEMENT, PHOTOGRAPHS, AND "AS BUILT" DRAWINGS TO THIS FORM)

Construction of Water & Sewer Systems

El Portal Trailer Village

Yosemite National Park, California

PCP M-78 Account B-8-YOSE

Plans and specifications were prepared by the Western Office, Division of Design and Construction, and invitations to bid were distributed by Yosemite National Park. Bids were opened in Yosemite National Park on July 16, 1959. Contract No. 14-10-444-491, which also included the Roads and Trailer Sites, was awarded to Thomas Construction Company, P.O. Box 1547, Fresno, California, in the amount of $162,510.00. The following bids were received:

Name	Schedule A	Schedule B	Total
CB Construction Co.	$70,345.00	$165,008.80	$235,353.80
V. L Fitchett	72,640.10	112,416.70	185,056.80
Granit Construction Co.	71,967.50	111,515.20	183,482.70
Valley Engineers	55,317.50	117,902.00	173,219.50
Malvan & Nichols	63,797.00	102,997.00	166,794.00
Thomas Construction Co.	55,157.50	107,352.50	162,510.00

This Completion Report covers only Schedule "B".

The Notice to Proceed was acknowledged on August 4, 1959, which established August 5, 1959, as the first calendar day of the Contract Period and January 31, 1960, as the expiration date. An extension of 14 calendar days was granted under Change Order No. 1; a Stop Order was in effect from January 9, 1960, to January 18, 1960, both dates inclusive, and another Stop Order was in effect from January 28, 1960, to February 24, 1960, both dates inclusive. The Contract Time was accordingly extended and a final completion date of the Contract was established as April 3, 1960.

Unit costs were as follows:

	Item	Estimated Units	As Constructed Units	Unit Costs	Estimated Cost	As Constructed Costs
1.	4" B&S Clay Pipe	1200'	1200'	$ 3.70	$ 4,440.00	$ 4,440.00
2.	Concrete Insp. Boxes	2 ea	2	114.00	228.00	228.00
3.	15,000 gal. Septic tank	1 ea	1	6500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00
4.	6" Cast iron Soil pipe	3500'	3517'	7.20	25,200.00	25,322.40
5.	4" " " " "	2800'	2294'	4.85	13,580.00	11,125.90
6.	Trailer Sewer Connects	75 ea	62	99.50	7,462.50	6,169.00
7.	Concrete Manholes	21 ea	21	229.00	4,809.00	4,809.00
8.	6" C.I. Water Pipe for river crossing	200"	189'	20.00	4,000.00	3,780.00
9.	6" Water Pipe,C.I.	550'	731'	6.10	3,355.00	4,459.10
10.	4" " " ""	3020'	2928'	5.00	15,100.00	14,640.00
11.	2" G.S. Pipe	1900'	2001'	3.30	6,270.00	6,603.30
12.	3/4" Copper Service pipe	2000'	2074'	0.64	1,280.00	1,327.36
13.	Connection to pump	1 ea	1	166.00	166.00	166.00
14.	4" Gate Valves	4 ea	4	133.00	532.00	532.00
15.	2" " "	12 ea	12	60.00	720.00	720.00
16.	Trailer Water Connects	75 ea	62	136.00	10,200.00	8,432.00
17.	1½" Fire Hydrants	13 ea	14	270.00	3,510.00	3,780.00
					$107,352.50	$103,034.06
						2,156.60

Change Order No. 1

Total $105,190.66

The under runs on the items were caused by cutting out 13 trailer sites from the original estimate. Change Order No. 1 in the amount of $2,156.60 included insulating the water service connections to the trailer and a pressure reducing valve on the main water line.

Construction progress was good. Large amounts of rock were encountered requiring a lot of blasting. The work was well coordinated by the Contractor's superintendent.

All work was completed and Final Inspection made on March 25, 1960, by John C. Preston, Superintendent; Keith Neilson, Assistant Superintendent; H. J. Allcock, Park Engineer; John Adams, Park Landscape Architect; Claude Cottrell, Park Plumber Foreman; Ralph Stratton, Project Supervisor, WODC; and Mr. R. Tout, contractor's superintendent. Since the contract was done before April 3, 1960, the question of liquidated damages did not apply.

Usable facilities were provided.

07-27-1962: completion report of construction project

Form 10-174
(Rev. 8-56)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

COMPLETION REPORT OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

REGION	AREA	COUNTY	STATE
Western	Yosemite National Park	Mariposa	California

PROJECT OR JOB TITLE: Utilities for Incinerator and Dump
PCP NO.: U-117

LOCATION IN AREA	MASTER PLAN NO.	BUILDING NO.
El Portal	NP-YOS-3415	--

WORKING DRAWING NO. AND TITLE: NP-YOS-3538 Utilities for Incinerator, El Portal

APPROPRIATION TITLE AND SYMBOL: 14X1035 Construction, National Park Service
WORK ORDER NO.: B-30-YOSE

CONTRACT NO.	DATE WORK STARTED	DATE WORK COMPLETED
14-10-0444-688	Sept. 1961	April 1962

NAME OF CONTRACTOR	ADDRESS
Industrial Service & Engr. Co.	Lynwood, California

COST ANALYSIS

CONSTRUCTION ITEMS	QTY.	UNIT COST IN PLACE	TOTAL COST IN PLACE
1. Water System extension & storage	--	--	$32,989.82
2. Septic tank and Absorption field			12,641.76
(See attached narrative for construction items and unit costs)			
Total Construction			$45,631.58
PS&S (16.27%)			7,424.26
		TOTAL	$53.055.84

Verified by Field Finance Office

Accounting Officer

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES

PERSONAL SERVICES	EQUIPMENT	MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES

OTHER

ORIGINAL CONTRACT AMOUNT	CHANGE ORDERS FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
$45,952.15			
FINAL CONTRACT AMOUNT	FOURTH	FIFTH	SIXTH
$45,631.58			

THIS PROJECT OR JOB HAS BEEN COMPLETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPROVED DRAWINGS, SPECIFICATIONS, AUTHORIZED CHANGES

SUBMITTED BY (Name and title)	DATE
H.J. Allcock, Park Engineer H. J. Allcock	July 27, 1962
APPROVED BY (Name and title)	DATE
John C. Preston, Superintendent John C. Preston	July 27, 1962

(ATTACH NARRATIVE STATEMENT, PHOTOGRAPHS, AND "AS BUILT" DRAWINGS TO THIS FORM)

30105

Narrative Statement

Utilities for Incinerator and Dump, El Portal

This project was accomplished as a part of Contract No. 14-10-0444-688 awarded to Industrial Service and Engineering Company of Lynwood, California. The first day of the contract was established as August 18, 1961. Following is a list of construction items and costs:

Item Number	Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
B-1	lin.ft., 4" cast iron waterline	2613	5.31	$13,875.03
B-2	linft. 2" galv. steel waterline	1521	3.99	6,068.79
B-3	ea., 4" gate valve, w/valve box	2	128.00	256.00
B-4	ea., 2" gate valve, w/valve box	3	80.00	240.00
B-5	Air Relief Valve	1	150.00	150.00
B-6	Float Valve	1	250.00	250.00
B-7	ea., 2" fire hydrants,w/auxl. valves	7	300.00	2,100.00
B-8	ea., 20,000 gal. steel reservoir	1	4800.00	4,800.00
B-9	cu. yds., Unclass.excvn.for reservoir	495	10.00	4,950.00
B-10	ea., septic tank	1	2500.00	2,500.00
B-11	ea., settling tank	1	1500.00	1,500.00
B-12	Manholes	5	1000.00	5,000.00
B-13	lin.ft.,6" cast iron sewer line	239.3	7.00	1,675.10
B-14	lin.ft. 4" cast iron sewer line	191	4.76	909.16
B-15	lin.ft., absorption trench,w/4" VC pipe	250	4.23	1,057.50
B-16	ea., 2" water meter	1	300.00	300.00
		Total		$45,631.58

The contractor began construction in September 1961 with excavation of the trench and placing the 2" diameter supply line between the residential area and the proposed 20,000 gallon water storage tank. In October he began work on the sewer lines, manholes, septic tank, and access road to the water tank. Work progressed throughout the winter with the water tank and 4" supply line completed to the incinerator and dump during December, January, and February. The entire project was substantially complete and in use by March.

Final inspection was made May 21, 1962, and the project accepted.

(Rev. 1/56) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR REPORT 7 SFL
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

COMPLETION REPORT OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

REGION	AREA	COUNTY	STATE
IV	Yosemite National Park	Mariposa	California

PROJECT OR JOB TITLE: Buildings and Utility Reconstruction
PCP NO.: B-180-1

LOCATION IN AREA	MASTER PLAN NO.	BUILDING NO
El Portal	NP-YOS-3509	703 and 704

WORKING DRAWING NO. AND TITLE: None

APPROPRIATION TITLE AND SYMBOL: 14X1035 Construction, National Park Service
ACCOUNT NO.: B-6-YOSE

CONTRACT NO.	DATE WORK STARTED	DATE WORK COMPLETED
Day Labor	June 1959	October 1959

NAME OF CONTRACTOR: --
ADDRESS: --

COST ANALYSIS

CONSTRUCTION ITEMS	QTY.	UNIT COST IN PLACE	TOTAL COST IN PLACE
A. Utility Reconstruction	1 job		$6,388.92
PS&S			1,118.70
		Subtotal	$7,507.62
B. Building Reconstruction	1 job		$4,110.33
PS&S			719.72
		Subtotal	$4,830.05

Verified by Field Finance Office

Victor E. Dahlberg
Supervisory Accountant

TOTAL $12,337.67

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES

PERSONAL SERVICES	EQUIPMENT	MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES
$4,163.77	$321.54	$4,819.96

OTHER: Other Direct: $514.34; Equip. Opr. $309.30; Dep./Equip: $370.34, PS&S 1,838.42

ORIGINAL CONTRACT AMOUNT	CHANGE ORDERS		
--	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
FINAL CONTRACT AMOUNT	FOURTH	FIFTH	SIXTH
--			

THIS PROJECT OR JOB HAS BEEN COMPLETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPROVED DRAWINGS, SPECIFICATIONS, AUTHORIZED CHANGES

SUBMITTED BY (Name and title): Lester M. Moe
Lester M. Moe, Assistant Park Engineer (B&U)
DATE: November 23, 1959

APPROVED BY (Name and title): Keith Neilson
Keith Neilson, Acting Superintendent
DATE: November 23, 1959

(ATTACH NARRATIVE STATEMENT, PHOTOGRAPHS, AND "AS BUILT" DRAWINGS TO THIS FORM)

430' and 1 dd
3515

Completion Report

Building and Utility Reconstruction

El Portal

PCP B-180-1, Account B-6-YOSE

A. Utility Reconstruction $6,388.92

1. Sewer System, Residence 700 ($975.00)

The septic tank and leaching lines serving Residence 700 were washed out by the 1955 flood. Sewage, prior to the time the property was acquired by the Government, discharged directly into the Merced River.

A 1,000 gallon concrete septic tank and effluent leaching lines were constructed prior to the time Residence 700 was occupied by Government personnel.

2. Water System ($5,413.92)

The old water system serving Residences Nos. 700, 703, 704, and 705 acquired by the Government from the National Lead Co. was a worn out and deteriorated system that provided rusty water to the residences at a pressure of from 5 to 10 pounds. The pump was completely worn out and frequently failed to operate.

A new 17 foot well lined with four foot corrugated culvert material with a concrete cap and manhole with an overlapping cover was constructed. A yield test conducted on August 13, 1959, indicated a maximum constant production of 170 gallons per minute at maximum drawdown.

A new water pump was purchased and installed on a concrete base with corrugated steel shelter near the well. The pump was a Gould 5 x 5 Pyramid Pump, 5 H.P., 3 phase, 220/440 volt motor, 60 cycle, 1750 RPM, rated at 50 GPM at 231 foot head.

A power line was extended to serve the pump and a messenger line with float and control mechanism was installed on poles from the storage tanks to the pump.

Two existing 8,000 gallon redwood storage tanks were dismantled and installed at a higher elevation to provide adequate water pressure at the four residences.

450 feet of 3" G.S. pipe were installed between the pump

and the storage tanks. 600 feet of 2" G.S. pipe were installed from the storage tanks to Residences 703, 704, and 705. The existing distribution line to Residence 700 was tied into the system at the pump.

B. Building Reconstruction $4,110.33

Reconstruction of Residences 703 and 704, which are identical in design, consisted of the following:

> Addition of foundation timbers, electrical wiring and fixtures, plumbing, electric hot water tank, electric range and refrigerator, kitchen cabinets, drainboard and sink, linoleum in kitchen and bath, oil burning floor furnace, bathroom fixtures, window screens and shades, sanding and refinishing floors, and interior patching and painting throughout.

Usable facilities were provided and the residences were all occupied by October 1959.

EL PORTAL WELL
WELL TEST AUG 13, 1959

RECOVERY

1	MIN.	0.7 FT.	17	MIN.	5.3 FT.
2	"	1.15	18	"	5.4
3	"	1.7	19	"	5.5
4	"	2.2	20	"	5.575
5	"	2.625	21	"	5.675
6	"	3.025	22	"	5.725
7	"	3.375	23	"	5.8
8	"	3.726	24	"	5.876
9	"	4.025	25	"	5.95
10	"	4.25	26	"	6.0
11	"	4.425	27	"	6.06
12	"	4.625	28	"	6.1
13	"	4.8	29	"	6.15
14	"	4.95	30	"	6.176
15	"	5.075	31	"	6.225
16	"	5.175	96	"	7.3

RECOVERY TIME IN MIN.

98 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10



DRAWDOWN	TIME REQUIRED FOR CONSTANT LEVEL	CONSTANT LEVEL
50 G.P.M.	41 MIN.	1.(illegible) FT.
100 "	81 "	3.2 "
150 "	83 "	5.4 "
170 "	82 "	7.2 "
180 "	GREATER THAN WELL YIELD	

GROUND LEVEL

17.5' 17' 16' 15' 14' 13' 12' 11' 10' 9' 8' 7'

DRAWDOWN GALLONS PER MIN.

50 100 150 170 180

WATER LEVEL

0' 1' 2' 3' 4' 5' 6' 7' 8'

07 OTHER

Yosemite National Park

EL PORTAL WELL #1

Other Supporting Information

ADDITION TO

Supplemental Water Supply
El Portal, Yosemite National Park

Environmental summary should also consider Phase II of this work. The assessment provided by the Denver Service Center is to be augmented by this condition:

Compliance:

All areas that will be disturbed by the construction equipment or activity in Phase I or in Phase II will be inspected by an archeologist to determine the presence of any archeological evidence. The archeologist will determine measures to be taken to avoid or mitigate adverse impacts to these resources (see Clearance No. 35-79-YOSE for the wells).

A representative of the resource management division will survey all sites for the presence of rare or endangered plants. This representative will determine measures to be taken to avoid or mitigate adverse impacts to these plants.

During development phases of the well, adequate measures will be employed to prevent pollution into the Merced River. The pipe connecting the wells to the existing water system will be placed in presently impacted areas such as cross bridges or along road shoulders whenever possible.

All powerlines will be underground in the vicinity of the pump house.

Structures will be designed and located and planning will be used to minimize visual intrusion of the facilities.

In the laying of pipe and underground power conduit or cable, special effort will be made to protect roots over two inches in diameter.

06-26-1996: telephone conversation report - discussion of the current water system at el portal

. . . REPORT OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

DATE: June 26, 1996 TIME: 11:30 a.m.
PROJECT: YOSE - El Portal

NPS PERSON ON CALL: Alice E. Johns

[ ] I RECEIVED A CALL FROM [x] I CALLED

PERSON: Ed Walls
ORGANIZATION: Chief of Maintenance
ADDRESS: YOSE

TELEPHONE: 209-379-1077

DISCUSSION: I called for clarification on the current water system at El Portal. Ed said that the water system consists of 6 wells--numbers 2-7. Well number 1 is no longer in use. Number 7 has just gone on line.

He also asked about water right issues associated with Tuolumne Meadows. I told him that Steve Stone of DSC had requested a water right analysis, and that it would be next after El Portal and Biledo. If there was a need for it to be placed at a higher priority, I suggested that Ed talk to Mark Butler.

