



## East Yosemite Valley Utilities Improvement Plan

### What is this project about?

The existing utility infrastructure serving east Yosemite Valley was identified in the *Yosemite Valley Plan* as being inadequate due to its age, condition, inadequate capacity, and inappropriate location in environmentally sensitive areas.

The East Yosemite Valley Utilities Improvement Plan identifies major consolidated utility corridors to serve facilities in the east Valley. It will allow the park to design and construct utility systems that provide adequate service to existing facilities while minimizing environmental impacts and allowing for maximum restoration of sensitive ecological areas. Adoption of the East Yosemite Valley Utilities Improvement Plan will ensure that the park's investment in utility infrastructure provides for efficient utility services that protect park resources over the long term.

The utility systems addressed in the plan include potable water, sanitary sewage, power, and, to a more limited extent, communication facilities in east Yosemite Valley.

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### What are some of the actions considered in the Utilities Improvement Plan?

This project includes identification of integrated utility corridors in east Yosemite Valley, development of a phased plan to implement these utility changes, and construction of needed utility infrastructure within the identified corridors. The project will also address removal or abandonment of existing utility systems that are located in environmentally sensitive areas, particularly those that are identified for ecological restoration in the *Yosemite Valley Plan*.

- In locating utility corridors, consideration has been given to locations beneath or adjacent to existing or proposed roads, parking areas, and paths, and to existing utility corridors located outside of sensitive resource areas. For example, utilities constructed in Phase 1 are primarily beneath the surface of Southside and Northside Drives. **These roads were returned in their existing location and width; this project does not widen existing roads.**
- The plan focuses on the location of utility collection and transmission systems. **It does not increase overall water supply, wastewater treatment, or electric generation capacity.** The collection and transmission capacities were developed based on existing usage.

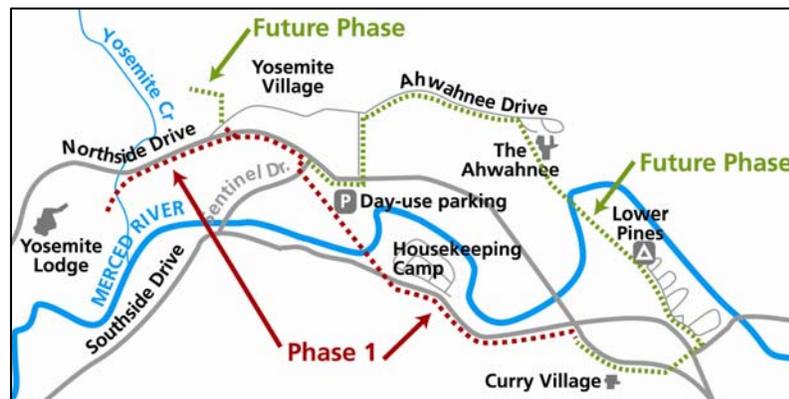
The East Yosemite Valley Utilities Improvement Plan will incorporate use of sustainable design principles for utility systems. The utility infrastructure will be primarily located underground and designed to operate even when submerged. The only above-ground structures associated with the proposed utilities will be access manholes, lift station controls, electric transformers, and two small emergency generator housing facilities.

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## What has been accomplished so far?

In July of 2003 The National Park Service released the *East Yosemite Valley Utilities Improvement Plan Environmental Assessment*. The public comment period on the Environmental Assessment opened on July 18 and was extended to September 2, 2003. The Environmental Assessment resulted in a Findings of No Significant Impact which was filed in December of 2003.

Work on **Phase 1** was initiated in 2004 and is now completed. This Phase involved construction of the new utility corridor from Curry Village down Southside Drive, crossing the river just west of Housekeeping Camp, continuing west through the day use parking lot, Sentinel Drive and Northside Drive, and then across Yosemite Creek to the area of Yosemite Lodge. **Future Phases** which have been approved to proceed by the US District Court are now under design. They involve continuing the corridor from Curry Village to Lower Pines Campground crossing the river at the Ahwahnee Bridge, then continuing on to the Ahwahnee Drive to Yosemite Village, and then along Northside Drive to Sentinel Drive. A smaller corridor will run from the elementary school to Oak Lane, then south to tie the completed Phase 1 corridor. These Phases are expected to be under construction beginning in 2008 and continuing for approximately 4 years.



## Public Participation

Public participation is essential for the success of this and all other park projects. Here are some ways to stay involved in the park:

- Attend a National Park Service public open house to talk with project specialists and obtain more information on this topic. Visit the park's website at [www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/meetings.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/meetings.htm) for upcoming dates.
- Add your name to the park's planning list and receive the *Planning Update* newsletter as well as other planning-related notices. You can also submit your email address to receive the park's periodic electronic newsletter.
- Additionally, you can submit comments with your thoughts about this topic or any other project in the park by any of the following means:

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P.O. Box 577  
Yosemite, CA 95389

Phone: 209/379-1365; Fax: 209/379-1294

E-mail: [Yose\\_Planning@nps.gov](mailto:Yose_Planning@nps.gov)

Visit online: [www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/planning.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/planning.htm)