



## 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?

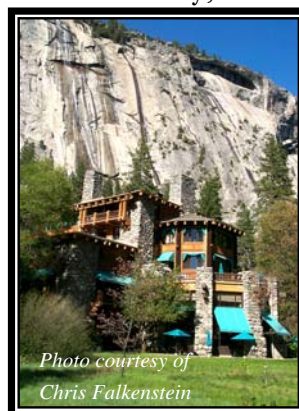
After more than 80 years in service, the hotel and associated structures are in need of rehabilitation because:

- 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- Improve hotel energy efficiency and operations by repairing or replacing outdated or inefficient building systems and components.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.



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## 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 Reports, 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 summer 2010.

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## 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 public scoping period for the rehabilitation project occurred from August 13, 2009 through September 26, 2009 and the public review and comment period for the Environmental Assessment and NHPA Section 106 Determination of Effect is planned for fall 2010.

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## Historical Society Participation

The National Park Service is seeking the input of historical societies and groups to help inform the planning process for The Ahwahnee Comprehensive Rehabilitation Plan. Here are some ways to stay involved in this project and its planning process:

- **Visit online:** [http://www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/ahwahnee\\_rehab.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/ahwahnee_rehab.htm)
- **Attend Public Open Houses** on the last Wednesday of each month from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the East Auditorium in Yosemite Valley. Park entrance fees are waived for visitors who attend the Public Open Houses.
- **Add your group's 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 fall 2010.
- **Provide input during the planning process.** You can submit comments by:

**Mail:** Superintendent

Attn: *The Ahwahnee Comprehensive Rehabilitation Plan*

P.O. Box 577

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**Fax:** 209-379-1294

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