Ed said that he would call back with current information on well production. He called back and said that the current system is capable of producing 307 gpm. In 95, 42 million gallons were withdrawn. Averaged over the year, that is about 80 gpm. Withdrawals are about 100,000 gpd in winter, more 200,000 gpd in summer.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN:

COPIES TO:

06-26-1996: telephone conversation report - discussion of the hydrology at el portal,

. . . REPORT OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

DATE: June 26, 1996 TIME: 11:10 a.m.
PROJECT: YOSE - El Portal

NPS PERSON ON CALL: Alice E. Johns

[ ] I RECEIVED A CALL FROM [x] I CALLED

PERSON: William Werrell
ORGANIZATION: DEVA
ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE: 619-786-3255

DISCUSSION: Bill's previous position was hydrologist with the Water Operations Branch of the Water Resources Division. In that capacity, Bill had provided technical assistance to Yosemite National Park, to find well locations, develop specs for drilling, conducting aquifer tests, and organizing information for wells. I asked Bill if he concurred with the conclusion that all the wells numbered 1-7 at El Portal tapped the underflow of the river. He said yes he did and that I could reference this telephone conversation in the water rights report. He said there is the possibility of a pretty good sized crevice that would bring in something in from the side. Its pretty subjective as to what it would produce relative to the Merced, but it is probably small relative to the Merced. The Merced is so large with a large supply of water, it is the dominant supply. Glacial four has been sealing up the permeabilities, and there are problems drilling wells. Bill has recommended to DSC that the dig a deep ditch, fill it with sand, breach it, put well screen in and some casing, then get filtration from the river, and its permeable enough to let water in.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN:

COPIES TO:

10-31-1984: memorandum to regional director from the superintendent regarding information and recommendations on el portal water systems

RNW

RECEIVED
Western Regional Office
NOV 01 '84
Regional Director
Operations
Res. Mgmt. Plan
...ion
...ns Eval.
Affairs
...GET
Action taken

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
P.O. BOX 577
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, CALIFORNIA 95389

IN REPLY REFER TO:
L54(WR-RNW)

OCT 31 1984

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Western Region

From: Superintendent, Yosemite

Subject: Information and Recommendations on El Portal Water Systems

The El Portal Administrative Site (Site) was purchased by the Government in 1958. Today 650 people live there and 40 employees work there as well. The GMP calls for El Portal to become the administrative headquarters of the park and the primary residence area for park and concession employees working in Yosemite Valley. Accordingly, the area is now being developed, and by the year 1990 should house between 1200 to 1500 people. In addition, approximately 150 permanent employees are expected to work there at that time. Projections indicate that water demand for domestic irrigation, fire and maintenance uses might be increased from 46 to 57 percent by that time.

Prior to 1958 Mr. William Brantley, who owned the El Portal store, hotel and motel had a well immediately adjacent to the Merced River. That well became contaminated and thereafter he pumped water directly out of the river to meet his needs. Mr. Brantley had two 10,000 gallon water storage tanks and his holdings were bought by the Government in or around 1958.

The National Lead Mining Company is believed to have had water rights on Crane Creek within what is today the El Portal Administrative Site. Crane Creek's flows invariably got so low in summer and fall that the company was forced to draw the water it needed directly from the Merced River. National Lead sold out and the El Portal Water Company appears to have bought National Lead's rights to Crane Creek. When the Government bought the Site in 1958 it apparently acquired these rights.

Due to its low flow and upstream contamination, Crane Creek has not been used since the park purchased the property in 1958. In 1962, shortly after the Government acquisition, Moss Creek was developed and connected to the El Portal system. It then became the primary water source until wells were developed in 1980 and 1981. Since that time, the park has tried to retire Moss Creek, a surface source subject to contamination. However, the well system is barely able to keep up with current demand when Wells No. 2, 3, 4 and 5 are functioning properly. Several times in the past three years mechanical or other problems in that system have required the park to reactivate the Moss Creek source. In the future, should Moss Creek be dry at such times--a common occurrence in

late summer and fall--the only practical recourse would be to turn again to the Merced River source.

In all, six wells have been developed by the Park in the Site. Well No. 1, a very shallow, hand-dug well was developed in the 1960's or before. In 1974 this well was contaminated during construction of the El Portal Wastewater Treatment Plant. Following decontamination it was again put into service where it remained until the present well system was developed. At that time it was taken out of service because it was too shallow--22 feet deep--to meet public health standards. Well No. 2 was developed in 1972 and Wells 3, 4 and 5 were developed in 1980 and 1981 and collectively comprise the main water source for the El Portal system today. Well No. 6 was drilled during the latter period but because of its very low yield has not been connected to the system.

Mr. John Banias, Park plumbing foreman, has worked in the El Portal area since 1953. He recalls one or two occasions in the 1960's when water sources in El Portal got so depleted that the Park was forced to draw water directly from the Merced River. On these occasions waterwas pumped 24 hours per day for several months to meet demands.

In 1974 during construction of the El Portal Wastewater Treatment Plant, Well No. 1, one of two operational wells in the Site, was contaminated and temporarily taken out of use. Demand soon exceeded the supply from Moss Creek, then the Site's main water source, and the park was forced to pump from the Merced River for approximately four months. Again, during the two year drought of 1976 and 1977 the park found it necessary to pump out of the river for four full months. Mr. Banias remembers that the Park plumbing branch pumped water out of the Merced River and into the water system at a rate of 70 GPM for 24 hours each day from July 1 through October 31 on both years. Demand still exceeded supply and the Park had to ration water to residents during this period. Please see enclosed record of such use in 1977 labeled Exhibit No. 1.

Currently, summer and fall water demand at El Portal exceeds 200,000 gallons per day (GPD). This year, 1984, demand ranged from an average low of 78,821 GPD or 2,443,460 gallons per month in March to an average high of 298,000 GPD or 9,255,350 gallons per month in July. Please see attached table for monthly use during 1984.

In view of the historic difficulty of meeting water demands at El Portal and the greatly increased demand that will accompany planned development of the Administrative Site, we feel that the Service should attempt to perfect a water right on the Merced River without delay. Ideally, this action should be completed before FERC can come to a decision on Mr. Joseph M. Keating's Application 27981, which involves the affected reach of the river.



Enclosures

03-12-1980: memorandum to regional director from assistant manager, dsc regarding developing the el portal well water system

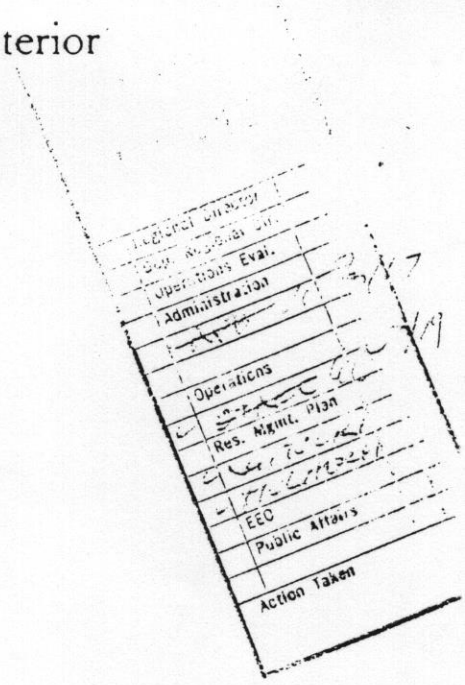
A?B

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DENVER SERVICE CENTER
755 Parfet Street
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

IN REPLY REFER TO:
D5039-DSC-TWE

March 12, 1980



Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Western Region

From: Assistant Manager, Pacific Northwest/Western Team, DSC

Reference: Yosemite National Park, Develop Well Water System, El Portal, Package 223

Subject: Trip Report - February 25-29, 1980

Enclosed for your review and information is a copy of a trip report completed by Henry Espinoza on his recent trip to Yosemite National Park.

By copy of this memorandum we are sending the Superintendent, Yosemite, a copy of the report for his information and files.

Kenneth Raithel, Jr.

Enclosure

cc:
Supt., Yosemite, w/c enc.

CONSERVE AMERICA'S ENERGY

Save Energy and You Serve America!

D5039-DSC-TWE

March 10, 1980

Memorandum:

To: Assistant Manager, Pacific Northwest/Western Team, DSC

From: Henry Espinoza, Civil Engineer, Bob Schiller, Ecologist

Reference: Yosemite National Park, Develop Well Water System, El Portal, Package 223

Subject: Trip Report, Feruary 25-29, 1980

PURPOSE

Make an on site investigation of proposed project, complete an environmental impact analysis of the proposed project site, and review project with Park Staff and Caltrans.

CONCLUSION

Proceed with construction design drawings incorporating comments made during meetings with members of Park Staff and State Highway Officals. Proceed with environmental analysis and preparation of a memo to files for the Superintendent's signature.

DISCUSSION

Met with the following members of the Park Staff and Caltran Officials:

John Byrne	Assistant Park Superintendent
Bill Matteson	Park Engineer
Steve Danziger	Park Archaeologist
John Banias	Plumbing Forman
Don Fox	Park Landscape Architect
J.W. Cameron	Caltrans
Carl Carpenter	Caltrans

The major items of discussion were:

1. Explore all possible routings of the piplines in regards to cost, design, visual and archaeological impacts.

2. That all chlorination building sites be selected by Landscape Architect Andrea Chaitin.

3. That Steve Danziger would study all possible routings of the pipe lines so that no line would be constructed over any significant archaeological site. Steve would initiate project clearance documentation and forward material to the Western Archaeological Center.

4. That the new and existing well pumps be automated to the greatest extent.

5. That the existing Dug Well No. One, and the Moss Creek Intake and Pipe Line be abandoned.

6. That the chlorination buildings be designed for possible exposure to the public. That thought be given to constructing a rain shelter as part of the chlorination building.

7. Emphasized fact that these three new wells are for replacement of the Moss Creek and Well No. One water supplies and that no additional water supply would be gained from this project.

8. Wherever possible, have project design with future expansion of water service in mind.

9. Provide same make of chlorination equipment as now in service.

10. That Caltran permitts, would be required by both the Park Service and Contractor.

11. Minimum of three feet of cover would be required in state right of way.

12. No suspension of pipelines would be allowed on any state bridge.

FINDINGS

1. Several reservoirs and pumps are controlled by floats.

2. Most well sites afford three or more alternate pipe line routes.

3. Archaeological sites are abundant in the El Portal Area.

4. Electrical power is avaialable at all three well sites.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. All pipe line routes ba analyzed for best possible routing.

2. All chlorination buildings be architecturally designed.

3. New and existing well and reservoir system be automated to fullest extent.

4. Incorporate proposal, alternatives and impacts in a brief environmental analysis.

Signed

Bob Shiller

Signed

Henry Espinoza

Approved For Distribution:

(Sgd) Kenneth Hibben, Jr. MAR 1 [illegible]

Assistant Manager Pacific Northwest/Western Team — Date

Enclosure

cc:
Supt., Yosemite NP w/c enc.
Reg. Dir. Western Region, w/c enc.

09-12-1979: memorandum to regional director from acting superintendent regarding environmental analysis concerning design of supplemental water supply

RECEIVED
Western Regional Office
SEP 13'79

Regional Director
Dep. Regional Dir.
Operations Eval.
Administration
Operations
Maintenance
Res. Mgmt. Plan
Interpretation
Visitor Prot.
Resource Mgmt.
Public Affairs
Action Taken
REQ has copy

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
P.O. BOX 577
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, CALIFORNIA 95389

IN REPLY REFER TO:
~~D18~~ L-7617
(WR)OM

SEP 12 1979

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Western Region

From: ACTING Superintendent, Yosemite

Subject: Environmental Analysis concerning design of supplemental water supply for El Portal, Package 223, Yosemite

Enclosed is the Environmental Analysis for the above subject prepared by the Denver Service Center and our addition to the Compliance section.

We have concluded that the entire project, Phase I and Phase II, is not a major federal action having a significant impact on the human environment. Provisions to minimize adverse impacts described in the assessment and its addition will become part of the project work.

William N. Burgen

Enclosure

cc: Denver Service Center, TWE, w/enc.

SUPPLEMENTARY WATER SUPPLY

EL PORTAL, YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Description of the Problem

A central water system serves the lower portion of the El Portal community, beginning at the old residential area and extending to the new wastwater treatment facility (Fig. 1). This system resulted from add-on construction. Some areas are very old and the state of repairs of various sections remain unknown due to lack of drawings.

Three water sources presently serve the system: a drilled well providing 65 gallons per minute (GPM), a dug well which provides 85 GPM but which has been contaminated, and the Moss Creek surface intake. The surface water source dries up during the summer months and demand peaks at that time. Presently, peak monthly use is estimated at 409,000 gallons per day (GPD) or an average flow of 284 GPM. Approximately 75 percent of the demand is for irrigation. Domestic use composes the remainder of the demand. Overall demand outstrips supply by approximately 193,000 GPD during critical summer months.

The drilled well, with only a 10 foot sanitary seal, does not meet current health department water standards.

Relationship to Previous Planning

The draft general management plan, which has been approved and is now on public review, calls for replacement and upgrading of the El Portal water system with efforts focused on conversion to ground water sources where feasible. The draft environmental statement comprehensively covers impacts of development in the El Portal area, including conversion to ground water sources.

Description of the Proposal

The water system will be converted from mixed surface and ground water to total reliance on ground water. The Moss Creek intake, as well as the contaminated dug well, will be abandoned. Additional wells will be drilled as needed to increase existing ground water production by 220 GPM. This production level will meet existing demand only.

The proposed project will occur in two phases. Phase I will be to drill, develop, and test the wells; Phase II will connect them to the existing system, and provide emergency stand-by power. Connection may require approximately 3,300 feet of pipe. This environmental analysis deals only with Phase I.

Well design consists of a five foot stainless stell riser pipe at the top, and a three foot stainless steel extension pipe at the bottom (beginning at the top of the bedrock). The length of the intervening telescoping unit will have a self-sealing packer.

Description of the Environment

El Portal is a 200 acre area (2000 feet elevation) adjacent to the western park boundary about 1.5 miles west of the Arch Rock Entrance Station. Situated in the Merced River gorge, this development functions primarily as an employee residential area with some community facilities. The El Portal area was designated an administrative area in 1958. The Merced River canyon in this vicinity is in the chaparral vegetation zone characterized by isolated blue and canyon live oaks (Quercus douglasii, Q. chrysolepis), digger pine (Pinus sabiniana), growing in association with chaparral dominated by rabbitbrush (Chysothamnus spp.), ceanothus (Ceanothus spp.) and mountain mahogany (Cercocarpus spp.)

Environmental Impact

Overall El Portal development will have long-term and significant cumulative impact upon archeological resources (site and integrity). The proposed well sites lie within the El Portal Archeological District, covered in the blanket 106 statement submitted to the Western Regional Office and the California State Historical Preservation Office. Two areas of particular concern are 4-MRP-358 and 4-MRP-181.

Environmental damage will occur due to site disturbance (50'x100' per well site), but the water system development will enhance the long term environmental productivity by increasing the quality and quantity of surface water flow of Moss Creek. Although little data exists on local groundwater hydrology it appears that by using primarily underground sources, flows in the Merced, downstream of El Portal, will be moderately reduced since the wells are located in riverbed alluvium. However, this reduction should be regligible due to the offsetting addition to groundwater of tertiery treated effluent from the El Portal plant.

The wells are to be located within the floodplain of the Merced River (Fig. 1). Alluvial, loamy allunial, or Ahwahnee soils are present at the proposed well sites; these soils are relatively stable and no significant hazards are associated with these sites. Site 1 lies within the 100-year floodplain, with a 1-10 percent slope. Sites 2 and 3 lie within the 50-year floodplain with 1-10 percent and 11-20 percent slopes, respectively.

Use of ground water sources may assist in alleviating overflow problems at the wastewater treatment facility, located down river from the El Portal community, by lowering overall ground water levels. The percolation ponds at the facility have been troubled by rising ground water levels which, during periods of high water, introduce treated wastewater directly into the Merced River.

All probable archeological sites, in particular 4-MRP-358 and 4-MRP-181, must be flagged prior to work. If archeological resources are encountered or uncovered during construction, they must be protected and the Western Archeological Center or representatives thereof, are to be notified and the project halted pending further clearance.

The contractor is to protect all trees, shrubbery, etc. during construction. All debris is to be removed, and vehicular traffic and construction work must be confined to the construction sites as shown on the plans. Water pumped from the wells during testing will be disposed of in the nearest sewer manholes.

Alternatives

The "no-action" alternative would result in the use of an inadequate and sub-standard water supply, some components of which are not in compliance with California Health and Safety codes.

Use of surface waters was rejected because of the additional work associated with treatment and filtration, and the seasonal supply problems experienced in this area. However, surface water supplies may be developed should ground water supply be inadequate.

Other sites were considered and eliminated where potential impacts on cultural resources were apparent and more significant.

Compliance

Standards are provided by the state in the California Department of Water Resources Bulletin #74 (reprinted January 1971). Attention is called to Part I, Sections 6 and 7, which requires well drillers to be licensed and file reports concerning construction of water wells. Deviations from published standards are to be recommended by the appropriate agency. The State Department of Public Health has been consulted by the project design team. Permits for well drilling are not required by the Water Resources agency.

The Contracting Officer will inspect the sites 10 days after receipt of a report of major completion, and again one year after the project completion.

Archeological clearance has been granted by the Western Archeological Center (clearance no. 35-79-YOSE) conditional upon SHPO approval of the Section 106 finding of no adverse effect, and the presence of an archeologist during project implementation.

