At a number of sites, the Proposed Action includes the connection of facilities via aerial fiber optic cable installed as underbuild[6] to an existing HHW&P overhead electrical distribution line between the sites. Modifications to existing transmission lines are not considered substantial visual changes in this analysis and thus will not be addressed further in this report.

Oakdale Area						
		NEPA				CEQA
Site		Context	Duration	Intensity	Type	Impact
Warnerville Switchyard	WSY	Local	Long-term	Minor	Adverse	LS

Moccasin Area						
		NEPA				CEQA
Site		Context	Duration	Intensity	Type	Impact
Moccasin Peak	MPK	Local	Long-term	Minor	Adverse	LS
Moccasin Powerhouse	MPH	Local	Long-term	Minor	Adverse	LS
Moccasin Powerhouse Passive Reflector	MPR	Local	Long-term	Negligible	Beneficial	NI
CEQA and NEPA Impacts: N/A = Not applicable NI = No Impact LS = Less than Significant LSM = Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated PS = Potentially Significant						

Oakdale and Moccasin Area Sites

Implementation of proposed communication facility upgrades at the Oakdale and Moccasin Area sites would take place within previously developed areas. The replacement tower proposed for Moccasin Peak would be a new, 60-foot high, lattice-type communication tower adjacent to an existing tower and communication building. The remote site – which is not prominently visible beyond the site's immediate surroundings – would remain accessible by a dirt road that begins off of State Highway 49, and which does not lead to any other locations beyond the Moccasin Peak tower. The Moccasin Powerhouse Passive Reflector, located along the penstock right-of-way east of Moccasin Powerhouse, would be removed. As such, visual impacts at Moccasin Peak and the Moccasin Powerhouse sites would be less than significant, long-term, minor, and adverse. Since the Moccasin Powerhouse Passive Reflector would be removed, this would result in a negligible beneficial impact under NEPA and no impact under CEQA.

At the Warnerville Switchyard, the Proposed Action includes the removal of a passive reflector and associated 120-foot tower located on the west side of the switchyard, as well as the existing 20-foot communication tower and parabolic dish antenna located adjacent to existing control building. A new 120-foot high lattice type communication tower would be installed adjacent to the existing control building and equipped with one parabolic dish antenna. Several microwave dishes and small additional antennae would be mounted to the tower. In addition, small video camera units would be attached to the tower for security purposes. No grading would be required, and no new fencing is proposed. The existing asphalt paving would be removed to allow for the construction of the new tower foundation. The maximum size of the square concrete cap foundation for the tower would be approximately 23 feet by 23

[6] An "underbuild" refers to the lower crossarm on power poles, which is built under the crossarm supporting electrical distribution line and power conductors. The underbuild typically supports lines for telecommunications, namely phone and cable.

feet. At Moccasin Powerhouse, the existing parabolic dish antenna and associated support structure would be removed from the roof of the existing powerhouse. A new 80-foot high monopole type communication tower would be installed and equipped with one new parabolic dish antenna. No new fencing is proposed for either site.

Neither of these actions would constitute a significant impact to visual/scenic resources, nor would they have a substantial adverse affect on any scenic vista or other important views. At both sites, the proposed poles would be placed within the general footprint of the locally dominant visual structure (the switchyard and the powerhouse) and neither would substantially alter the visual character of the area. At Warnerville Switchyard, the Proposed Action would add another tower to an already established complex of towers, but would not extend into the surrounding agricultural area. As shown in the simulated view from Viewpoint WSY-1 in Figure 3.10.2-12, the Proposed Action would be most prominently viewed from the nearby public road (and private residences), where the new tower, while appearing clearly in foreground views, would not appear to be taller than some of the other existing towers nearby, nor would it appear outside of the switchyard complex that currently exists.

Similarly, at Moccasin Powerhouse, where the most prominent views of the site would be from within the powerhouse grounds or from nearby locations within the town, the proposed monopole would blend in with the already existing structures at the powerhouse (see Figure 3.10.2-2), and would not substantially block any important views from within the surrounding area, including those of the original powerhouse.

Although the actions proposed at the Oakdale and Moccasin sites would be visible, neither would visibly alter the existing landscape character, affect a scenic vista or damage scenic resources. Further, neither would create a new source of substantial light or glare. Therefore, there would be no significant visual impacts from these actions.

