

Appendix E

Vertebrate Paleontology Records Check for Paleontological Resources

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1 November 2019

Dudek
605 Third Street
Encinitas, CA 92024

Attn: Sarah Siren, Senior Paleontologist

re: Vertebrate Paleontology Records Check for paleontological resources for the proposed Northside Specific Plan Project, Dudek Project # 10140, in the City of Riverside, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, project area

Dear Sarah:

I have conducted a thorough search of our paleontology collection records for the locality and specimen data for the proposed Northside Specific Plan Project, Dudek Project # 10140, in the City of Riverside, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, project area as outlined on the portions of the Fontana, San Bernardino South and Riverside East USGS topographic quadrangle maps that you sent to me via e-mail on 18 October 2019. We do not have any vertebrate fossil localities that lie within the proposed project area boundaries, but we do have localities nearby from the same sedimentary deposits that occur in the proposed project area.

In the elevated terrain of the La Loma Hills along the northeastern border of the proposed project area there are bedrock exposures of plutonic igneous rocks that will not contain recognizable fossils. In the immediate active channel of the Santa Ana River in the very southwestern portion of the proposed project area there are surface deposits of younger Quaternary gravels that are highly unlikely to contain significant vertebrate fossils in the uppermost layers. Surface deposits in most of the proposed project area, closer to the Santa Ana River, consist of younger Quaternary Alluvium, derived as overbank deposits from the Santa Ana River adjacent to the west. These younger Quaternary deposits are unlikely to contain significant vertebrate fossils in the uppermost layers, but older deposits at modest depth may well contain

significant fossil vertebrate remains. Surface deposits in the eastern portion of the proposed project area are composed of older Quaternary Alluvium, derived primarily as alluvial fan deposits from Blue Mountain or the Box Springs Mountains to the east. Our closest fossil vertebrate locality from these older Quaternary deposits is LACM 7811, west-southwest of the proposed project area west of Mira Loma along Sumner Avenue north of Cloverdale Road, that produced a fossil specimen of whipsnake, *Masticophis*, at a depth of 9 to 11 feet below the surface. More southerly but still south-southwest of the proposed project area, between Corona and Norco, our locality LACM 1207 produced a fossil specimen of deer, *Odocoileus*.

Excavations in the igneous rocks exposed along the northeastern border of the proposed project area will not uncover any recognizable fossils. Grading or shallow excavations in the uppermost layers of soil and younger Quaternary alluvium in most of the proposed project area are unlikely to encounter significant fossil vertebrate remains. Deeper excavations in the latter portions of the proposed project area that extend down into older and perhaps finer-grained Quaternary sediments, however, as well as any excavations in the older Quaternary Alluvium in the eastern portion of the proposed project area, may well encounter significant vertebrate fossils. Any substantial excavations in the sedimentary deposits in the proposed project area, therefore, should be closely monitored to quickly and professionally collect any specimens without impeding development. Also, sediment samples should be collected and processed to determine the small fossil potential in the proposed project area. Any fossils recovered during mitigation should be deposited in an accredited and permanent scientific institution for the benefit of current and future generations.

This records search covers only the vertebrate paleontology records of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. It is not intended to be a thorough paleontological survey of the proposed project area covering other institutional records, a literature survey, or any potential on-site survey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Samuel A. McLeod".

Samuel A. McLeod, Ph.D.
Vertebrate Paleontology

enclosure: invoice