Conclusion

With the three wells proposed, present water demands would be met during critical summer months. Each site will be tested to discern the need for additional wells. Surface water flow may improve in Moss

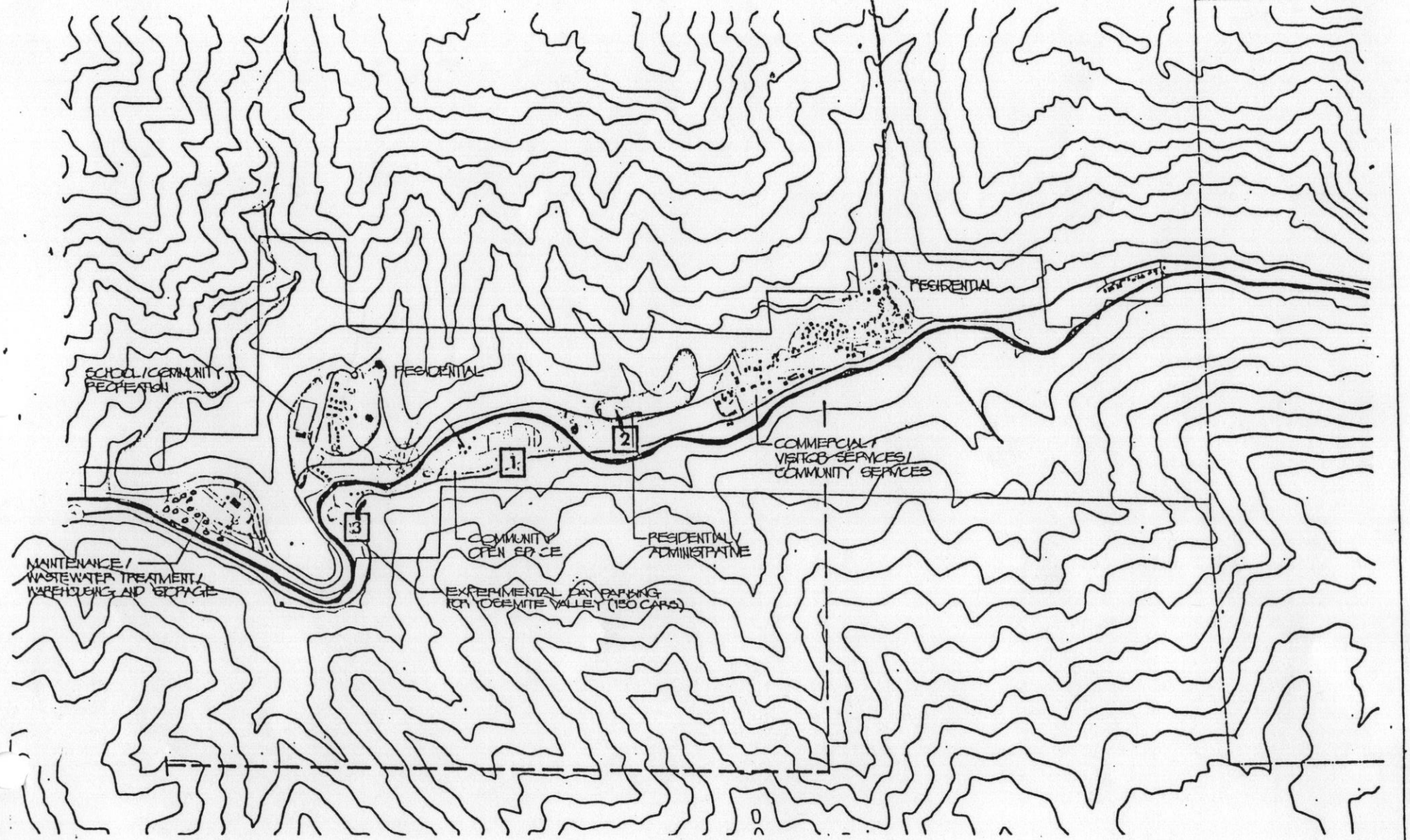
Creek while declining somewhat in the Merced River, while overflow problems at the wastewater treatment plant may be alleviated.

Assessment of natural and cultural resources do not indicate significant or irreversible impacts. It is not anticipated that rare, endangered, or threatened species will be affected.

Since this environmental summary only deals with Phase I (well drilling), discussion of Phase II impacts (e.g., configuration and placement of pumps, wellheads with regard to floodplain hazards, possible increase in electrical demand to operate the pumps) will be addressed in future environmental documents.

Recommendation

Based on the above conclusions it is suggested that the proposed project is not a major federal action affecting the quality of the human environment, and is not of sufficient controversy to warrant an environmental statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Should further information on the above material be desired, please contact Robert Schiller or Janice Auyong concerning the discussion of environmental matters; or James Buckel concerning the engineering details of the proposal. Please notify this office of your final position on the status of this project.



El Portal Development Concept

Yosemite National Park — U.S. Department of the Interior — National Park Service

00-00-0000: map showing well locations of el portal

07-11-1979: memorandum to manager, denver service center from regional director regarding package 223, task directive, supplemental water supply

C. ~~CUNNINGHAM~~ 7/11

PATTON (Later)

~~N. COX~~ 7/11

~~JONES~~ 7/12

WITUCKI 7/12

REG. ~~DIR.~~ 7/12 7/12

D22
(WR)APB

July 11, 1979

Memorandum

To: Manager, Denver Service Center
Attention: Assistant Manager, Pacific Northwest/Western Team

From: Regional Director, Western Region

Subject: Package 223, Task Directive, Supplemental Water Supply, El Portal, Yosemite

This is in reply to Associate Manager Steenhagen's memorandum of June 11. Enclosed is a copy of Acting Superintendent Burgen's memorandum of comments dated July 2.

The Region comments were as follows: The Service Center should submit a memorandum report indicating the alternative well sites that were considered and the reasons for selecting the final site. Items that should be considered are potential to develop a production well, feasibility to connect to existing system, relationship to future development and effect on cultural resources.

The task directive states that the Service Center will prepare an environmental summary on this project. We do not require this on drilling the wells, but we want one on phase II, tying them into the existing system.

I therefore approve the subject Task Directive this date, subject to the above comments.

Enclosure

cc: Superintendent, Yosemite

CCCunningham:btb 7/10/79

06-29-1979: memorandum to regional director from acting superintendent regarding package 223, supplemental water supply

A217
L 1.2215 [illegible]
(WR)RMA

JUN [illegible] 1979

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Western Region

From: Superintendent, Yosemite

Reference: Yosemite, Package 223, Supplemental Water Supply, El Portal, Comprehensive Design

Subject: Task Directive

The subject directive seems satisfactory and is approved with the following comment. We feel that the new well capacity should be targeted to accommodate the planned expansion, instead of just the present use. If and when the Master Plan is implemented in the El Portal area, water consumption could easily double.

[signature]

William N. Burgan

PBElliott:sh 6/29/79

06-11-1979: memorandum to regional director from associate manager, dsc regarding package 223, task directive

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DENVER SERVICE CENTER
755 Parfet Street
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

IN REPLY REFER TO:
D5039-DSC-TWE

June 11, 1979

RECEIVED
Western Regional Office
JUN 15 '79
Regional Director
Dep. Regional Dir.
Operations Eval.
Administration
Operations
Res. Mgmt. Plan
EEO
Public Affairs
Action Taken
Memo 7/11/79

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Western Region

From: Associate Manager, Denver Service Center

Reference: Yosemite, Package 223, Supplemental Water Supply, El Portal, Comprehensive Design

Subject: Task Directive

The subject directive, which has been recommended by this office, is enclosed for your review and approval. The referenced directive is being forwarded to you and the Superintendent, Yosemite for concurrent review and approval to save time in the review process.

Since this directive is essentially an agreement between our offices for providing professional services, I urge your careful review to insure that this directive clearly and fully identifies your needs.

All other reviewing offices should send their recommendations to you for consolidation into one response. Your early reply is urged so that this project may get underway.

Robert L. Steenhagen

Enclosure
cc:
WASO-560-Mr. Holland w/c enc.
Supt., Yosemite w/c enc.

CONSERVE AMERICA'S ENERGY

Save Energy and You Serve America!

DENVER SERVICE CENTER

TASK DIRECTIVE

FOR

DESIGN OF SUPPLEMENTAL WATER SUPPLY
EL PORTAL AREA
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

June 11, 1979

RECOMMENDED: Kenneth Faithe 6/12/79

ASSISTANT MANAGER, DENVER SERVICE CENTER /PNW/W Team — DATE

CONCURRED: Robert J Stenhouse 6·13·79

ASSOCIATE MANAGER, DENVER SERVICE CENTER — DATE

/S/ William N. Burgen, Acting 7/2/79

SUPERINTENDENT, Yosemite National Park — DATE

MANAGER, HARPERS FERRY CENTER — DATE

APPROVED:

REGIONAL DIRECTOR, Western Region — DATE

PROJECT TITLE: Design of Supplemental Water Supply, El Portal, Yosemite National Park, Package 223

DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING CONDITIONS: The lower portion of the El Portal community, beginning at the old residential area and extending to the new wastewater treatment facility, is served by a central water system. There are various areas in the system that are old and little is known about their state of repair. The system is a result of add-on type construction and in some areas drawings are not available. Presently three sources of supply are being used, one drilled well, one dug well and the Moss Creek surface intake. During summer months, Moss Creek supply dries up and the other two wells are unable to keep up with the demand. This shortage extends over a period of about two months. By far, the greatest demand for water is irrigation, which is at its peak during the period when Moss Creek is dry.

Actual meter readings of water use are not available however, an estimate of peak month water use is 91,000 gallons per day (GPD) domestic and 318,000 GPD irrigation, for a total use of 409,000 GPD or an average flow of 284 GPM. The present wells supply a total of 150 GPM. Moss Creek makes up the difference when flow is available.

The surface area around the dug well has been contaminated. This well is 20 feet deep and has no sanitary seal. A letter to Superintendent Arnberger from the Department of Health Service, State of California, dated March 1, 1979 recommends that this well be replaced. Its flow is 85 GPM.

The drilled well, 106 feet deep has a sanitary seal of 10 feet, which does not meet the safety code of the California Department of Health. This well produces 65 GPM.

PRELIMINARY REQUIREMENTS:

The draft environmental statement, general management plan, has been approved by the Regional Director. The plan calls for development of a ground water supply for the El Portal Area.

Since an approved environmental statement has not been signed, an environmental summary will be prepared by the Denver Service Center.

A request for archeological clearance has been granted by the Western Archeological Center. (Attachment No. 1) (35-79-YOSE)

DATA COLLECTION:

A field trip was made August 1978 by Cal Cooper and Jim Buckel at which time the proposed drilling sites were selcted, and a revised cost estimate was prepared.

BASIC DATA:

1. Geological Survey Maps.

2. Denver Service Center As-Constructed Drawings

PERSONNEL:

Project Manager: Jim Buckel, Civil Engineer

Design Team: Don Zieman, Electrical Engineer; Jim McConnell, Mechanical Engineer; R.H. Braun, Architect

Consultants: M. Jensen, Public Health Service, Denver Service Center; Superintendent and staff, Yosemite National Park; Jerry Witucki, Western Regional Office; Bill Werrell, Western Regional Office; R. Schiller, Planning Team, Denver Service Center, Pacific Northwest/Western Team.

FUNDING:

Package 223

PROGRAMMED:	Preliminary Design	06 Fiscal Year 1979	8,4
	Construction Plans and specifications	07 Fiscal Year 1979	14,0
	Construction	91 Fiscal Year 1980	397,0
ESTIMATED:	Task Directive - Environmental Summary	06 Fiscal Year 1979	3,6
	Construction Plans and specifications	07 Fiscal Year 1979	16,8
	Construction Phase I	91 Fiscal Year 1979	120,0
	Construction plans and specifications	07 Fiscal Year 1980	59,2
	Construction Phase II	91 Fiscal Year 1980	277,0

Phase one of the project will be constructed using available Fiscal Year 1979 project planning funds not needed for other projects.

REGULATORY REVIEW:

The Department of Health Services, State of California will be sent a set of plans and specifications for their review.

CONSTRUCTION COSTS:

PHASE I	1.	Drill and develop 3 wells	120,000
PHASE II	1.	Connect well to existing system	202,000
	2.	Provide stand-by power	25,000
	3.	Miscellaneous materials and services	50,000
		Total Construction Cost	397,000

PROJECT SCHEDULE:

Item	Completion Date
Drilling specifications Phase I	June 11, 1979
Review	July 2, 1979
Environmental summary	July 30, 1979
Printing	August 6, 1979
Bid period	September 3, 1979
Award	September 17, 1979
Construct Phase I	January 1, 1980
Construction plans and specifications Phase II	April 28, 1980
Review	May 19, 1980
Printing	June 23, 1980
Bid period	July 21, 1980
Award	August 4, 1980
Construct Phase II	May 1, 1981

PROPOSED WORK:

The purpose of this project is to provide an adequate water supply for the El Portal community as it presently exists.

We propose to drill additional wells to increase the ground water supply by about 220 GPM. It is estimated the present peak month demand requires a flow of 284 GPM. The drilled well produces 65 GPM. Since Moss Creek is an unreliable source and the dug well could be contaminated from the surface, these two sources will be abandoned.

Since it is impossible to design the completed connections to the existing system before the location and hydraulics of the new wells are known, this work will be done in two phases.

Phase I will be to drill and develop the wells and phase II will connect them to the existing system, and provide emergency stand-by power.

OPTIONS:

Should Phase I prove that developing a ground water supply is not feasible, then a surface source and treatment plant will be required.

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WESTERN ARCHEOLOGICAL CENTER
P.O. BOX 41058
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85717

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H4217
X-H2215 YOSE
(WR)RWA

May 4, 1979

35-79-YOSE
Clearance No.

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Yosemite

From: Chief, Western Archeological Center

Subject: Archeological clearance

The effects of the following project on archeological resources have been assessed: drilling of three wells and emplacement of 3300 feet of pipe near the Merced River in the El Portal area, Yosemite National Park, California (Construction Package 223).

The basis for this assessment is a letter report by Western Archeological Center Circuit Rider Jim Mayberry, dated May 3, 1979. A copy is enclosed.

Since there is a likelihood that archeological resources may be encountered, the Service should exercise caution. However, clearance to proceed is hereby provided on the following conditions:

1. An alternate route for the water line from well 1 should be be chosen, so as to avoid site 4-MRP-358 (see enclosed letter report). If the site cannot be avoided, consultation with the Circuit Rider and this Office is required and excavation of all or part of the site may be necessary prior to emplacement of the water line.

2. The Circuit Rider should monitor all construction activity in the vicinity of sites 4-MRP-358 and 4-MRP-181. These sites should be flagged prior to the beginning of work and they should be avoided by vehicular traffic and other construction activities during work.

This property is within the El Portal Archeological District. This project is covered in a blanket 106 statement that has been submitted to the Western Regional Office and the California State Historic Preservation Officer.

If concealed archeological resources are encountered during construction, please take all necessary steps to protect them and immediately notify this Office so that appropriate action may be taken.

Carol A. Martin

Carol A. Martin

Enclosure

cc:
w/c enc.
(WR)RC - Chief, Division of Cultural Resource Management
(DSC)TWE - Assistant Manager, Pacific Northwest/Western Team
(DSC)LC - Compliance Historian, Legislative Compliance
(DSC)TWE - Chief, Branch of Historic Preservation

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY
EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
5545 EAST SHIELDS
FRESNO, CA 93727
(209) 291-6676

March 1, 1979

Mr. Leslie P. Arnberger, Park Superintendent
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
P. O. Box 577
Yosemite National Park, CA 95389

Dear Mr. Arnberger:

Your letter of February 20, 1979 transmitting well logs for El Portal Wells 1 and 2 and Yosemite Valley Well 1 has been received. We have reviewed these logs and offer the following comments:

1. The profile sketch of Yosemite Valley Well 2 indicates the well to be equipped with both a cemented-in-place conductor casing and a cement seal down to about 150 feet to protect the gravel envelope from surface and shallow subsurface contaminants. This well meets the California Well Construction Standards.

2. The well log for Yosemite Valley Well 1 indicates that this well is also gravel packed. This log does not show if a conductor casing was installed, nor the cement sealing technique employed, if any. Do you have additional construction information in this regard?

3. El Portal Well 2 is of cable tool construction and was only sealed to a depth of 10 feet. The minimum sealing requirements in California are 50 feet. First perforations are at a relatively shallow depth of 45 feet. Our previous request to operate this well only with continuous and reliable chlorination facilities was therefore justified to assure a bacteriologically safe water quality to consumers served by this well.

4. Hand dug El Portal Well 1 is a rather crudely constructed well. It is only 20 feet deep and cased with two overlapping lengths of corrugated metal pipes. No sanitary seal of any kind was provided. Water enters the well at the bottom (20 feet depth) and between the pipe sections (10 feet depth where the pipes overlap). The earth material around the outside of corrugated metal pipe casing is most likely coarse and alluvial material. These above described construction features are not judged satisfactory as no safeguards exist protecting this well from

surface and shallow subsurface contamination hazards. We therefore recommend that this well be replaced with a properly constructed well. Until this can be accomplished it is of vital importance that this well be operated only with continuous and reliable chlorination facilities, as previously requested.