Impact Determination (Warnerville Switchyard, Moccasin Peak and Moccasin Powerhouse)**:**

CEQA: Less than significant impact.

NEPA: Local, long-term, minor, adverse impact.

Impact Determination (Moccasin Powerhouse Passive Reflector):

CEQA: No impact.

NEPA: Local, long-term, negligible, beneficial impact.

Yosemite National Park Sites						
		NEPA				CEQA
Site		Context	Duration	Intensity	Type	Impact
O'Shaughnessy						
O'Shaughnessy Dam Gallery	ODG	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NI
O'Shaughnessy Dam Diversion Tunnel	ODT	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NI
O'Shaughnessy Stream Gauge	OSG	Local	Long-Term	Minor	Adverse	LS
O'Shaughnessy Water Quality Building	OWQ	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NI
O'Shaughnessy Chalet (Cottage 1)	OC1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NI
O'Shaughnessy Watershed Keeper's Office (Cottage 4)	OC4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NI
O'Shaughnessy Bunkhouse	OBH	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NI
O'Shaughnessy Water Tanks	OWT	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NI
Lake Eleanor						
Lake Eleanor Dam Level Gauge	EDS	Local	Long-Term	Minor	Adverse	LS
Lake Eleanor-Cherry Lake Tunnel	ECT	Local	Long-Term	Minor	Adverse	LS
Poopenaut Pass						
Poopenaut Pass	PPP	Local	Long-Term	Minor	Adverse	LSM
CEQA and NEPA Impacts: N/A = Not applicable NI = No Impact LS = Less than Significant LSM = Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated PS = Potentially Significant						

O'Shaughnessy and Lake Eleanor Areas

Implementation of proposed communication facility upgrades at the O'Shaughnessy and Lake Eleanor Areas would take place within previously developed areas. As discussed, most of the actions within the O'Shaughnessy area are proposed to be within existing buildings and those that are not would not be prominently visible. As such, the O'Shaughnessy area sites are not discussed further in this section.

There are two Lake Eleanor sites. At the Lake Eleanor Dam Level Gauge, a pad-mounted communication cabinet would be installed with rigid galvanized steel (RGS) conduit antenna mast supporting a solar panel and Yagi antenna. This site would be accessed by an existing dirt road. A similar cabinet would also be installed at the Lake Eleanor-Cherry Lake Tunnel.

While both of these actions would result in the installation of structures that would be visible within their immediate vicinity, neither would substantially alter the existing visual character of the area, particularly since each would be constructed alongside an existing structure. In addition, neither would have any substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista, nor would they substantially damage any scenic resources. Figure 3.10.2-13 shows the existing and simulated views of the Lake Eleanor Dam Level Gauge from Viewpoint EDS-1. The proposed cabinet would be comparable in size to the existing cabinet, and its installation would essentially double the size of the Lake Eleanor Dam Level Gauge. However, the facilities would remain secondary to all views to the lake and surrounding mountains, which are the dominant visual features in the area, and the prominence of the new facility would decline as viewers moved away from its immediate vicinity, either along the dam or on the lake's surface. At the Lake Eleanor-Cherry Lake Tunnel, the proposed cabinet would also resemble an existing facility. As shown in simulated views, both the existing and proposed facilities would be visible from viewpoints along the lake's western shoreline (Figure 3.10.2-14, Viewpoint ECT-1), but are more difficult to discern from less proximate points such as the Ranger Station across the lake (Figure 3.10.2-15, Viewpoint ECT-2). As the

Existing

Simulated

Simulated with Locators

Simulated View of Warnerville Switchyard (Viewpoint WSY-1)
Figure 3.10.2-12

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Existing

Simulated

Simulated with Locators

Simulated View of Lake Eleanor Dam Level Gauge
(Viewpoint EDS-1)
Figure 3.10.2-13

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Existing

Simulated

Simulated with Locators

Simulated View of Lake Eleanor-Cherry Lake Tunnel (Viewpoint ECT-1)
Figure 3.10.2-14

