VCS Environmental
EXPERTS IN STRATEGIC SOLUTIONS

April 9, 2019

Shawn Neville
Principal Planner
Orange County Water District
18700 Ward Street
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Subject: Talbert Extraction Well Decommissioning Project, Monitoring Well OCWD-M57 Archaeological and Paleontological Records Searches Memorandum

Dear Mr. Neville:

This Memorandum summarizes Archaeological and Paleontological records searches completed for the Orange County Waters District's (OCWD's) proposed Talbert Extraction Well Decommissioning Project in Huntington Beach, California. The proposed project involves the destruction and permanent decommissioning of seven extraction wells, including demolition of the associated structures and pipeline, and construction of one new monitoring well (OCWD-M57) within the City of Huntington Beach. Only the construction of the new well could potentially impact cultural resources, and is therefore the subject of this study.

As shown in Figure 1 below, the proposed monitoring well OCWD-M57 is located on the west side of Galbar Circle approximately 14 feet west of the centerline of Galbar Circle and 80 feet northeast of the centerline of Dana Drive within the City of Huntington Beach. The well site is located on USGS Newport Beach Quadrangle Map, Township 6 South, Range 10 West and Section 17.

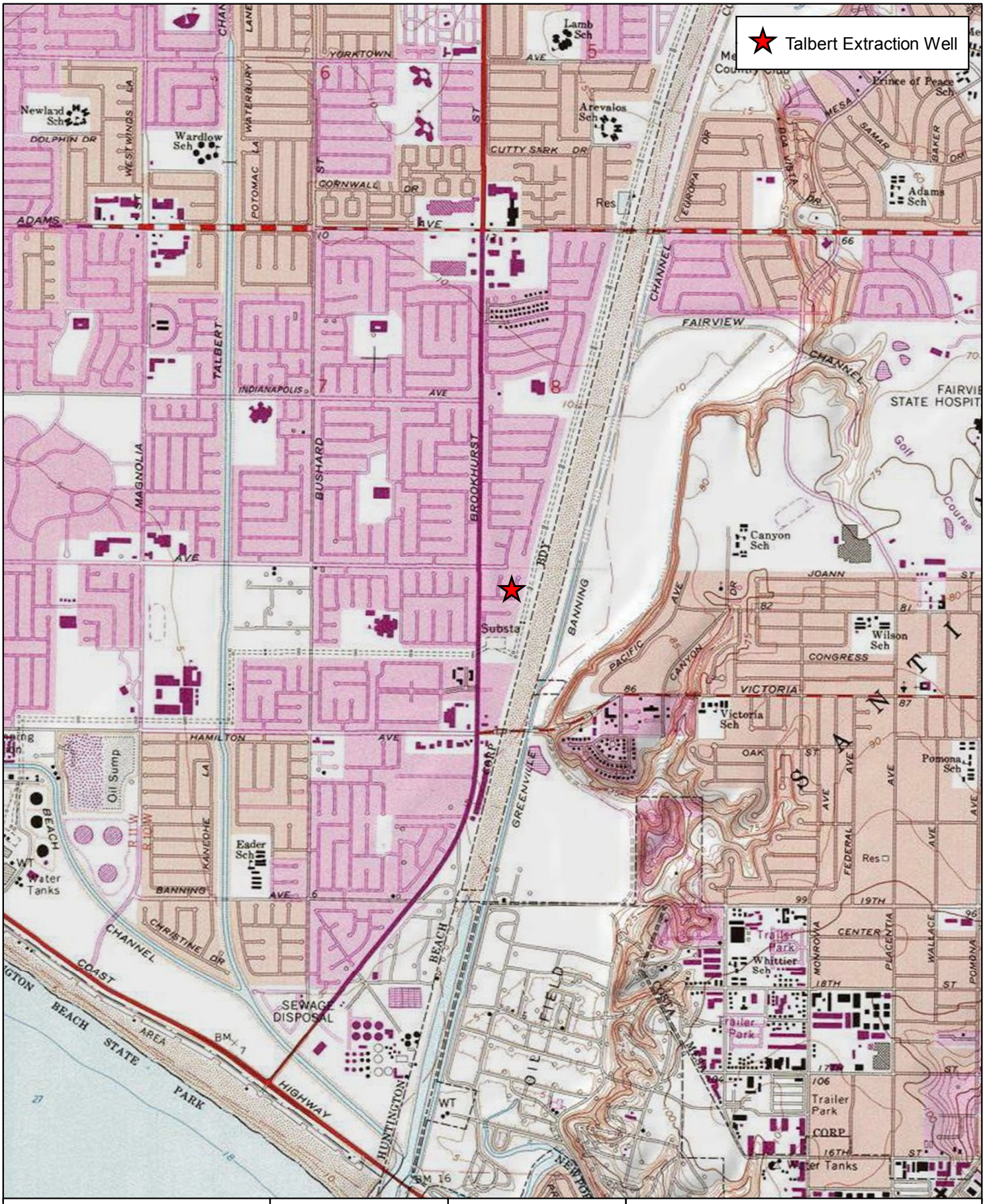
Monitoring Well Construction

Phase 4 of the Proposed Project involves monitoring well construction. The proposed monitoring well construction would occur in three steps; 1) mobilization, borehole drilling, and well construction, 2) well development, and 3) demobilization, site clean-up, and vault installation. Step 3 involves minimal equipment and would be done by hand.

Cultural Resources Records Searches

Studies

The South Central Coastal Information Center completed a California Historic Resources Information System (CHRIS) record search (Attachment A) which concluded that there have been 21 cultural resources studies completed within one-half mile of the Project site. Three of these



Prepared By:

VCS Environmental

Map Created: March 2019

0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet

1:24,000

7.5-min Quadrangle: Newport Beach
Township: T06S R10W
Section: 17
Meridian: San Bernardino
County: Orange

OCWD Talbert Extraction Well

Figure 1: Project Site