Sincerely,

Gunter A. Redlin

Gunter A. Redlin
Supervising Sanitary Engineer
SANITARY ENGINEERING SECTION

GAR/bd

cc: Mariposa County Health Department

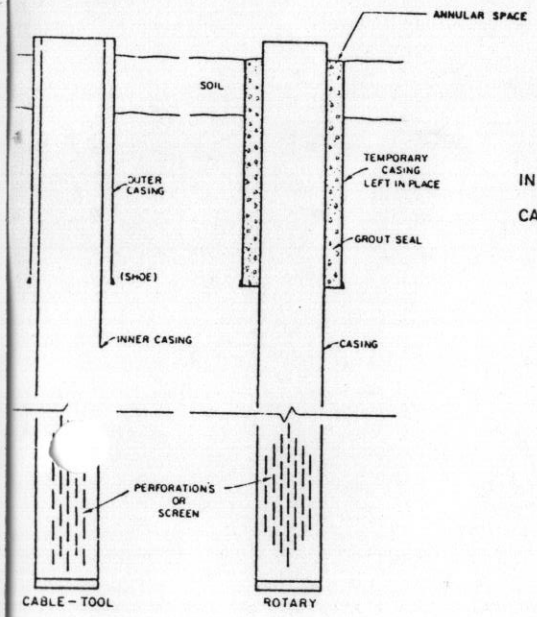


FIGURE 1a:
WELLS DRILLED
IN UNCONSOLIDATED
MATERIAL,
CAVING FORMATIONS

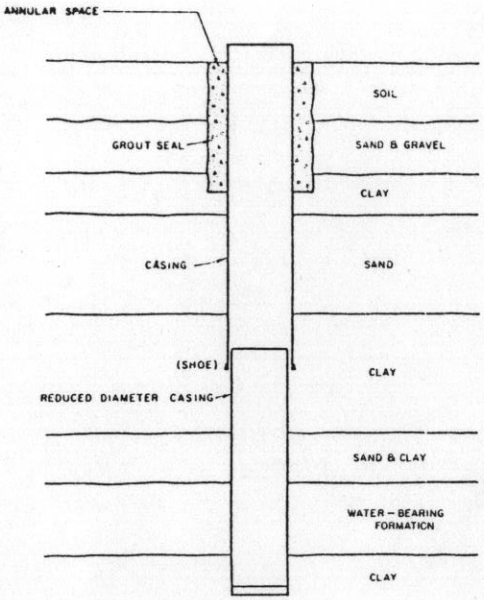


FIGURE 1b:
WELL PENETRATING
STRATIFIED FORMATIONS

SEALING CONDITIONS FOR UPPER ANNULAR SPACE

A. Depth of Seal. Following is the minimum depth of seal below ground surface for various uses of wells:

Type	Depth of Seal (below ground surface)
Community Water Supply Wells	50 feet
Individual Domestic Wells	20 feet 1/
Industrial Wells	50 feet 1/ 2/
Agricultural Wells	None 3/
Air-Conditioning Wells	20 feet

B. Sealing Conditions 4/ Following are requirements to be observed in sealing the annular space:

1. Wells that are fully situated, or at considerable depth, in unconsolidated, caving material.

a. Where the cable-tool method of drilling is used, an outer casing (conductor casing), may function as the seal provided the length of the conductor casing corresponds to the depth of seal specified in Part A of this section. (See Figure 1a)

b. Where the rotary method of construction is used, the annular space shall be filled with sealing material to the depth specified in Part A of this section. When a temporary conductor casing is used to hold out the caving material during placement of the seal, it may be left in place or withdrawn as the sealing material is placed. (See Figure 1a)

2. Wells that penetrate stratified formations. If an impervious (consolidated) formation is encountered within 5 feet of where the bottom of the seal described in Part A of this section should terminate, the seal should be extended into the impervious formation. (See Figure 1b)

1/ Exceptions are shallow wells where the water to be developed is at a depth less than 20 feet. In this instance, the depth of seal may be reduced but in no case less than 10 feet and special precautions shall be taken in locating the well with respect to possible sources of contamination.

2/ This requirement is necessary only where the water is used intentionally or incidentally for domestic purposes (drinking, washing, etc.) or the water must meet strict quality requirements for its intended uses.

3/ The annular space shall be sealed a minimum depth of 20 feet from the surface of the ground when the well is close to individual domestic wells or 50 feet when the well is close to sources of contamination or pollution described in Section 8. Local conditions, such as the existence of shallow, subsurface waters of undesirable quality, may warrant consideration of sealing the annular space around agricultural wells.

4/ Methods of sealing are described in Appendix F.

00-00-0000: well descriptions

B. F. SISK
15TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON RULES

HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

TONY COELHO
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

DISTRICT OFFICES:
BETTY L. CORNELIUS
FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

ROOM 2001, FEDERAL BUILDING
1130 O STREET
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93721
209-487-5004

ROOM 30A, FEDERAL BUILDING
1125 "I" STREET
MODESTO, CALIFORNIA 95354
209-527-1914

ROOM 131
415 W. 18TH STREET
MERCED, CALIFORNIA 95340
209-723-8807

September 13, 1977

Mr. William Whalen, Director
National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Whalen:

I deeply appreciate your response regarding the three water wells needed to implement the Yosemite Development Program, Yosemite National Park, and can understand the funding delays and priorities established by your predecessors.

I would trust, Mr. Whalen, that the budget proposal submitted to the Congress for fiscal year 1979 will reflect funding necessary for the wells. As you recognize, you now have a new sewer system at El Portal and that demand, as well as for other domestic needs, must be met. I feel the effort which led to voluntary conservation to approximately 145 gallons per minute should be saluted, but I feel equally strong that the total system should be built as envisioned in the Yosemite Development Plan.

Again, I trust the line item appropriation for the additional wells will be reflected in the budget proposal, and I look forward to working with you to assure that this item is retained throughout the budgeting process.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

B. F. SISK
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

RECEIVED
Western Regional Office
SEP 23 1977

Regional Director
Dep. Regional Dir.
Reg. Asst. Dir.
Administration
Operations
Res. Mgmt. Plan.
Prog. & Budget
EEO
Public Affairs
Mgmt. Appraisal
Action Taken

09-08-1977: letter to b.f. sisk from director, nps regarding shortage of wells at el portal

Folder: Yose NP General Corres 1976 - 77

DEP

file in yose gen

RECEIVED
Western Regional Office
SEP 12 '77
Regional Director
Dep. Regional Dir.
Executive Assistant
Administration
Operations
Resource Mgmt. Plan
WASO
Proj. & Budget
Public Affairs
Prop. Mgmt. Appraisal
Action Taken

A-3615

L24-190(WRO)

SEP 8 1977

Honorable B. F. Sisk
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Sisk:

We are pleased to respond to your recent letter concerning the shortage of wells in the El Portal Administrative Site adjacent to Yosemite National Park. The two wells at El Portal are now pumping 214 gallons per minute which is the maximum capacity of the existing pumps. We have boosted the capacity of one well by installing a pump in the river, filtering the water, and pouring it into the well. By volunteer rationing, the demand in the El Portal area has been kept at approximately 145 gallons per minute.

copy sent Yose

We have recognized the need for well drilling for several years, but there have always been other more urgently needed maintenance or protection-oriented items to compete for the limited funds available. Three wells are included in the Yosemite Development Program in the estimated amount of $223,000. To date, we have not been able to fund this item.

The size of this project requires that it be funded as a line item development project. This project will be considered for our fiscal year 1979 budget request along with other priority needs of the Service.

In checking with several of the local drillers in Mariposa County, it is apparent that it would be impossible to have the wells drilled now at any price. Most drillers have commitments backlogged for the next 6 months to landowners who are in more dire need than the residents in the El Portal area. We will do our utmost to fulfill this obligation to the area as soon as possible.

Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention. Your interest is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

s/William J. Whalen

Director

bcc:
Regional Director, Western Region (2)) w/c of inc.

07-26-1977: letter to director, nps from congressman, b.f. sisk regarding water wells

B. F. SISK
9TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON RULES

HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

TONY COELHO
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

DISTRICT OFFICES
BETTY L. CORNELIUS
FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

ROOM 2081, FEDERAL BUILDING
1130 O STREET
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93721
209-487-5034

ROOM 30A, FEDERAL BUILDING
1125 "I" STREET
MODESTO, CALIFORNIA 95354
209-527-1914

ROOM 131
415 W. 18TH STREET
MERCED, CALIFORNIA 95340
209-723-8807

July 26, 1977

Mr. William Whalen, Director
National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Whalen:

It has been brought to my attention by concerned residents, of the El Portal area of Yosemite National Park that because the National Park Service has delayed funding the digging of a third water well in the area that a real shortage exists which could be detrimental to the health, safety and welfare of residents and visitors alike.

I have been informed that supply for the area should be in the range of 350 gallons per minute to meet municipal needs. Yet, according to information provided me, the two existing wells are only providing 225 gallons per minute.

At this time I would ask you to consider reprogramming funds to allow for the immediate issuance of bids for the third well at El Portal. To not seriously consider this option this year will, in my view, be foolhearty. Mountain residents in and around Yosemite are telling me with regularity that wells which had in past years never gone dry are now useless and need deepening or that new wells must be dug.

I trust you will concur and provide Yosemite National Park officials the necessary approval to proceed.

With kind regards.

Sincerely,

Bernie Sisk

B. F. SISK
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

08-21-1972: memorandum to director, western region from superintendent regarding drinking water emergency

Folder: Yosemite - General Corres.
1955-197?

United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite National Park, California 95389

RECEIVED
NPS Western Regional Office
AUG 23 '72
Director
Assoc. Dir. Mgt.
Operations
Coop. Programs
Fin. & Mgt. Cont.
Assoc. Dir. (Prof.)
Reg. Scientist
E. P. & D.
Interpretation Educ.
Prog. & Budget
Org. & Manpower
Action taken:

IN REPLY REFER TO:

~~D5039~~
XL1425
(WR)D

AUG 21 1972

Memorandum

To: Director, Western Region

From: Superintendent, Yosemite

Subject: Drinking Water Emergency, El Portal

The domestic water supply for El Portal consists of a surface water intake from Moss Creek and one hand-dug, 18-foot well in the old river bed. The Moss Creek source is reduced to a flow of approximately five gallons per minute. The well source is reduced to 90 gallons per minute, due to a gradual sealing of the gravel-pack filter media around the well.

On August 2, there was a non-statistical fire at El Portal which consumed all available water reserves. We have inaugurated rationing to the fullest extent possible; however, the water supply still lags behind demand. We estimated a complete absence of any drinking water by August 15. We were obliged, therefore, to take immediate emergency measures which consisted of using the river supply--heavy chlorination and boiling water for drinking purposes--as a short-term, remedial effort, together with developing a cooperative attitude of all the consumers of El Portal toward conserving, wherever possible, the water that remains available. For long-term correction of this system we have prepared and have furnished draft specifications to Mr. Gerard S. Witucki for a well suitable for ultimate needs and compatible with the ultimate system development. Mr. Peppers was informed of these procedures during his recent visit to the Park. We have no choice but to advertise, bid, and award the construction of a well, chlorination unit, and short pipeline with operating funds (estimated to cost $10,000 complete).

We ask that our specifications be reviewed for compliance with the applicable standards for water supply systems and request your concurrence for the expenditure of maintenance funds for the installation of this system.

We anticipate the seasonal drought to continue for another 60 days. The nearby cities of Raymond and Oakhurst, California, are now without water and there are serious shortages throughout the San Joaquin Valley. The absence of normal snowfall this past winter has contributed greatly to this situation.

The well location will be in the El Portal Administrative Site, and its installation will be considered as part of updating and maintaining the water supply system. Therefore, due to the emergency nature of this work and that its location is within an existing developed area and considered a part of the maintenance of an existing system, we request your concurrence that this activity be considered for minor environmental impact.

We are especially grateful for the quick response of Messrs. Witucki and Peppers and their assistance toward getting this work under way.

11-21-1963: memorandum to superintendent from assistant regional director regarding supplying water to us forest service at el portal

November 21, 1963

NOV 25 10 24 AM '63

154

~~RL~~ ENE
11/26/63

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Yosemite

From: Assistant Regional Director, Western Region

Subject: Supplying Water to U. S. Forest Service at El Portal, Yosemite

This has reference to the telephone conversation of November 20 between Assistant Superintendent Liles and myself. The United States Forest Service proposes that this Service supply about 1000 gallons of water per day for Forest Service use at a picnic area near El Portal. The Forest Service would plan to tap our water distribution system near the new iminumeter.

From a water right standpoint there is no objection to any arrangement that you might make to supply the desired water. However, the 1000 g.p.d. seems rather small for any picnic area, and use may increase in future years. Also some type of supervision may be required to prevent water line breaks and willful misuse of the water by the picnickers. These two problems can probably be worked out with the Forest Service when the agreement is reached.

(Sgd.) Leo J. Diederich

Leo J. Diederich

cc:
Director

YOSE

03-25-1960: memorandum to director from assistant regional director regarding water rights

WR Copy @ 3/31/6

March 25, 1960

L 54

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Assistant Regional Director, Region Four

Subject: Water Right, Docket 6, El Portal Area, Yosemite

In response to Mr. Dunn's memorandum of March 21, the following information is supplied:

1. In confirmation, the correct date of signature of License 2973 is April 13, 1948. We removed and destroyed the unsigned copy previously filed in Part III of Docket 6 and by our memorandum of February 1 advised other offices to do so.

2. The new well is approximately 1800 feet S. 69° W. of the East 1/4 corner of Section 18 as scaled from an enlargement of aerial photograph YOSEP-1-2. We believe the new well is at or very close to the site of the old well.

3. Our records show that the old well was 10 feet deep and was dug in 1953 to replace two other wells. This data as well as other details of the old system of the National Lead Company are contained in the rough data sheets distributed with Mr. Johnston's memorandum of August 26, 1958.

The above data will be incorporated in a drawing to be prepared for docket 6. We have delayed preparation of the drawing in the absence of an adequate base map of the El Portal area.

(SGD) HERBERT MAIER

Assistant Regional Director

Copy to: Superintendent, Yosemite
Chief, WODC (2)

03-21-1960: memorandum to regional director from chief, water resources section regarding water rights

file YOSE Docket 6

IN REPLY REFER TO:
L54-OBL

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

March 21, 1960

RECEIVED
NPS REGION FOUR OFFICE
MAR 24 '60

	SURNAME	DATE
REG. DIR.		
ASST. R.D.		
OPERATIONS	[illegible]	3/24
ADMIN.		
RECREATION		
INTERP.		
RANGER ACT		

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Four

From: Chief, Water Resources Section

Subject: Water Right Docket 6, El Portal Area, Yosemite

LSS 3/25
Whitworth
Manbey

This memorandum refers to Mr. Maier's memorandum of February 29, Mr. Imirie's memorandum of March 8, concerning Deed 179-A-B & C, and the L-1 form, and earlier correspondence as indicated. Attached is a print of NP-YOS-2405 on which Mr. Robertson has shown limits of the patents. We are filing this print at the bottom of contents of Part I of the docket for at least interim reference.

see memo of 3/25 to Director print filed in docket

3/25/60

We have also filed all the following records as instructed, and the following comments are offered:

Application 19116, of which copy was sent to us with memorandum of November 9, 1959, to Superintendent, was subsequently filed December 2, 1959, according to letter of December 3, 1959, from the Executive Office of State Water Rights Board. We do not have hour of filing, or permit number.

will know hour when state issues permit - no permit number issued yet

The License No. 2973, with Mr. Maier's memorandum of February 1 seems to have been signed by the State Engineer on April 13, 1948. The proposed license in Part III of docket is not signed, and bears notation in upper right corner that it was attached to Mr. Hilton's memorandum of February 26, 1947. The date of signature "1948" is scarcely legible on our copy, and should be confirmed by reference to better print that you or the Superintendent must have. Assuming that the date is correct, it may be assumed that the quantity of water was reduced between 1947 and 1948, due to result of field inspection. I think the unsigned copy of license should be removed from docket and destroyed, as obsolete, subject to your confirmation of same action by all offices. Incidently, our patch work copy of license would have little value in court because we have no evidence that all four sheets, that are stapled together, are from the two sides of the same, signed original.

date 1948 is correct

The Completion Report of November 23, 1959, of Utility Reconstruction, with memorandum of February 29 from Mr.Maier, refers to PCP-B-180-1,

which indicates that there was no construction drawing, but NP-YOS-3515 has now been received for Plan Review. The drawing with records of the pump test, with the completion report is needlessly large for permanent docket records, and somewhat confusing. The following comments are offered for consideration when preparing the single drawing for the docket, which Mr. Maier has promised.

1. Both old and new wells, and pipelines should be shown with tie to S¼ Cor. Sec. 18, which could be scaled. done

2. The profiles of both wells, and water levels in both wells and of adjacent river might be shown on the same sketch map. consider later

3. The record of pump test of new well might also be shown, thus eliminating the need for sheet with completion report. consider later

4. Drawdown curves and tabular water levels during pump test do not appear to be to the same elevation datum as profile of wells. consider later

5. The new well is clearly a replacement of the old, and should be so classified. O.K.

6. At least the approximate depth of the old well should be given, to show that both intercept the same aquifer, or apparently the subsurface flow of the river. 10' deep

7. The approximate date of construction of the old well and pipeline should be recorded, if known. 1953

8. As suggested by Mr. Maier, no formal logs are probably needed for 17 foot wells so close to the river, but the type of gravel formation should be shown, and that is about all missing to convert the sketch of pump test data to a log, if drawdown curves are plotted from proper datum. (I gather that water level was drawn down to about 7 or 8 feet from an unrecorded static depth below ground level before the pump test started, and recovery appears to have been to about 9.5 feet below ground surface.) ✓

The requested data for the L-1 form, and the proper records of water rights for Docket 6 are very closely related. Attached Drawing 2405

should be used as a base for a map showing all the water systems and the dates of patent to the land on which they are located. There should also be the dates when the parcels of unpatented former Forest Service land were first withdrawn from entry and reserved as Forest Reserves. The ultimate basis of water rights may be governed by these dates as well as, or instead of the dates of new construction or appropriative water right applications.

A. van V. Dunn
Chief, Water Resources Section

Attachment

Copy to: Superintendent, Yosemite, w/c Print 2405 - Docket 6 - Part I
Chief, WODC (2) " " " "

02-29-1960: memorandum to the director from assistant regional director regarding water rights

file YOSE Docket 6 left side

L54 LSS

~~Spaulding~~

McClellan

Whitworth

Wosky

~~Maier~~

February 29, 1960

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Assistant Regional Director, Region Four

Subject: Water Right Docket for El Portal Residences, Yosemite

Mr. Robertson suggested by memorandum of February 19 that we prepare a new docket for the water system serving residences 700, 703, 704 and 705.