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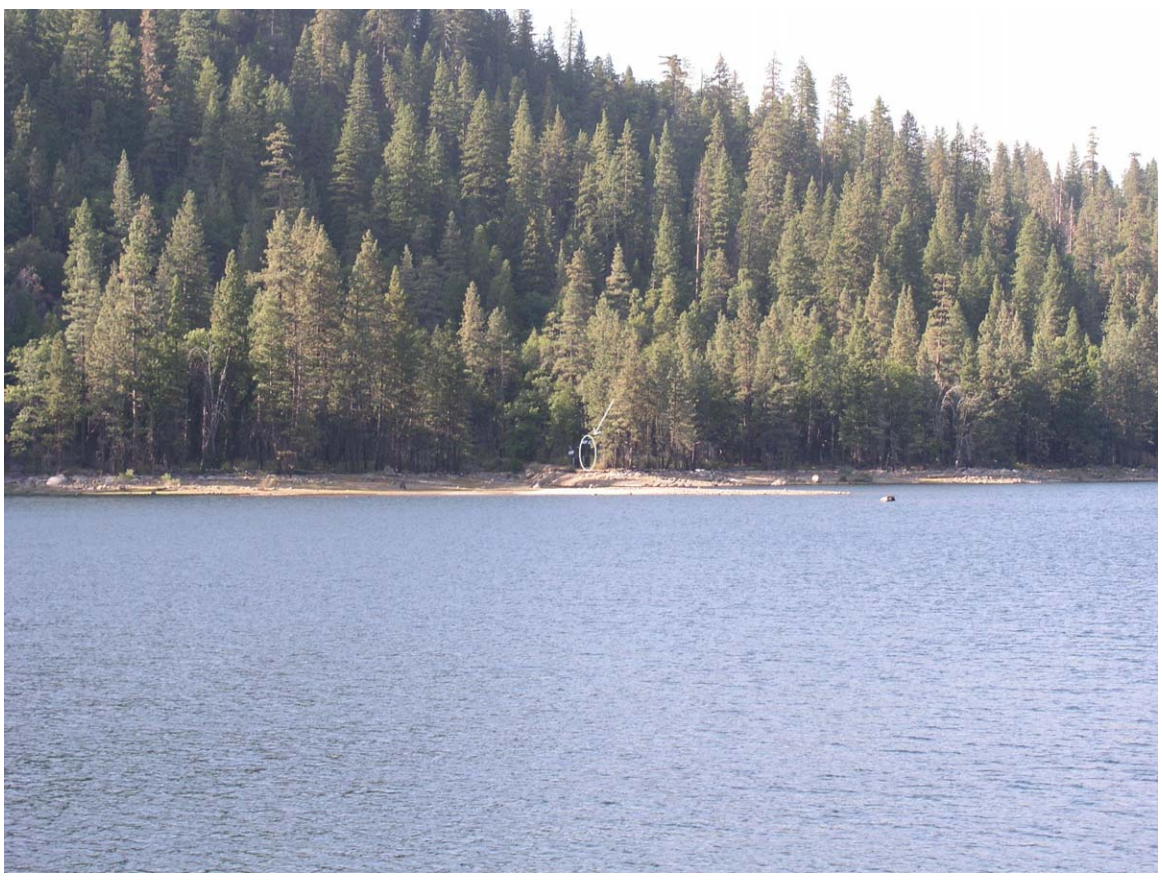
Existing

Simulated



Simulated with Locators

Simulated View of Lake Eleanor-Cherry Lake Tunnel (Viewpoint ECT-2)
Figure 3.10.2-15

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Proposed Action would install structures similar to what already exists within the respective areas, it is not anticipated that the new facilities would represent a substantial change in character, nor would the facilities be the source of any new light or glare effects. As such, impacts to visual/scenic resources would be less than significant under CEQA, and local, long-term, minor, and adverse under NEPA.

Impact Determination (O'Shaughnessy and Lake Eleanor Areas)**:**

CEQA: Less than significant impact.

NEPA: Local, long-term, minor, adverse impact.

Poopenaut Pass

The proposed Poopenaut Pass site is located near an existing vehicular turnout at roadway marker H2 on the south side of the O'Shaughnessy Dam access road within the Park. The climb from the turnout to the site is an elevation change of approximately 115 feet. No formal trail exists, but a footpath is evident.

