

APPENDIX H
PALEONTOLOGICAL RECORDS SEARCH

Natural History Museum
of Los Angeles County
900 Exposition Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90007

tel 213.763.DINO
www.nhm.org



Vertebrate Paleontology Section
Telephone: (213) 763-3325

e-mail: smcleod@nhm.org

6 June 2019

UltraSystems Environmental
16431 Scientific Way
Irvine, CA 92618-7443

Attn: Stephen O'Neil, Cultural Resources Manager

Re: Paleontological Records Search for the proposed KART Transit Project, UltraSystems Environmental Project No. 7014, in the City of Hanford, Kings County, project area

Dear Stephen:

We have conducted a thorough search of our Vertebrate Paleontology records for the proposed KART Transit Project, UltraSystems Environmental Project No. 7014, in the City of Hanford, Kings County, project area as outlined on the portion of the Hanford USGS topographic quadrangle map that Megan Black Doukakis sent to me via e-mail on 23 May 2019. We do not have any vertebrate fossil localities that lie directly within the proposed project area boundaries, but we do have localities somewhat nearby from sedimentary deposits similar to those that probably occur at depth in the proposed project area.

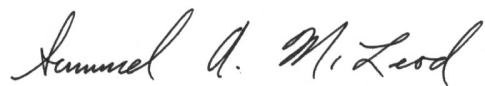
The entire proposed project area has surface deposits composed of Quaternary deposits that may be referred to as the Modesto Formation in this vicinity beneath soil. These alluvial fan deposits are derived from the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the east via the numerous drainages between the Kings River that currently flows to the north and the Kaweah River that currently flows to the south. We do not have any fossil vertebrate localities designated as coming from the Modesto Formation, but we do have vertebrate fossil localities that probably come from the Modesto Formation, the underlying Riverbank Formation, or similar deposits. Our closest vertebrate fossil locality to the proposed project area from somewhat similar deposits is LACM 1156, southeast of the proposed project area between Earlimart and Delano just east of Highway 99, that produced a fossil specimen of horse, *Equus*, at a depth of 45 feet below the surface. Our

next closest vertebrate fossil localities to the proposed project area from somewhat similar deposits are probably LACM 7844-7845, farther to the southwest of the proposed project area on the south side of Bluestone Ridge near the mouth of Antelope Valley, that produced fossil specimens of iguanid lizard, Iguanidae, common snakes, Colubridae, bird, Aves, rabbits, *Lepus* and *Sylvilagus*, pocket gopher, *Thomomys*, pocket mouse, *Perognathus*, kangaroo rat, *Dipodomys*, and deer, *Odocoileus*.

Shallow excavations in the soil and uppermost layers of the Modesto Formation occurring at the surface in the proposed project area are unlikely to encounter significant vertebrate fossils. Deeper excavations in the proposed project area that extend down into deeper layers of the Modesto Formation or the underlying Riverbank Formation, however, may well encounter significant fossil vertebrate remains. Any substantial excavations in the proposed project area, therefore, should be monitored closely to quickly and professionally recover any fossil remains uncovered while not impeding development. Sediment samples should also be collected and processed to determine the small fossil potential in the proposed project area. Any fossils collected should be placed in an accredited 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