Docket 6 which we distributed January 19 was prepared for the filing of material relating to water use at the existing residences as well as for filing material relating to appropriative rights. We intended that the documentation of the water rights of the United States as owner of riparian or overlying land be filed in Part I of the docket. Accordingly, we are filing a copy of the completion report (PCP B-180-1) in Part I of Docket 6. Copies of the report (without photos) are being distributed to the Superintendent and to WODC for similar filing.

As time permits we will prepare a simple drawing of the system with a section corner tie. We think it unlikely that the Park kept a log of the well, it being a simple dug hole in river gravel and boulders.

FILE COPY

(SGD) HERBERT MAIER

Assistant Regional Director

Copy to: Superintendent (with copy of portion of Completion report)
Chief, WODC (2)(with copy of portion of Completion report)

LSSpaudling:lq

02-19-1960: memorandum to regional director from assistant chief, water resources section regarding water right docket for el portal residents

YOSE Docket 6 left side

IN REPLY REFER TO:
L54-OBL

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

RECEIVED
NPS REGION FOUR OFFICE
FEB 23 '60

	SURNAME	DATE
REG. DIR.		
ASST. R.D.		
OPERATIONS		
ADMIN.		
RACREATION	Butterworth	
INTERP.	Lantzy BF	2/20
RANGER ACT	Spaulding LSS	2/29

February 19, 1960

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Four

From: Assistant Chief, Water Resources Section

Subject: Water Right Docket for El Portal Residences, Yosemite

It is suggested that a docket be started and distributed from your office, as indicated in the closing paragraph of Mr. Dunn's memorandum of December 22, 1959, subject: Proposed Water Right Dockets, El Portal Area, for the water system now serving residences 700, 703, 704 and 705. For the present the docket folder may contain only copies of the completion report PCP B-180-1, without snapshots, plus a log of the well which we would like to have supplied to us if it is not already enroute. We have reproduced the completion report for the WASO copy.

At some later date, as time permits, a simple drawing of the system, with a tie from a nearby BLM corner, $\frac{1}{4}$ cor. or 1/16 cor. to the well should be made and included, if this is not already in progress.

Gordon W. Robertson

Gordon W. Robertson
Assistant Chief, Water Resources Section

Copy to: Superintendent, Yosemite
Chief, WODC (2)

11-09-1959: memorandum to superintendent from acting regional chief of operations regarding water right application, moss creek.

L54

November 9, 1959

WESTERN OFFIC
DESIGN & CONSTRU
NOV 12 1959
CHIEF
ADMIN. ASSIST.
PERSONNEL
PLANS & PROG
SAFETY
ARCHITECT
ENGINEER
LAND. ARCH.
ACTION TAKEN—
None

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

From: ACTING Regional Chief of Operations, Region Four

Subject: Water Right Application, Moss Creek, Yosemite

Attached are the original and two copies of a revised application for appropriation of the water of Moss Creek for use at the El Portal Administrative area.

If satisfactory with you, the original and one copy may be signed and submitted to the State Water Rights Board. The original of the map which was sent you with the draft of June 23 should be attached to the original of the application form going to the State. A purchase order and voucher to cover the $10 filing fee is attached to the application. The State should be asked to sign the voucher and return it to this office for payment.

The application is a revision of earlier drafts sent you first on February 10 and again on June 23. The present form incorporated some of the suggestions made by Mr. Dunn in his memorandum of July 15. The principal change has been to revise paragraph 11 - Place of Use, and Paragraph 12 - Other Rights.

The application makes no specific reference to the first portion of the water system (PCP U-109-1) now programmed for construction in the 1962 fiscal year. Because the system will initially use water pumped from a well near the Merced River, it is our opinion that an appropriative filing is not needed for that portion of the system. We believe the use of such water will be an exercise of the riparian right of the Federal Government assuming the water is underground flow of the Merced River and provided the water is used on land purchased from the El Portal Mining Company.

Even though the first water needs may be met by other rights we believe it is highly desirable to establish appropriative rights on Moss Creek.

Acting Regional Chief of Operations

Attachments

Copy to: Director (2) w/cy of application
Chief, WODC (2) w/cy of application
Regional Solicitor w/cy application

08-05-1959: memorandum to regional director from superintendent regarding water right application, moss creek

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L54

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

August 5, 1959

RECEIVED
NPS REGION FOUR OFFICE
AUG -6'59

	SURNAME	DATE
REG. DIR.		
ASST. R.D.		
OPERATIONS		
ADMIN.		
RECREATION		
INTERP.		
LEGAL		

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Four

From: Superintendent, Yosemite

Subject: Water Rights Application, Moss Creek, El Portal

~~X Superintendent~~ LSS 8/10
new copy
Whitworth
Manbey

We have carefully reviewed Mr. Whitworth's July 29 subject memorandum and other recent correspondence on the matter.

Our only comment is that we do intend to eventually serve the "Part of the El Portal community having a continuing population of 300....." from the Moss Creek source. During dry years it will undoubtedly be necessary to supplement the Moss Creek supply with water pumped from wells along the Merced River. As you know, both Crane Creek and Indian Creek went dry during July this year.

application will be worded to indicate this LSS. 8/10

John C. Preston
Superintendent

In duplicate

06-04-1959: memorandum to regional director from chief, water resources section regarding proposed water system

file YOSE El Portal Docket

IN REPLY REFER TO:
L54-OBL

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

June 4, 1959

RECEIVED
NPS REGION FOUR OFFICE
JUN -8'59

	SURNAME	DATE
REG. DIR.		
ASST. R.D.		
OPERATIONS		
ADMIN.	Hardy	
RECREATION		
WATER	Whitworth	
LEGAL		

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Four

From: Chief, Water Resources Section

Subject: Proposed Water System, El Portal Trailer Court, Drawing NP-YOS-3449, Yosemite

x Spaulding L55 6/29

The subject drawing could be greatly improved by the inclusion of section lines and cross references to water developments. However, the Trailer Court appears to be in $N\frac{1}{2}$ $SE\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 18 and $NW\frac{1}{4}$ $SW\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 17, which is designated as Abbeville area on Drawing 2404 which was submitted with Mr. Whitworth's memorandum of February 20 concerning El Portal water rights.

see memo of 6/23 to Supt. & draft of application

The "existing well", which is proposed source, appears to be 0.25 inch east (right) of circled "s" in $NW\frac{1}{4}$ $SE\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 18. The proposal to establish continued Federal use of that well as successor in ownership, is excellent. I have not located Mr. Spaulding's record, if any, of the last past use of the particular well, but the burden of proof of lapse of water rights would be on the protestant.

Drawing 2403 also shows that the subject well, on the north bank of the river, and the Trailer Court, thereon designated as area "c", on the south bank, are part of one tract of formerly patented land which includes both sides of the river through $N\frac{1}{2}$ $SE\frac{1}{4}$, and $NE\frac{1}{4}$ $SW\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 18. I assume the well depth to be such that the source of water is subsurface flow of the river. These observations suggest that the well can probably be used to supply the Trailer Court under riparian rights.

The plan under Drawing 3449 is to withdraw the water from the well on north bank of the river, and convey it to area of use on the south bank. The establishment of successorship rights to the subsurface river flow will be less controversial by using the old well. However, an amended point of water withdrawal, or diversion on the south bank, and upstream, is legally possible. The desirability of this action should be considered before the pipeline gradient is fixed to flow easterly.

This proposal to use subsurface flow of the Merced River, or other intercepted groundwater if the well intercepts a lower aquifer, is a change from the plan in 2/5/59 draft of application for the appropriation of Moss Creek water. We could change the point of withdrawal to point of diversion on Crane Creek, subject to only the protest of lower appropriators of Crane Creek if the well intercepts subsurface flow of the Merced.

The fact that WODC Drawing 3449 differs from Regional Drawings 2403 and 2404, without explanations to this office, leads me to question whether the two offices are fully coordinating their work. I do not believe that water right limitations have been found yet, which would make either plan impractical.

A. van V. Dunn
Chief, Water Resources Section

Copy to: Superintendent, Yosemite
Chief, WODC (2)

09-30-1958: memorandum to regional director, region four from chief, water resources section regarding mr. whitworth's memo of september 18 concerning water right for proposed el portal development

IN REPLY REFER TO:
L54-L

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

September 30, 1958

RECEIVED
NPS REGION FOUR OFFICE
OCT -6 '58

	SURNAME	DATE
REG. DIR.		
ASST. R.D.		
OPERATIONS		
ADMIN.		
RECREATION		
INTERP.		
LEGAL		

answered in part by Manley memo Aug 25 memo of Feb to Dir transmitting application

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Four

From: Chief, Water Resources Section

Subject: Mr. Whitworth's Memorandum of September 18 Concerning Water Rights for Proposed El Portal Development, Yosemite

Mr. Whitworth is correct in stating that searching county records would not be justified to try to find all water right filings. There is also no justification for searching for claims which have lapsed.

Railroad claims appear to have been unexercised for almost, but not quite, 20 years. My question, in that connection, is now who owns the land where the tanks were located, and how did title pass, if to a private individual. If conveyed to a private individual, with appurtenances, and the pipeline and tank were not removed by the RR, we might be able to purchase and convert the rights, but I doubt if the quantity of water actually used was ever significant.

see Dunn Oct. 1, '58

I do not consider it significant that Ward described one point of diversion, and used another. The question is whether that diversion was made at the time of county filing. Faulty description of point of diversion could be corrected if it could be established that water from specified source (Moss Creek) was made.

The right to divert above patented land under riparian rights, to gain head, is always subject to consent of upper land owner, and to somewhat differing laws of various states. I think the attorney for the State Water Right Board should be consulted on the second point, probably by the Regional Solicitor. However, I think Mr. Spaulding should participate in such discussion.

Have clear riparian right. with exception of 'Indian' land So. of River the US owns all the land involved. LSS

It is not possible to claim riparian rights to a stream which does not cross the land, even though that stream is tributary to another stream which does cross the land. However, it is possible to purchase or quiet title to riparian lands, and make an appropriative filing for the nonriparian use of that water. I am not enough of an

attorney to know how the state reconciles the failure to return the same water to the same stream, but assume that the notice of appropriation, as posted or advertised, serves to quiet title of other riparian claimants from whom rights were not purchased. The Federal rights to Raynor Creek for the Mariposa Area, Yosemite, Docket 1, were established on that basis, under instructions of Mr. Joseph E. Taylor.

It is also probable that an independent application for a new appropriation of water of Moss Creek would result in a permit from the State Engineer unless he has evidence that the particular creek is far over appropriated. Whether the permit was granted, as that of the Forest Service for Crane Creek water, or blocked by protests, as in the case of the Park Service application for supplemental water at the Big Stump Area of Kings Canyon, Docket 1, would depend on the fate of the posted or advertised notice.

From the data collected to date, subject to Mr. Putnam's investigation, I believe that the next step should be for WODC to prepare its preliminary plan for the development to the extent necessary to define desired point of diversion and approximate pipeline alignment, as a map to support a water right application, and to file such application for the appropriation of the water. If the published notice is protested, we will have to buy or condemn rights of protestant. The action should have prior Solicitor's concurrence, and we better have funds to start construction within statutory period after possible permit is granted.

We are following this course of action. WJT

A. van V. Dunn
Chief, Water Resources Section

Copy to: Superintendent, Yosemite
Chief, WODC
Field Solicitor McClellan

09-18-1958: memorandum to director from acting regional chief of operations regarding water rights

L54

L55

~~Spaulding~~

~~Manbey~~ B/F

McLaughlan

~~Whitworth~~

FILE COPY

September 18, 1958

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Acting Regional Chief of Operations, Region Four

Subject: Water Rights, El Portal, Yosemite NP

Superintendent Preston by memorandum of September 15 listed the advantages of Moss Creek as a water source in preference to the Merced River. He suggested that Mr. Dunn make a trip to Yosemite to help secure water rights to this creek.

Previously, on August 26 we had informed Mr. Preston that obtaining rights to Moss Creek would be difficult and that initial development should not use the creek as a water source.

In commenting on our August 26 analysis of rights, Mr. Dunn suggested in his memorandum of September 4 that our records may not be sufficient to show that railroad rights to Moss Creek have not lapsed. Mr. Preston now wishes to follow up this lead.

Further investigation of railroad rights could proceed from information collected by Mr. Spaulding in November 1957. At that time a field investigation showed that a diversion dam had been constructed on Moss Creek and that a pipeline had been laid from the dam to an elevated tank next to the railroad. Previous to 1957 the pipeline and tank had been removed. No other field evidence of diversions on Moss Creek were revealed by walking up the first ¼ mile and by viewing the stream from the ridge above Rancheria Flat. Local residents said that the railroad rails had been taken up during World War II. Presumably the pipeline and tank on Moss Creek were removed about the same time. The indication is that there has been a 15 year period of non-use.

Examination of records by Mr. Spaulding revealed that O. W. Ward and Augustus H. Ward had filed with Mariposa County for water rights to Moss Creek for mining, milling, power and irrigation uses. The points of diversion of these applications were 3/4 to 1 mile above the actual railroad diversion. No other county filings on Moss Creek were found. However, the method of locating the county filings, consisting of checking the index for names of people known to

have interests in the area, leaves the possibility for filings being overlooked. The county does not index water rights by stream names. Further checking of county records could proceed by finding first the names of owners, or principal stockholders of the Railroad.

We are making arrangements to have the checking of county records done by Engineering Draftsman Putnam, who has had experience in this field. Hydraulic Engineer Spaulding will be at Olympic and Mt. Rainier for the next few weeks and will not be available.

Two other possibilities for securing rights to Moss Creek have occurred to us. First, considering that the land for development (Rancheria Flat) is riparian to the Merced River, but that the available head is such that we wish to make a diversion at a higher elevation, could such a diversion be made on Moss Creek under riparian doctrine? This would mean taking water from a stream which joins the Merced below that portion of the Merced to which the land is riparian. The only parties who could be damaged by such a diversion would be land owners or appropriators on that portion of Moss Creek between the NPS diversion and the junction of the creek with the Merced River. If all of Moss Creek below the diversion were made a part of the Park Service reservation and since there are no diversions on the stream at this time the potential damage may be eliminated. We think riparian rights would not attain in this situation in which the place of use is not riparian to the particular tributary, but we ask your views on the desirability of pursuing this idea further. If warranted we will prepare a map showing the situation and will submit the question of riparian rights to the Regional Solicitor for an opinion.

Secondly, the success of the Forest Service in making an appropriative filing with the State on Crane Creek suggests the possibility of a similar application by the Park Service to Moss Creek. We ask your views on making an application and in the event of protests rely on a hearing before the State Water Rights Board to determine the existence of unappropriated water.

G. F. WHITWORTH

George F. Whitworth
Acting Regional Chief of Operations

LSpaulding:sh

Copy to: Superintendent, Yosemite
Chief, WODC
Mr. McClellan

09-15-1958: memorandum to regional director, region four from superintendent regarding water rights

IN REPLY REFER TO:
L54-L

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

September 15, 1958

RECEIVED
NPS REGION FOUR OFFICE
SEP 16 '58

	SURNAME	DATE
✓ REG. DIR.		9/23
ASST. R.D		
✓ OPERATIONS		9/24
RECREATION		
INTERP.		
LEGAL		

✓ Landt BFm 9/22
✓ Spaulding LSS

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Four

From: Superintendent, Yosemite

Subject: Water Rights, El Portal, Yosemite National Park

We have just received a copy of Mr. A. van V. Dunn's memorandum to you commenting on Mr. Spaulding's recent investigation of the subject water rights. In the penultimate paragraph, Mr. Dunn refers to the possible availability of rights to Moss Creek. This source would offer the best solution for the following reasons:

see memo to Director of 9/18

1. Moss Creek has adequate head and volume for a gravity supply system.

2. The alternate or Merced River source would require expensive collection, treatment and pumping installations because it is subject to contamination from our sewage treatment plant and adequate head is not readily available.

3. The Moss Creek system would be much less costly to operate and maintain.

In view of the foregoing, and the paramount importance of settling the water rights so that programmed developments may proceed on schedule, we feel the situation warrants the personal attention of Mr. A. van V. Dunn. His broad experience and background would be of considerable value in working out an immediate solution to our water supply needs. We would like to suggest, therefore, that arrangements be made for a trip to Yosemite by Mr. Dunn, at his earliest convenience. We also suggest that he be accompanied by Mr. Spaulding from your office since his knowledge of existing conditions would be most helpful.

John C. Preston
Superintendent

In duplicate

Copy to: Director
Chief, WODC

09-12-1958: memorandum to director from acting regional chief of operations regarding water rights

L-54

Spaulding LSS

Manbey

Whitworth

FILE COPY

September 12, 1958

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Acting Regional Chief of Operations

Subject: Water Rights, El Portal, Yosemite

By memorandum of September 4, Mr. Dunn asked questions concerning an analysis of water rights and notes on El Portal water resources and rights transmitted with our memorandum of August 26.

The appendix and map Mr. Dunn notes as not received are in rough form and were not intended to be sent out. The data they contain will be presented together with the rest of the report in the more permanent form Mr. Dunn suggests.

Item 1, Mr. Spaulding's comments is a two page statement.