As discussed in the project description (Section 2), the Proposed Action here would include the installation of a 40-foot lattice-type communication tower and a 12-foot by 24-foot modular shelter to house the communication equipment. Several dishes and small additional antennae would be mounted to the tower, as would security cameras, and the legs of the tower would likely vary in length to adjust for the site topography. The area near the communication shelter would include gravel maintenance paths and a retaining wall. The removal of several trees would be required at this site, including a clump of oak trees located between the proposed communication shelter site and the Wilderness Boundary. The shelter itself would comply with National Park Service development standards and would be similar to other HHW&P structures in the Hetch Hetchy side of the park, most likely a large-rock-style finish on the walls and a slanted shed roof, which would follow the contours of the adjoining topography. The site would be surrounded by a seven-foot high security fence with three strands of barbed wire on a one-foot outrigger. The footpath to the site is proposed to be widened and is being designed in consultation with National Park Service guidelines.

Figures 3.10.2-16 through 3.10.2-19 show simulated views of the proposed tower and communication shelter from four distinct viewpoints ordered by increasing proximity to the site: from atop O'Shaughnessy Dam (Figure 3.10.2-16: Viewpoint PPP-1); from a vehicle turnout on the O'Shaughnessy Dam Road near the trailhead of the Poopenaut Valley Trail (Figure 3.10.2-17: Viewpoint PPP-2); from the unmanaged saddle area west of the project site (Figure 3.10.2-18: Viewpoint PPP-3) and from a location to the west of the project site, along O'Shaughnessy Dam Road (Figure 3.10.2-19: Viewpoint PPP-4). Figure 3.10-2-11c displays the geographic locations of Viewpoints PPP-1 through PPP-4. Due to the distance of prominent views and existing vegetation, the proposed communication shelter would not be noticeably visible from these four viewpoints; therefore, the proposed tower is the focus of this analysis.

The tower would be barely visible in background views from O'Shaughnessy Dam and the Poopenaut Valley trailhead, but from these distances it would be indistinguishable from the trees in the skyline. Though apparent, it would also be difficult to distinguish in views from the saddle area across O'Shaughnessy Dam Road. In this view, it would not breach the skyline and would therefore not stand

out from the trees that would surround it in this view. In the view from the west, along O'Shaughnessy Dam Road, the tower would again appear indistinguishable from the trees that form the skyline.

O'Shaughnessy Dam Road is a primary access route to Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, and potential viewers of the proposed tower are most likely to be drivers en route to the reservoir or other destinations within Yosemite National Park. The winding road, combined with the large granite outcroppings and mature trees that are characteristic of the area, allows only intermittent views of the Poopenaut Pass project site and, as evidenced by the simulations, even fewer in which the proposed project would appear prominent, or even noticeable.

To the extent that the tower is not obscured from view by natural features or the availability of views from the roadway, this would represent a change to the visual character of the area. However, even in views where the tower is visible, it is subordinate to the existing landscape features. Views of the area's scenic resources – the large rocks and mature trees, which are dominant in the immediate foreground – would not be substantially compromised by the tower, as the area between viewers and the roadway would remain visibly undisturbed. The view of O'Shaughnessy Dam, Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, and the Poopenaut Valley would also remain undisturbed, as the vista is in the opposite direction of the proposed tower site. Therefore, impacts to visual/scenic resources would be less than significant under CEQA, and local, long-term, minor, and adverse under NEPA.

Regardless of visibility upon completion, construction of any facility in this setting has the potential to result in permanent visual impacts from construction (i.e., impacts that are not temporarily present due only to the presence of construction equipment). Implementation of Mitigation Measure 1 – Visual, to return the project site to its general condition before construction, including re-grading of the site and re-vegetation of disturbed areas upon project completion, would reduce construction-related visual impacts at this site to a less than significant level.

Impact Determination (Poopenaut Pass Site**):**

CEQA: Less than significant impact with mitigation.

NEPA: Local, long-term, minor, adverse.

Existing

Simulated

Simulated with Locators

Simulated View of Poopenaut Pass (Viewpoint PPP-1)
Figure 3.10.2-16

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Existing

Simulated

Simulated with Locators

Simulated View of Poopenaut Pass (Viewpoint PPP-2)
Figure 3.10.2-17

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Existing

Simulated

Simulated with Locators

Simulated View of Poopenaut Pass (Viewpoint PPP-3)
Figure 3.10.2-18

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Existing

Simulated

Simulated with Locators

Simulated View of Poopenaut Pass
(Viewpoint PPP-4)
Figure 3.10.2-19

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