



The Ahwahnee Comprehensive Rehabilitation Plan

Where is the project located?

The Ahwahnee is located in Yosemite Valley in Yosemite National Park. The Ahwahnee area includes a National Historic Landmark hotel, as well as guest cottages, an employee dormitory, and associated grounds and landscaping. Built in 1927, The Ahwahnee hotel is an iconic landmark and is used year-round by both overnight and day visitors to Yosemite Valley.

Why undertake this planning effort?

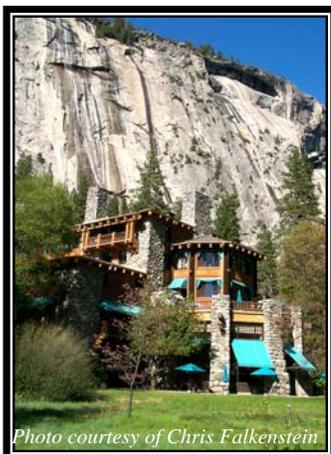
After more than 80 years in service, the hotel and associated structures are in need of rehabilitation because:

- Facilities at The Ahwahnee are not fully compliant with the most recent building and accessibility codes, including:
 - International Building Code (IBC)
 - National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Code
 - Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and IBC seismic requirements; and
 - Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.
- Many of the electrical, plumbing and mechanical systems serving The Ahwahnee facilities are aging and need to be replaced and updated.
- Some historic hotel finishes and landscape components are time-worn or have been altered over the years, potentially affecting the historic integrity of this property.
- The current operational layout of some working areas reduces the efficiency of providing a high level of visitor services.

What does this plan propose?

The purpose of this project is to develop a comprehensive plan for phased, long-term rehabilitation of The Ahwahnee National Historic Landmark hotel and associated guest cottages, employee dormitory, and landscaped grounds in order to:

- Restore, preserve, and protect the historic integrity and character-defining features of The Ahwahnee by rehabilitating aged or altered historic finishes and contributing landscape features.
- Enhance visitor and employee safety by bringing the buildings and grounds into compliance with current building, fire, life-safety, and seismic standards.
- Improve hotel energy efficiency and operations by repairing or replacing outdated or inefficient building systems and components.
- Protect and enhance the visitor experience at The Ahwahnee through improved operational efficiency, increased accessibility, and rehabilitation of historic resources.



When will alternatives be developed?

The architectural team is currently evaluating the operational needs and code compliance needs of The Ahwahnee. These needs, along with recommendation from recent Cultural Landscape and Historic Structures assessments, detailed seismic studies, and issues and concerns identified during public scoping will inform the development of alternatives for this project. Alternatives are expected to be identified in early 2010.

What is the schedule for this plan?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) reviews are being conducted concurrently. The scoping period for the rehabilitation project is planned for August 13, 2009 through September 26, 2009. The public review and comment period for the Environmental Assessment and NHPA Section 106 Determination of Effect is planned for Summer 2010.

Public Participation

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

- **Provide input during the scoping period.** You can submit comments by:
 - Mailing, faxing, or emailing your comments to the address listed below,
 - Attending the Public Open House on August 26, 2009 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the East Auditorium in Yosemite Valley.
 - Attending the Public Scoping Meeting at Yosemite on September 22, 2009 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at The Ahwahnee in the Under Lounge. The park entrance fee will be waived for people attending the public open houses or public meeting.
- Public comments will also be accepted at the park's September 30, 2009 open house.
- **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.
- **Review and provide comments on the Environmental Assessment** during the public review period, planned for Summer 2010.
- You can **submit written public scoping comments** through **September 26, 2009** by any of the following means:
 - Mail:** Superintendent
Attn: *The Ahwahnee Comprehensive Rehabilitation Plan*
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389
 - Fax:** 209-379-1294
 - E-mail:** Yose_Planning@nps.gov
- **Visit online:** http://www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/ahwahnee_rehab.htm
- **Web:** A new way to submit comments is available online. It's called Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC). Access the site at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/yose>