George F. Whitworth
Acting Regional Chief of Operations

Copy to: Supt., Yosemite
Chief, WOSC

bc: Johnston

LSSpaulding:hat

09-04-1958: memorandum to regional director, region four from chief, water resources section regarding water rights

IN REPLY REFER TO:
L54-L

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

RECEIVED
NPS REGION FOUR OFFICE
SEP 8 - '58

	SURNAME	DATE
REG. DIR.		
ASST. R.D.		
OPERATIONS		
RECREATION		
INTERP.		
LEGAL		

September 4, 1958

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Four

From: Chief, Water Resources Section

Subject: Water Rights, El Portal, Yosemite National Park

With our one copy of Mr. Johnston's memorandum of August 26 to the Superintendent we received: See memo to Director 9/12/58

1. Mr. Spaulding's typed comments-ElPortal Water Rights- three copies page 1 and one copy page 2. - 2 pages only
2. Thermofax copy of contents, in one sheet.
3. Thermofax copy of tabulation of patents, deeds, grants and agreements, pages 1, 2 and 3.
4. Thermofax copy of Mariposa County Records of Water Right Appropriations, one page.
5. Thermofax copy of El Portal Water Association Water System, 12 unnumbered pages.
6. Thermofax copy of water system serving houses in Stanislaus National Forest, 4 unnumbered pages.
7. Thermofax copy of Brantly Water System, 7 unnumbered pages.
8. Thermofax copy of National Lead Company Water System, 8 unnumbered pages.
9. Thermofax copy of Abbeville Water Systems, 4 unnumbered pages.
10. Thermofax copy of Yosemite Valley Railroad Moss Creek Water System, 5 unnumbered pages.
11. Thermofax copy of Tungsten Mill System, 3 unnumbered pages.
12. Thermofax copy of Indian Water System, 3 unnumbered pages.
13. Thermofax copy of Las Mariposa Land Company Water System, 3 unnumbered pages.

We received no copies of the appendix or map. There is also the question of whether item 1 is a two or four page statement. Such records should be supplied in duplicate. I also think that the thermofax notes are of sufficient permanent value to justify typing or duplicating in a more permanent medium such as photostat, apeco, or such. This should be kept in mind when preparing the summary. I should like to caution against simplification which would eliminate any of the data.

The two pages of Mr. Spaulding's statement are about what I expected as to findings of fact. His "belief" that a riparian diversion can be made from the stream (Merced River) above the land on which it is to be used, is also nominally correct. However, no such diversion could be made above intervening private land without the consent of the intervening land owner. I am referring to general principles, and the State of California may have prescribed other conditions which should be investigated.

The table of county water right filings suggests that the railroad made no filings, but many agents of companies filed in their own names in the early days, and covered "other beneficial uses" in their claims. Hence, I wonder whether we have sufficient record in the tabulation to show that some railroad rights to Moss Creek have not lapsed, or are not still available for purchase.

Neglecting the nonconsumptive power rights, there appear to be county filings for 30,300 m.i., of which 7,000 m.i. are to Moss Creek. While it may be desirable to assert riparian rights to the Merced, I do not think that it would be impossible to purchase some of the rights to other sources, or prove that part have lapsed and may have left unappropriated water in them. I do not know whether the filings were based on 40 or 50 m.i. per second foot, but there are claims to a lot of water if they are supported by available flow.

A. van V. Dunn
Chief, Water Resources Section

Copy to: Superintendent, Yosemite
Chief, WODC

08-26-1958: memorandum to superintendent from regional chief of operations regarding water rights

L-54

~~Spaulding~~ LS

McClellan

~~Manbey~~ BFM

Johnston

FILE COPY

August 26, 1958

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Yosemite

From: Regional Chief of Operations, Region Four

Subject: Water Rights, El Portal, Yosemite National Park

Attached is a brief analysis by Hydraulic Engineer Spaulding of water rights for the proposed El Portal Development. The conclusions are tentative and should not be accepted as final until more thorough study and review have been made.

Also attached is a rough copy of data collected by Mr. Spaulding during an inspection of the site and a visit to the Mariposa County Court House in November 1957. The data is being summarized and will soon be submitted in simplified form.

We believe that on the basis of Mr. Spaulding's study the Merced River should be considered as the main source of water for El Portal development. Obtaining rights to Moss Creek may be a long and difficult process, and plans for initial development should not depend on this stream as a source. Initial planning could contemplate using the high water flow of Crane Creek but during the summer months the flow probably would be too low to supply other than the present users.

(SGD) FRED T. JOHNSTON

Fred T. Johnston
Regional Chief of Operations

Attachments

Copy to: Director (w/attachments)
Chief, WORC (w/analysis)

bc:Whitworth

LSpaulding:hat

R-8/17

EL PORTAL WATER RIGHTS

L. S. Spaulding

August, 1958

I have investigated the possibility of water rights being acquired with the purchase of El Portal Mining Company lands and also rights which might be acquired independent of that purchase. The study included making a brief field examination of water diversions and water use, and examinations of Mariposa County water right filings and Bureau of Land Management records in Washington. The conclusions herein are tentative and should not be accepted as final until more thorough study and review have been made.

TENTATIVE CONCLUSIONS

1. Riparian rights to use water of the Merced River and of Crane Creek upon all but a small portion of the purchased land will be acquired with the El Portal Mining Company property.

2. No usable rights, either riparian or appropriative, to Moss Creek will be acquired with the purchase of the Mining Company land.

3. Except for one possible exception, no appropriative rights to any stream in the area will be acquired with the purchase. The possible exception is the right under the 1886 county filing by Oliver Ward to Crane Creek.

4. Riparian right to use the water of Indian Creek on land south of the Merced River probably will be acquired with the purchase of El Portal Mining Company land.

5. The acquisition of rights independent of the Mining Company purchase may be difficult. Doing so would require either that there be unappropriated water in the Merced River, or its tributaries, or that existing rights be purchased. However, the Forest Service was able to obtain an appropriative permit from the State to Crane Creek and this indicates that the Park Service might possibly establish new appropriative rights in the area.

DISCUSSION - MOSS CREEK

Moss Creek joins the Merced River downstream from the area of proposed development. Its canyon is steep, narrow and rocky, with no room for development within its lower watershed. Two county water right filings are recorded but there is no evidence that diversions described by the filings were actually made. One diversion was made that apparently was not covered by an appropriative filing. This was for a locomotive water tank which was abandoned about 1944. My con-

clusion is that appropriative rights have lapsed because of non-use.

El Portal Mining Company lands may include a short section of Moss Creek. This fact would establish a riparian right to use the water within the tract and, as I understand it, only on the watershed of Moss Creek. Since the only usable land on the particular tract is Rancheria Flat and the railroad turn-around area, both outside the Moss Creek watershed, I have concluded that no usable riparian right exists.

MERCED RIVER

The lands of the El Portal Mining Company border the Merced River and with minor exception have never been separated from the River. With the conditions discussed below I conclude that riparian rights attach to most of the lands to be purchased. It is my understanding that riparian owners may make diversions upstream, provided the water is conveyed and used on riparian lands. This latter is the basis of my conclusion that the water of Crane Creek and Indian Creek may be used on purchased lands bordering the Merced River. In exception, there is a portion of Mining Company land which may not have riparian rights. This is that tract of land in Section 17 which at one time was conveyed, divested of water rights, to the Yosemite Valley Railway Company for use as a terminal. Further, the lands of the Mining Company in Section 16 appear to have lost part of their water rights by action of an earlier owner. The Ward Land Company, predecessor to the El Portal Mining Company, by an agreement dated August 10, 1908, conveyed rights to all the water within Section 16 in both the Merced River and Crane Creek to a second party, making, however, some important reservations and exceptions. The reservations and exceptions seem to leave the El Portal Mining Company land with some appropriative and riparian water rights.

CRANE CREEK

On purchase of the El Portal Mining Company the Park Service may acquire the appropriative right established by Oliver Ward and recorded with Mariposa County on February 27, 1883. The amount of the right will be fixed by the quantity put to beneficial use by users in the past. It is not possible to increase the quantity under this right and the only way the Park Service could use the water would be to decrease the flow to present users.

The Forest Service, in the name of U. S., Stanislaus National Forest made a State water right filing, (Application 10488, filed July 3, 1942) to Little Crane Creek. The diversion apparently is for the existing system serving residential leases at El Portal. The quantity of this appropriation, 6500 gallons per day, is too small to be of much value to the Park Service.

Under riparian rights to Merced River it is my understanding, as stated above, that the Park Service could make a diversion on Crane Creek and convey the water for use on lands bordering the river.

11-07-1957: note concerning el portal water rights investigation

COPY 2

EL PORTAL
WATER RIGHTS INVESTIGATION

November 5-8, 1957

L. Spaulding

CONTENTS

LAND RECORDS - BLM - Washington DC

Appropriative Filings - Mariposa County

Water Systems

- El Portal Water Association
- Forest Service Leases
- Brantly
- National Lead Co.
- Abbeville
- Yosemite Valley RR - Moss Creek
- Tungsten Mill
- Indian - Crane Creek
- Las Mariposas Land Co

Appendix

- Site investigation - Field Notes
- Las Mariposas Land Co. Abstract - Notes
- Mariposa County Water Right Records - Notes
- " " " " " Photographs
- Map - El Portal Quad.

PATENTS, DEEDS, GRANTS & AGREEMENTS

El Portal, Mariposa County

on Land now held by El Portal Mining Co.

Compiled by L. Spaulding Dec. 5, 1957

Summary made for Mawbey

ITEM	DATE OF DOCUMENT	INSTRUMENT	PARTIES	DESCRIPTION & TERMS All land is in T3S. R20E MDM	SOURCE OF INFORMATION	RECORDED Vol. & Page
1	Aug. 1, 1884	Homestead Cert. No. 1578	Leonidas G. Wharton	160 Acres SW¼NW¼ Sec 16, S½NE¼, SE¼NW¼ Sec. 17	Washington, DC Tract Book, BLM	Stockton 4 - 460
2	Aug 17, 1888	Homestead Receipt # 5158	Oliver W. Ward	160 Acres SE¼NW¼, SW¼NE¼, NW¼SE¼, NE¼SW¼ Sec 18	do	not found
3	Oct. 16, 1890	R.B.L. Warrant No. 80680 (State of Calif.)	Augustus H. Ward	NE¼SE¼ Sec 18, N½SW¼, SW¼NW¼ Sec 17 160A	do	Act of 1841 vol 169 (Warrant vol 1130) Page 214
4	Dec 20, 1890	Patent	W.R. Birmingham Charles W. Mott	E½, S½SW¼, NW¼SW¼ Sec 16. 440 A.	Abstract Las Mariposas Land Co.	Mariposa Co. Patents R-64
5	Apr. 21, 1893	Grant Deed	W.R. Birmingham & wife grant to James H. Martin	½ interest in Item 4	do	Mariposa Co. Deeds 14-121
6	Sep 1, 1893	Grant Deed	Charles W. Mott grant to James H. Martin	½ interest in Item 4	do	Mariposa Co. Deeds 15-83
7	May 9, 1902	Grant Deed	James H. Martin grant to A. H Ward	All of Items 5 & 6	do	Mariposa Co. Deeds 21-52
8	Jan 2, 1907	Grant Deed	Augustus H. Ward to Ward Land Co.	Granted to Ward Land Co. 1. Land described Items 1, 2, 3, 14 (SW¼NW¼S16 not included) 2. Water Right - Moss Cr. - County Vol. 2, pg 278 3. Water Right - 'B' System, " vol. 2 pg 280 4. Right of Way - power line - County Agreements vol. T pg. 78-80	do	Mariposa Co. Deeds 23-153
9	Oct. 5, 1907	Grant Deed	Augustus H. Ward and Ward Land Co to Yosemite Valley R.R.	Grant to Yosemite Valley RR 1. Irregular Parcel, 15.2 acres in NE¼ S17 2. Right of Way, 100' wide RR S17 & 18 3. Right of Way, 50' wide wagon Rd. S16 & 17 Conditions a. Land reverts to Ward Land Co on abandonment of R.R. b. Mineral rights reserved c. Water Rights - Merced & tributaries reserved by Ward Land Co	do	Mariposa Co. Deeds 23-206

ITEM	DATE OF DOCUMENT	INSTRUMENT	PARTIES	DESCRIPTION & TERMS	SOURCE OF INFORMATION	RECORDED Vol. & Page
10	Aug 10, 1908	Agreement	Ward Land Co. 1ST Thomas Prather, Augustus H. Ward } 2ND Yosemite Terminal Co 3RD	Whereas, Ward Land Co - is owner of certain land in S 16, 17 & 18 - granted Right of Way to YVRR - reserved right to use wagon road - reserved water rights - leased land in Sec. 16, 17 & 18 to Yosemite Term. Co - reserved land for canal from Crane Cr. & Merced R. - reserved 2 acres in NW¼ Sec 16 - leased certain land in S 18 to F.M. Smith - has right to construct pole line Ward Land Co. sells to { Thomas Prather 2/3 interest; Augustus H. Ward 1/3 " } in property: 1. Land in Sec. 16 except wagon road 2. Right to use wagon road 3. Right of way for dam, canal, etc. 4. Strip of Land 50' wide. Sec. 16, 17 & 18 5. 2 Acres of Land in Sec. 16 6. Right of way for ditch reserved from F.M. Smith lease 7. Right to construct pole line along R.R. Ward Land Co. and Yosemite Terminal Co. Sell to { Thomas Prather 2/3 interest; Augustus H. Ward 1/3 " } in land and property: 1. Water Right - Merced River - 'B' System { Recorded July 15, 1908; " Feb 15, 1905 } 2. All of Water in Merced River in Sec. 16 3. All of water in Crane Creek in Sec 16 Except: - water diverted in Sec 17 to Hennessy Ranch - Water from Crane Cr. required for use at hotel at El Portal AGREED that Ward Land Co and Yosemite Terminal Co.: 1. Shall have right to use water of Crane Cr. for operating existing power plant at El Portal 2. (power rights) 3. Shall have right to all water of Merced River and Crane Creek not used by party of 2nd part 4. Shall not interfere with appropriation of water of Merced River and Crane Creek by party of 2nd part and shall, when requested, prosecute all others attempting to appropriate or divert any water of Crane Creek or Merced River	Abstract Los Mariposas Land Co	Mariposa Co. Agreements Vol. T pg. 200

ITEM	DATE OF DOCUMENT	INSTRUMENT	PARTIES	DISCRIPTION & TERMS	SOURCE OF INFORMATION	RECORDED Vol. & Page
11	Nov. 1, 1909	Grant Deed	Thomas Prather and Augustus H. Ward to Merced River Elec. Co.	Rights, titles, interests & estates described in Agreement of Aug 10, 1908 (Item 10)	Abstract Las Mariposas Land Co.	Mariposa Co. Deeds 25-192
12	Dec 28, 1911	Grant Deed	Merced River Elec. Co. to Merced River Elec. Power Co.	All lands, water rights owned by Merced River Elec. Co (Item 11) including: 1. Land in Sec. 16 2. Easement for waterworks Sec. 16, 17 & 18 3. 100' strip of land in NW¼ Sec. 16 4. Water Rights - Crane Creek & Merced R. except reservation by Ward Land Co & Yosemite Tera. 5. Water Right - Merced R. of Oct 2, 1911 6. Special Use Permit - Right of way within Stanislaus Nat. Forest by Secty. Interior dated Aug 4, 1910	do	Mariposa Co. Deeds 26-60
13	Mar 6, 1913	Grant Deed	Same as Item 12	New deed of conveyance correcting mistakes in Deed of Dec. 28, 1911 (Item 12)	do	Mariposa Co. Deeds 27-21
14	Feb 8, 1915	Grant Deed	Merced River Elec. Power Co to Merced River Elec. Co.	All property described in Deed of Mar 6, 1912 (Item 13)	do	Mariposa Co. Deeds 27-181

L. Spaulding
Nov. 13, 1957

WATER RIGHTS APPRORIATIONS - EL PORTAL AREA

Recorded with Mariposa County

SOURCE	LOCATION OF DIVERSION	APPROPRIATOR	QUANTITY 40 MI = 1 Sec Ft.	USE	RECORDED Book	RECORDED Vol. & Pg.
Merced R.	13 miles below Yo Semite Valley 2 " above Ferguson Co. Mill	James A Hennessey W.P. Morrison	100 MI	mining power	Jan 22, 1880	1-38
Merced R.	1¼ mi above residence of Hennessey	L.G. Wharton E.S. Utter	2000 MI	stock watering	Apr. 14, 1884	1-84
Crane Cr.	near N. line of SW¼, S3, T3N, R20E	James McCoukey	200 MI	irrigation	Mar 10, 1887	1-105
Crane Cr.	1000' from N. bank Merced R.	O. W. Ward	1000 MI	irrigation stock watering	Feb 27, 1888	1-123
Moss Cr.	1 mile from mouth	O. W. Ward	2000 MI	irrigation stock watering	Aug 20, 1888	1-135
Merced R.	at mouth of Crane Cr.	Augustus H. Ward	20,000 MI	mining, milling power irrigation	Jun 11, 1900	2-89
do	do	do	do	do	Apr. 28, 1902	2-126
do	east boundary of Sec. 16 3/4 mi east of Crane Cr.	do	do	do	May 12, 1902	2-128
do	do	do	do	do	Jul. 15, 1902	2-134
do	do	do	do	do	Sep 10, 1902	2-137
do	do	do	do	do	Nov. 10, 1902	2-137
do	do	do	do	do	Jan 9, 1903	2-143
do	do	do	do	do	Mar 9, 1903	2-147
do	do	do	do	do	May 21, 1903	2-153
do	do	do	do	do	Feb 11, 1905	2-220
do	do	do	do	do	Feb 15, 1905	2-220
Moss Cr.	3/4 mi from Merced R. S18 T3S R20E	do	5000 MI	irrigation mining milling	Oct. 8, 1906	2-273
Crane Cr.	½ mi from mouth	Jules A. McCauley	1000 MI	power	Jun 18, 1907	2-285
Merced R.	east boundary of Sec 16 T3S R20E	Merced River Elec. Co	20,000 MI	power mining-milling irrig. manuf	Aug. 12, 1909	3-29

① Photograph of County Record made - print in appendix
② Copy of county record in Abstract made for Las Mariposas Land Co.

