

Natural History Museum
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Vertebrate Paleontology Section
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10 May 2018

ECORP Consulting, Inc.
215 North Fifth Street
Redlands, CA 92374

Attn: Wendy Blumel, Assistant Cultural Group Manager

re: Paleontological resources for the proposed High Desert Solar Project, ECORP Project # 2017-062.003, in the City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, project area

Dear Wendy:

I have conducted a thorough search of our paleontology collection records for the locality and specimen data for the proposed High Desert Solar Project, ECORP Project # 2017-062.003, in the City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, project area as outlined on the portions of the Victorville NW, Helendale, and Victorville USGS topographic quadrangle map that you sent to me via e-mail on 26 March 2018. We do not have any vertebrate fossil localities that lie directly within the proposed project area boundaries, but we do have localities nearby from the same sedimentary units that occur in the proposed project area.

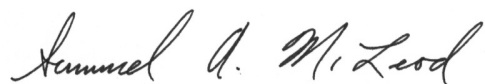
According to modern geologic mapping the surface deposits in most of the proposed project area, on top of the bluffs west of the Mojave River, consist of soil on top of older Quaternary Alluvium, derived as fluvial deposits from the ancestral Mojave River. In this vicinity these deposits typically do not contain significant vertebrate fossils in the uppermost layers, but they may well contain significant fossil vertebrate remains at depth. Our closest fossil vertebrate locality in these older Quaternary deposits is LACM 7786, just west of south of the western-most portion of the proposed project area between Adelanto and the former George Air Force Base, that produced a fossil specimen of meadow vole, *Microtus*, at a depth of 10-11 feet below the surface.

On the slopes in the central eastern portion of the proposed project area there are exposures of even older Quaternary deposits that have produced vertebrate fossils. Our closest fossil vertebrate locality from the older Quaternary deposits is LACM (CIT) 209, immediately east of north of the eastern-most border of the proposed project area southwest of Bryman, that produced fossil specimens of horse, *Equus*, and mammoth, *Mammuthus columbi*. Our next closest fossil vertebrate localities from these deposits are LACM 3352-3353 and 3498, further southeast of the proposed project area on the slopes on the west side of the Mojave River centered around Interstate 15. Specimens of fossil horse, *Equus occidentalis*, and bison, *Bison latifrons*, were recovered from these sites.

Shallow excavations in the uppermost layers of soil and older Quaternary Alluvium exposed in most of the proposed project area are unlikely to encounter significant fossil vertebrate remains. Deeper excavations there that extend down into older Quaternary sediments, or any excavations in the older Quaternary deposits exposed on the slopes in the central eastern portion of the proposed project area, however, may well encounter significant vertebrate fossils. Any substantial excavations 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