EL PORTAL WATER ASSOCIATION
WATER SYSTEM

Land Ownership
System Ownership
History
Discription of System
Photographs

SYSTEM: EL PORTAL WATER ASSOCIATION

Land Ownership

Diversion Works - Stanislaus National Forest
Supply Line - Nat. Forest & El Portal Mining Co. Land
Storage Tanks - El Portal Mining Co. Land
Distribution System - El Portal Mining Co. Land

System Ownership

Diversion Works & Supply Line - El Portal Water Assoc.
Storage Tanks - "donated to water association by El Portal Mining Co." Roy Munson
Distribution Lines - Laid by ½ of cost of individual home owners

History

1883 Wharton Ranch at present El Portal Ref: Plat T3S R20E
prior to 1888 ditch dug from Crane Creek to Wharton Ranch Ref: O. W. Ward Water Right Approp. Mariposa vol. 1 of Water Rights pg. 123

1888 O. W. Ward appropriated Crane Creek water conveyed by ditch to his land formerly known as "Wharton Ranch"
Ref: Vol. 1 of Water Rights pg. 123

1904-05-06 Yosemite Valley RR constructed to El Portal

1907 A. H. Ward and Ward Land Co. grants to Yosemite Valley R.R. land and rights of way reserving

1907 Augustus H. Ward grants to Ward Land Co. certain lands and water rights in Sections 16, 17 & 18 T3S R20E

Deed dated Jan 2, 1907
Ref: Los Mariposas Land Co. Abstract
G. Ottonello

prior to 1908 [Yosemite Terminal Co.]? constructs Crane Creek diversion and 6" riveted steel pipeline to operate hydro power plant at El Portal

Ref: Agreement dated Aug 10, 1908

1908 Agreement made Aug 10 on lands and water rights in El Portal area:
- Ward Land Co sells to Thomas Prather (2/3 interest) and Augustus H Ward (1/3 interest) all of water

Aug 10 1908 Agreement (cont.)

in Crane Creek in Sec. 16 .... except water from Crane Creek required for use at hotel at El Portal owned by Yosemite Terminal Co.

- Thomas Prather and Augustus H. Ward shall have right to use water of Crane Creek for operating existing power plant belonging to Yosemite Terminal Co. at El Portal.

Ref: Agreement 1. Ward Land Co.
2. {Thomas Prather / August H. Ward
3. Yosemite Terminal Co.

Mariposa Agreements vol. T pg. 200
G. OHonello, Los Mariposas Land Co

1909 Rights, titles, interests and estates described in Agreement of Aug. 10, 1908 granted by August H. Ward & Thomas Prather to Merced River Elec. Co.

Ref: Mariposa Vol. 25 of Deeds pg. 192
G. OHonello, Los Mariposas Land Co.

1910 Special Use Permit dated Aug. 4, 1910 granted to Merced River Elec. Co. by Secretary of Interior

Aug 10 1908 Agreement (cont.)

in Crane Creek in Sec. 16 .... except water from Crane Creek required for use at hotel at El Portal owned by Yosemite Terminal Co.

- Thomas Prather and Augustus H. Ward shall have right to use water of Crane Creek for operating existing power plant belonging to Yosemite Terminal Co. at El Portal.

Ref: Agreement 1. Ward Land Co.
2. {Thomas Prather / August H. Ward
3. Yosemite Terminal Co.

Mariposa Agreements vol. T pg. 200
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G. Ottonello, Los Mariposas Land Co.

1910 Special Use Permit dated Aug. 4, 1910 granted to Merced River Elec. Co. by Secretary of Interior

for right of way for tunnel, canal and reservoir site within Stanislaus National Forest.

Ref: Los Mariposas Land Co. abstract Deed of Dec. 08, 1911

1911 All lands, water rights owned by Merced River Electric Co. sold to Merced River Electric Power Co

Including:

- water right to Crane Creek
- right to transport water across Sec 17 & 18

ref: Vol. 26 Deeds pg 60 Mar 16, 1912
Vol. 27 " pg 21 Mar. 13, 1913

1915. All lands & water rights owned by Merced River Electric Power Co. sold to Merced River Electric Co.

Ref: Mariposa vol. 27 of Deeds pg 181

19— Storage tanks "donated" to El Portal Water Association by El Portal Mining Co Ref: Ray Monson

1939 ± Pipeline from diversion to storage tanks replaced with 3" steel pipe by El Portal Water Association

Ref: Clyde Gonn - who helped lay pipe

1947 Interests of Merced River Electric Co. sold to Las Mariposas Land Co.

Ref: Gene OHonello

1956 Diversion works rebuilt by Water Association.

Discription of System

Diversion Works - (Photos)
Located on Crane Creek in NW'/4 of NW'/4 of Sec 16 T3S R20E

Elevation 2250 (aneroid barometer)

Water diverted by low dam of concrete, rubble masonry and sand bags.
Two 4" pipes about 40 feet long carry water to timber box 7'-6" x 3'-8" x 3'-7" deep.

Alternate Diversion - Pump from Merced River (Photos)

Supply lines - (Photo)
3" Screwed steel pipe about 1200 ft. long carries water to storage tanks
Capacity: 137' in 1200' s = 114' per 100
Q = 157 GPM for C = 100

Storage Tanks - (Photo)
two 10,000 gal. riveted steel tanks on timber platform
Elevation 2113 - bottom of tanks (barometer)

Treatment: Wallace & Tiernan water operated hypochlorinator treating water entering storage tanks

Distribution System
Pipes laid by individual home owners - no data gathered

Use: Domestic
Water piped to 76 houses including school, garage, recreation hall, post office. Lawn sprinkling and watering trees & shrubs done by each resident during summer.

Quantity: not measured

EL PORTAL
WATER ASSOCIATION
SYSTEM



Diversion Works
Crane Creek
photo # 57-1-3
Nov. 6, 1957



Diversion Works
Timber intake Box
photo # 57-1-4
Nov. 6, 1957

Alternate Intake



Suction Line to Merced River

photo # 57-1-21

Nov. 6, 1957



Pump House

photo 57-1-20



Supply Line from Diversion to Storage Tanks -

3" line - El Portal System

2" " - Forest Services Houses

photo # 57-1-6



Storage Tanks

2-10,000 Gal riveted steel tanks

photo # 57-1-7

11-07-1957: report on water system serving houses in stanislaus national forest

WATER SYSTEM SERVING HOUSES IN STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST

El Portal System on Forest Service Land

System Ownership - not known

History

Discription of System

Diversion - Cone Creek - Same works as El Portal Water Association

Supply Line - 2-inch steel line reducing to 1 1/4 near storage tank

- System is connected to El Portal Water Association in winter when 2" line is subject to freezing Line is drained & not used in winter

Storage - (photo)

3800 Gallons riveted galvanized steel tank. supported on concrete slab and timber sills

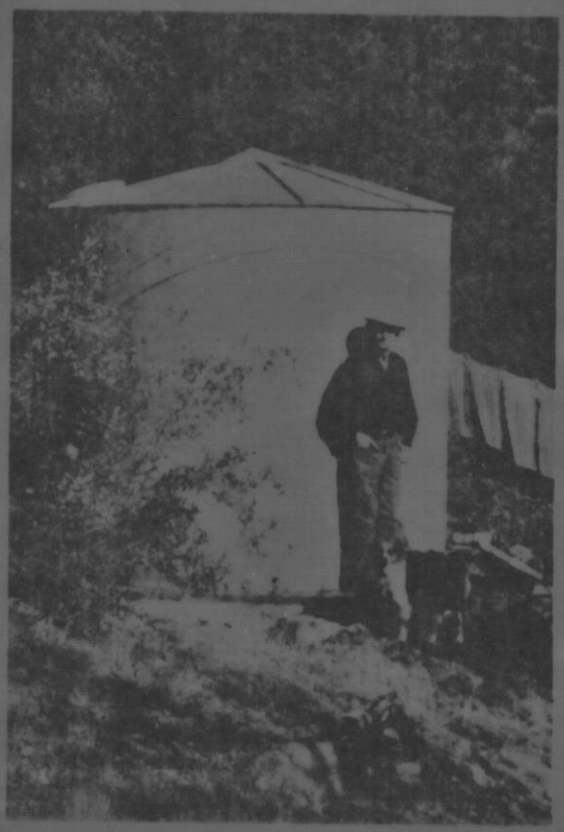
Distribution System

Use

Domestic 12 houses
Quantity - not known

Source of Information

Mr Clyde Gann, El Portal resident
Mr. Ray Munson, Pres., El Portal Water Assoc.
Mr ___ Newbert, El Portal resident (not contacted)



Storage Tank
Clyde Gann

photo #57-1-8 Nov 6, 1957

11-07-1957: report on brantcy water system

BRANTCY WATER SYSTEM

BRANTLY WATER SYSTEM

Land Ownership - El Portal Mining Co.

System Ownership

either El Portal Mining Co or Brantly

History - see El Portal Water Association System

about 1908 System constructed by [Yosemite Terminal Co. ?] including diversion works 10", 8" ? & 6" riveted steel supply line, storage tanks

prior to 1914 El Portal Mining Co. acquired land

19____ Hydraulic ram in river used to supply El Portal when Crane Creek ran dry

Ref: Ray Munson

19—— Well dug at site of present Standard Station - pump and hypochlorinator installed

1955-56 Floods washed out part of road near well

1957 Inclined river intake works constructed on riprap bank of river. Suction line from pump in original well laid under road & down inclined concrete conduit

Discription of System

Diversion Works - Photo

Source - Merced River

Intake - 36"? Concrete pipe ____ ft long laid at 45° on bank of Merced River and extending below river bed. ____ inch suction line from pump laid inside concrete pipe with foot valve at bottom.

Pump - located in original well in front of Standard Sta.
HP rating: _____

Treatment

Hypochlorination - [unit in well with pump?]

Alternate Source

Crane Creek through connection to El Portal Water Association System

Supply Line — no data

Storage (photos)
Two wood stave tanks on timber tower. not measured

Distribution System
no data taken

Use Domestic
Standard Station
Motel — units
Hotel
Store

Quanity Used no data



Merced River Intake
Ray Munson & Les Moe
Nov. 6, 1957
photo # 57-1-10



Merced River Intake
Ray Munson
photo # 57-1-9
Nov. 6, 1957



Storage Tanks

photo # 57-1-2

Nov. 6, 1957

NATIONAL LEAD COMPANY
WATER SYSTEM

National Lead Company Water System

Land ownership: El Portal Mining Co. Leased to National Lead Co. - Lease expires 1958? National Lead Co. was removing mill machinery in Nov. 1957

System ownership: National Lead Co.

History

1928 Land leased to National Lead
Ref: Mr. Savage

19— Two wells dug near Merced River one went dry - other had too much iron to drink Ref: Savage

19— Diversion from Merced River constructed. Wood flume conveying water to pump house

1953 Third well dug - presently in use

1955-56 - River diversion flume washed out not replaced

Discription of System

Diversion Works - photo
Cased well near Merced River
Dug well about 36" dia. 10 feet deep
cased with ___ inch dia. concrete pipe

Pumps

Well System F.E. Myers & Bros
5 x 5 piston pump driven
by 5 HP electric motor

River Diversion System not in use
2 parallel Byron Jackson
centrifugal pumps, each with
rated capacity of 350 GPM,
each driven by 20 HP electric
motor, 6" suction, 6" outlet

Supply line

from well - 2" steel
from River Diversion - 5 or 6 inch

Storage - 3 Wood Stave tanks

Lowest Tank 10,000 Gallons used for mill supply - not in use at present

Middle Tank 3000 Gallons in use for domestic supply elev. of bottom 1921' (barometer) equipped with electric float switch

Top Tank 10,000 Gallons - used for fire protection bottom elevation 1967' (barometer)

Distribution System

Domestic 2" line to Residences Cable hung river crossing to office & residence on south bank

Fire 5" steel from top tank to Mill

Use 4 residences - 2 now occupied
Barium Mill

Domestic, milling, mining, fire protection

Quantity of Use not known

Source of Information

Mr. Connie Savage; El Portal
employee of National Lead Co.



National Lead Co.
Development

photo # 57-1-28
Nov. 7, 1957



Well - in use Nov. 1957

photo # 57-1-13
Nov 6, 1957



Pump House
from well

photo # 57-1-15



Pump House
from Mereed R.

photo # 57-1-17



Water Line cross Merced River
to office & Residence National Lead Co.

Photo # 57-1-16 Nov 6, 1957

11-07-1957: report on abbeville water systems

ABBEVILLE WATER SYSTEMS

Abbeville Water Systems

Land Ownership El Portal Mining Co.

System Ownership Residents (presumably)

History

1880 Water Right filed with Mariposa Co. by Hennessey & Morrison Vol. 1 pg 38

1883 Hennessey ranch & ditch from Merced River shown by US Land Survey Ref Plat of T3S R20E

1914 "Hennessy Garden" shown by Cowell & Bedesen Map of El Porol Mining Company

19__ Garden & Fruit trees cultivated

19- West well dug & tower erected

19- East well dug & tower erected

1955 Pumping from river req'd. East well went dry at west well

1957 Pressure system installed & elevated tank no longer used.

Discription of systems

East Well (photo)

Source Well dia ____ depth ____

Pump Demster 210 F driven by 3/4 HP Electric Motor

Storage 3000 galton wood stave on timber tower directly over well

Distribution System:

Use - Domestic - Five residences all plumbed - some lawn sprinkling

Sources of information:

Mrs Schelling - resident & water user

West Well (photo)

Source: well - dug by Connie Savage

Pump Fairbanks-Morse Model C355 x RIF 1/2 HP.

Storage: Pressure Tank at well 1200 gal. wood stave tank on timber tower no longer in use

Distribution System

Use - Domestic - 3 Houses - fully plumbed

Source of Information Mr. Ollie Arch. resident
Mrs. ____ resident



East Tank

photo # 57-1-11



West Tank
Les Moe

photo # 57-1-12

11-07-1957: yose valley national railroad

YOSEMITE VALLEY RAILROAD
MOSS CREEK WATER SYSTEM

YOSEMITE VALLEY RR MOSS CREEK WATER SYSTEM

Land Ownership: Stanislaus National Forest

System Ownership: presumably reverted to Nat. For. with abandonment of R.R.

History:

19— diversion, pipeline & tank constructed

1943 (about) Tank & pipeline dismantled

Discription of System:

Diversion: Moss Creek about 600 feet from Merced River
Rock & Mortar Dam 2' to 6' high
30' total width - topped with
12 x 12 timber - fitted with
4" diversion pipe and
about a 14" sluice opening
covered by a slide gate
elevation crest: 1706' (barometer)

Supply line: Removed

Storage : removed - tower piers next to R.R. at Moss Creek Bridge
elev. RR. subgrade BM on bridge 1670 ft.

Use : Locomotive water

Source of Information :
visual inspection .



Moss Creek
Diversion Dam
Les Moe

photo # 57-1-26
Nov 7, 1957



Piers for
Tank Tower

photo # 57-1-27



Dam - Moss Cr.

photo # 571-25

TUNGSTEN MILL SYSTEM

Tungsten Mill Water System

Land Ownership - Unpatented Millsite

System Ownership -

History
about 1955 Mill constructed
1957 not in operation

Discription of System:
Source: Merced River pumped (photo)
to hillside storage

Supply Line: about 600' 2" steel pipe

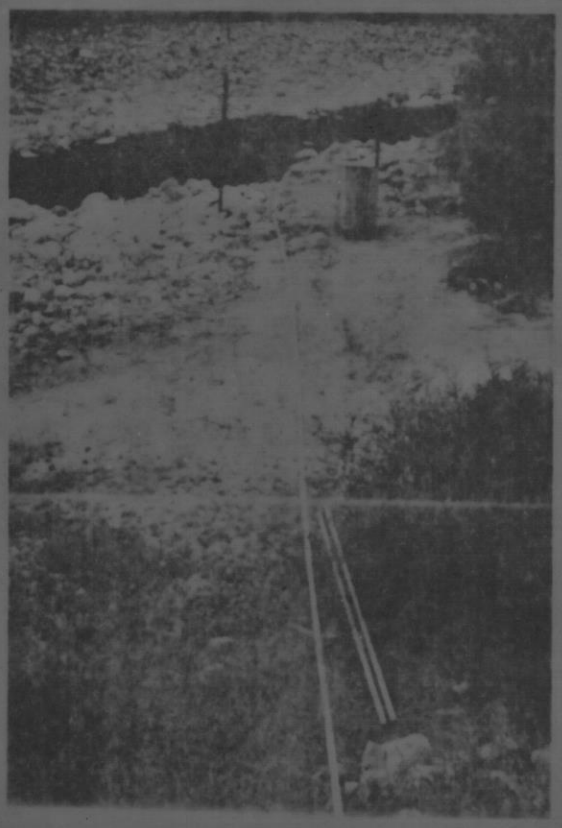
Storage: 2 - 6000 gallon galvanized
steel tanks (photo)

Distribution System: 2" pipe to mill

Use: Milling operating
tungsten mill

Quantity Used: not known

Source of Information: inspection





INDIAN WATER SYSTEM

Indian Water System

Note: System now completly removed

Source: Crane Creek about 50 feet downstream from El Portal Water Association diversion

Place of use: West bank of Crane Creek about 800 feet from mouth used by about 5 Indian families living in tents and shacks

History: Gene Beale got drunk & burned down all the houses about 1945-46. Area not occupied since. Pipe line washed out by floods & removed

Discription of System

Diversion Works - Small concrete dams between rocks in Crane Creek. 2" pipe cast in concrete wall

Supply Line: 2" steel (sections twisted & laying in stream)

Storage : none (apparently)

Source of Information :
Clyde Gann . El Portal resident for 20 years



Diversion Works
Crane Creek
photo 57-1-5 Nov. 6, 1957

LAS MARIPOSAS LAND CO.
WATER SYSTEMS

Las Mariposas Land Co. Water Sy[illegible]s

A. Service Station, Coffee Shop & Motel [illegible]em

Sources

Spring. North of Highway on sidehill - used in winter
Merced River - summer use 8-9. months

Land ownership

Spring - near property line - Las Mariposas Land Co. may be on Nat. Forest
River - Property is riparian

History

1947 Land and water rights acquired by Las Mariposas Land Co. from Merced River Electric Co.

Discription of System - not inspected

Spring
Supply Line 1"
Storage Tank
Distribution Line 2"

B. Private Residences

Land ownership : individual home sites

Source : Merced River

Systems : Each homeowner installs own river intake ~~and~~, pump, and pipeline.

Use :

Four residences

Two more under construction

Source of information :

Mr. Gene OHonello . shareholder, Las Mariposas Land Co.

Abstract made for Las Mariposas Land Co.

10-29-1957: Memorandum to Regional Director, Region Four from Chief of Lands regarding Water Right for El Portal Development, Yosemite

IN REPLY REFER TO:
L54-L

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OCT 29 1957

RECEIVED
NPS REGION FOUR OFFICE
NOV - 4 '57

	SURNAME	DATE
REG. DIR.		
ASST. R.D.		
OPERATIONS		
ADMIN.		
RECREATION		
INTERP.		
✓ LEGAL		

Whitworth
X Spaulding
Manley

11/13 copy rec'd

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Four

From: Chief of Lands

Subject: Water Right for El Portal Development, Yosemite

Attached for your information and consideration is a copy of Mr. Dunn's memorandum of October 27 to me concerning proposed studies of the water right problems at the El Portal Area of Yosemite. Mr. Dunn has suggested several ways in which the proposed study can be simplified if developments are to be on patented land. He also points out that most appropriative county filings would probably be in connection with patents under the Desert Land Act although we have found a few cases in which others have elected to base their water claims on county filings rather than their riparian rights.

Donald E. Lee
Chief of Lands

Attachment

Copy to: Superintendent, Yosemite, with attachment
Chief, WODC, with attachment

Note - sent copies to Spaulding at Yosemite 11/4/57 DFM

IN REPLY REFER TO:
L54-L

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

October 27, 1957

Memorandum

To: Chief of Lands

From: Chief, Water Resources Section

Subject: Water Right for El Portal Development, Yosemite

The memorandum of October 17, to Chief, WODC, from the Superintendent indicates that he has determined from the State Water Rights Board that there are no appropriative rights in the subject area which might have been recorded with the State Engineer and Water Rights Board since the present water code was adopted by the act of 1913. He points out that the county records should be searched, and suggests that the work should be done by Regional Hydraulic Engineer Spaulding. He suggests that the work will be discussed here in mid-November.

The proposed discussion will be highly desirable before any work starts. The original question of water rights was raised by me, on the assumption that the Park addition and development would be on public domain or part of the unpatented Forest Service land. It now appears that the United States will acquire considerable patented land. The following discussion may suggest some points which should be considered before Mr. Preston comes to Washington.

The work is one of the functions which Mr. Spaulding should take over from me. During the present transition period, he should consider such work as under general guidance from the Water Resources Section, and should be sure to send copies of all findings to this office, in duplicate.

This is an example of a project where the Park Engineer might do the same work through the Regional Hydraulic Engineer, under the same direction from here, with less travel and per diem expense. Mr. Spaulding should keep such expenses to a minimum.

Since there are no appropriative water rights on record with the State Water Rights Board, the present land owners may be using water under two types of rights. Mr. Preston has suggested that some appropriative rights may be on record in the county. County filings are most probable on the land which was patented under the Desert Land Act of 1877. We should ultimately obtain photostat

negatives of all such county filings from 1878 to 1914 for claims to diversions or use on the lands in the subject area. Photostat positives should then be made for alien water rights, of which some will become dockets as the area of use is acquired by the United States for the Park, WODC, your office and here.

Some of these records may be available from the vendors, or may become parts of abstracts when the land is acquired. Before any land acquisitions are started, whether through the concessioner or otherwise, option forms should provide for all possible definition and assignment of water rights at the expense of the vendors.

All of the land owners also have riparian rights to the use of surface water flowing over, or along the side of their patented land, or in well defined underground channels (usually artesian), and correlative rights to the use of underground percolating water. The only record and definition of those rights to date will be description and capacity of existing water systems, and the population using water for domestic purposes, the acreage irrigated and types of crops, the number of head of stock, and such data.

The riparian and correlative rights are not limited to quantities of past use, but the past water demand based on unit quantities prescribed in the Rules, Regulations and Information for the Appropriation of Water, which is issued by the Water Rights Board, should be determined before the present owners abandon their past use. The same information should be obtained for the past five years in connection with any rights based on county filings, because the claims under county filings are usually excessive and valid rights are based on beneficial use in any case. This Service may be able to develop and use the water under riparian rights but potential controversies may be prevented if it is shown that NPS consumptive use is within the total of previous consumptive use.

From the preceding discussion, one of the first problems is to obtain records of the quantity of water beneficially used by the private land owners for various purposes, while the use is being made. Equally important, the options and deeds to the land should define appurtenant rights which the vendors claim, with specific reference to appropriative claims filed in the county. It may simplify further work if the patents, homestead serial numbers, and Congressional authorization for homesteading or other form of entry are determined to see if any land patents were based on evidence of water rights required by Desert Land Act. From this information the original claimant and the case history of the patent can be obtained from BLM archives. Most of the land status and related appurtenant appropriative rights can be obtained either in the California or Washington offices of BLM. As much as possible should be done at field level unless the travel and per diem costs

become large. Because of the limited Washington Office personnel, it is essential that Mr. Spaulding or the Park Engineer inventory and describe water systems except when the vendors can do so.

The general study should be charged to the Investigation Account 0140 (143.2), which is limited. We are holding more than $12,000 for additional groundwater exploration at Death Valley, and between $100 and $200 can probably be allotted for the limited immediate El Portal study which seems necessary, without seriously reducing the adequacy of the funds for the exploration, or from residual after the 1958 exploration needs are determined. Much of the assembly of records can be treated as part of the "appraisal" and acquisition of the land and water rights, and financed from either the Land Acquisition funds or the Water Right Acquisition funds under Account 347. The final work to convert rights to NPS use should be financed largely from PS&S funds with supplements from Account 347.

A. van V. Dunn
Chief, Water Resources Section

Copy to: Superintendent, Yosemite
Chief, WODC (2)

08-07-1957: memorandum to regional director, region four from superintendent regarding mission 66 development plan and related water rights

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

IN REPLY REFER TO:
L54

RECEIVED
NPS REGION FOUR OFFICE
AUG-8'57

copy L1425
El Portal

	SURNAME	DATE
REG. DIR.		
ASST. R.D.		
OPERATIONS		
ADMIN.		
RECREATION		
INTERP.		
LEGAL		

Whitworth
Spaulding 8/9/57

August 7, 1957

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Four

From: Superintendent, Yosemite

Subject: MISSION 66 Development Plan and Related Water Rights

Your memorandum of July 24 which referred to Mr. Dunn's memorandum of July 3 pointed out the need for more data regarding water rights for the proposed development at El Portal. We suggest you refer to the James A. Hopper appraisal of June 1957 on the El Portal Mining Co. properties which gives the status of the water right situation in respect to these lands.

The information requested in your memorandum is as follows:

1. Probable water requirements.

a. Estimated resident population including hotel and auto court guests. 2,500 @ 150 gpd	375,000 gpd
b. Irrigation, 50 acres @ 18.5 gpd/100 sq. ft.	403,000 gpd
c. Utility area and shops	50,000 gpd
d. Incinerator, can washing, etc.	10,000 gpd
e. Stores, gas stations and other commercial developments	100,000 gpd
f. Losses and waste	12,000 gpd
Maximum daily demand	950,000 gpd
Peak hourly demand	1,200 gpm

The above listing of water requirements is strictly an estimate based on probable use in the El Portal area. No allowance has been made for fire use which is essentially a storage problem.

2. Current sources of water use in area.

The El Portal residents and commercial developments obtain water from Crane Creek until this source becomes limited in late summer. Then water is pumped from the Merced River to supplement the Crane Creek source. No records are available on water use in the area.

Except for a filing on Crane Creek by the Stanislaus National Forest for a Forest Service residential site, there are no water right permits or applications for this diversion of water. Refer to the James A. Hopper appraisal for details.

We have been advised by the California Division of Water Resources that Mr. James W. Johnson has filed an application for the appropriation of water from Crane Creek for 200 gallons per day to be diverted from March 1 to December 1 of each year in the Foresta area. This application was protested by Elizabeth and Horace Meyer who claimed riparian rights for the diversion of water from Crane Creek in the Big Meadows and McCauley Ranch areas.

3. Anticipated sources of water.

It is anticipated that sources of water for the El Portal development will be from Crane Creek and Moss Creek, both of which are on U. S. Forest Service land; so there should not be any difficulty in obtaining easements for the transmission of the water from the point of diversion to the point of use. It may also be necessary to make a diversion from the Merced River to supplement the flow from Crane Creek and Moss Creek during periods of low water.

John C. Preston
Superintendent

07-24-1957: memorandum to superintendent from regional director regarding mission 66 development plan and related water rights

Whitworth
Manbey
McClellan
Johnston
Merriam
154

July 24, 1957

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Yosemite

From: Regional Director, Region Four

Subject: MISSION 66 Development Plan and Related Water Rights, Yosemite NP

This will refer to Mr. Dunn's memorandum to this office of July 3, a copy of which was forwarded to you.

It appears that Mr. Dunn has raised a point that might cause serious difficulties in the proposed development at El Portal. Before any decision as to the seriousness of water rights at this location can be determined more data are necessary. Information required includes the following:

1. Probable water requirements, both as to average flow and demand flow

2. Current sources of water used in area

   a. Amount available

   b. Water rights under which used

3. Anticipated sources of water

If one of such sources is the Merced River with diversion at some point within the park, a determination should be made as to the easement existing, or available, for transmission of such water from the point of diversion to the point of use. If the pipe line for such a system were located entirely on Federal land, there should be no question regarding an easement. However, if it were necessary for such a line to cross private property there might be some difficulty in obtaining an easement.

It is requested that you review this memorandum and Mr. Dunn's memorandum and at your convenience forward us your comments.

GFWhitworth/jd

(SGN) LAWRENCE C. MERRIAM
Lawrence C. Merriam
Regional Director

Copy to Director
Western D&C

FILE COPY

07-03-1957: memorandum to regional director from chief, water resources section regarding mission 66 development plan and related water rights

IN REPLY REFER TO:
L54-L

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

RECEIVED
NPS REGION FOUR OFFICE
JUL -8 '57

	SURNAME	DATE
REG. DIR.		
ASST. R.D.		
OPERATIONS		
ADMIN.		
INTERP.		
PERS.		

July 3, 1957

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Four

From: Chief, Water Resources Section

Subject: MISSION 66 Development Plan and Related Water Rights, Yosemite

The press release of July 7, concerning proposed expansion at El Portal and limitation of development in Yosemite Valley, outlines a plan which may result in expensive water right problems. The potential problem has already developed in connection with Sequoia-Kings Canyon, where Application 16184 of December 20, 1954, for the appropriation of water at the Big Stump Entrance of Kings Canyon has been protested by lower riparian water users.

Note McClellan has copies. BFM 7/8

The Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Areas were granted to the State in 1864. The Desert Land Act was passed by Congress in 1877. Appropriative water claims first had to be recorded in the County in 1878 but riparian rights were also recognized. The Park was established in 1890, exclusive of the Valley and Mariposa Areas. The State receded those Areas in 1906. The present California appropriative water law, requiring the filing of applications with the State Engineer, was passed in 1913 and became effective on December 19, 1914. The State has not yet abrogated the parallel riparian doctrine, but its State Engineer and Water Rights Board have continuously claimed that the United States abrogated the riparian doctrine in Desert Land States, at least by the Act of 1877 if not by an Act of 1866.

Riparian rights accrue to patented land without regard to the date of first water use. Appropriative rights can be established by adjudication, based on the date of first development and use, or the date of posting and county recording, for some increases in use thereafter, if initiated prior to December 19, 1914. The priority of rights initiated since December 19, 1914, is fixed by the date the application is, or has been filed with the State Engineer or Water Rights Board.

Until about two years ago we were instructed not to file water right applications except in the special cases of the Raynor Creek and Bishop Creek diversions. The Solicitor's Office has now recommended that we at least prepare our claims for legal determination of the best water right procedure.

As I have previously suggested without legal concurrence, the State may recognize some riparian rights to water which is diverted and used within the areas granted to the State in 1864. The State or Federal courts may also recognize some, or all rights based on initial development and use prior to December 19, 1914. We have requested early compilation of records of progressive water use in the Yosemite Valley Grant area for preparation of claims which can be submitted to the Regional Solicitor as typical cases for determination of water right procedure for the four California parks.

The proposed development at El Portal is an entirely different matter. If entirely on patented land which would have to be acquired, part of the water development and use might be under riparian rights. However, a large part would have to be under appropriative rights. The land might be acquired with some appurtenant appropriative rights which could be amended to cover Park uses both in the additional Park area, and further upstream in the Park. However, it might be necessary to acquire some new appropriative rights, and attempts to acquire them by new applications would probably result in protests such as that of Application 16184 at Kings Canyon. The alternative of purchasing and amending established downstream appropriative rights would doubtless be very expensive. In fact, the cost of land with appurtenant rights at El Portal may be higher than purchases heretofore made in the Park.

It is recommended that these factors be fully explored and considered in connection with proposed developments outside the present Park. They should also be considered to only a slightly lesser degree in connection with new developments in the Park.

A. van V. Dunn
Chief, Water Resources Section

Copy to: Superintendent, Yosemite
Superintendent, Sequoia-Kings Canyon
Superintendent, Lassen
Field Solicitor McClellan (2)

08 MAPMISC

Yosemite National Park

EL PORTAL WELL #1

Maps and Miscellaneous Information

07-03-1957: map of el portal



EL PORTAL, CALIF.

N3737.5—W11945/7.5

1947

09-02-1958: map of boundry and land status of proposed el portal administrative site np-yos 2405

STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST

EL PORTAL

FROM USFS TO NPS

FROM NPS TO USFS

Homestead entry by Oliver W Ward

Certificate #5158 Aug 17, 1888

Homestead entry by Leonidas G Wharton, Apr. 8, 1884 Cert # 4107

Homestead entry by Augustus H. Ward 1890 (See 1903 4140 35 sep to sec of Ward Pat.)

MERCED RIVER

STATE HIGHWAY #140

Moss Creek

Grane Creek

Indian Creek

T3S, R19E, M.D.B. & M. T3S, R20E.

LOT 3 SEC 18

LOT 4 SEC 18

LOT 16 SEC 13

LOT 1 SEC 19

EAST BARYTE CLAIM

BARIUM NO 2 CLAIM

PORTION OF EAST BARYTE LODE CLAIM

Deed 179 A (Mineral Applic. filed April 11, 1923)

PORTION OF NORTH BARIUM CLAIM

SOUTH BARIUM CLAIM

BARIUM NO. 1 CLAIM

PIGEON GULCH

COLD CANYON

All other formerly Patented lands acquired by Deed 179 A from El Portal Mining Co.

John W. Isch Pat 1137600 Feb 3 1913

Deed 179 A

Note* That such lands whether from mining pats or Homestead carry Riparian Water rights

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST

LEGEND

- BOUNDARY PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE SITE
- ACQUIRED LANDS
- UNACQUIRED PRIVATE LANDS
- FOREST SERVICE LANDS TO BE CONVEYED TO NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
- ACQUIRED LAND TO BE CONVEYED FROM N.P.S TO U.S F S FOR INCLUSION IN SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST.

NOTE— THE MERCED RIVER IS THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST TO THE NORTH, AND THE SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST TO THE SOUTH.

SCALE 1-900

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

BOUNDARY AND LAND STATUS PROPOSED EL PORTAL ADMINISTRATIVE SITE YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

(AUTHORIZED BY ACT OF SEPT. 2, 1958, 72 STAT. 1772)

DRAWN BY V. PUTNAM 8/3/59 NP-YOS 2405 CHECKED BY B. F. MANBEY

RETURN TO LANDS FILES

Docket Information

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