studies (OR-00001, OR-02033, and OR-04313) included at least a portion of the Project site. Native American tribes may have additional historical resource information.

Table 1: Cultural Resources Studies Within One-Half Mile of the Project Site

Report Number	Author/Year	Type of Study
*OR-00001	Ahlering, Michael L./ 1973	Report of a Scientific Resources Survey and Inventory
OR-00104	Desautels, Roger J./ 1976	Archaeological Survey Report
OR-00118	Desautels, Roger J. and Perry, Robert/ 1977	Archaeological Survey Report
OR-00191	Desautels, Roger J./ 1977	Archaeological Test Excavation Report
OR-00198	Perry, Robert/ 1977	Archaeological Survey Report
OR-00232	Cottrell, Marie G./ 1978	Report on the Archaeological Resource Assessment
OR-00257	Desautels, Roger J./ 1978	Archaeological Survey Report
OR-00270	Leonard, Nelson N. III and Mathew C. Hall/ 1975	Description and Evaluation of Cultural Resources
OR-00299	Van Horn, David M./ 1978	A Compilation of Archaeological, Historical and Paleontological Data
OR-00801	Langenwalter, Paul E. and James Brock/ 1985	Archaeological Studies
OR-01016	Leonard, Nelson N. III/ 1975	Environmental Impact Evaluation
OR-01278	Brock, James P./ 1993	Cultural Resources Assessment
OR-01731	Unknown/ 1961	Index to the Artifacts Collected
*OR-02033	Mason, Roger D./ 1987	Research Design for Evaluation of Coastal Archaeological Sites
OR-02678	Duke, Curt/ 2002	Cultural Resource Assessment
OR-03327	Bonner, Wayne H. and Kathleen A. Crawford/ 2005	Direct Ape Historic Structural Assessment
OR-03447	Bonner, Wayne H. and Kathleen A. Crawford/ 2006	Cultural Resource Records Search and Site Visit
OR-03618	Bonner, Wayne H./ 2005	Cultural Resources Records Search Results and Site Visit
OR-03995	Wlodarski, Robert/ 2011	Record Search and field reconnaissance
*OR-04313	Unknown/ 2013 (Nov)	Historic and Cultural Resources Element
OR-04368	Wiley, Nancy and Koerper, Henry/ 2014	Archaeological Testing and Monitoring
*Located on the project site		

OR-00001. Ahlering (1973): This was a large survey for the City of Huntington Beach that identified the presence of 26 cultural resources.

OR-02033. Mason (1987): This study consisted of a research design for evaluation of coastal archaeological sites in northern Orange County. It considered 30 archaeological sites in the vicinity.

OR-04313. Unknown (2013): This study is the Historic and Cultural Resources Element of the Huntington Beach General Plan. No resources are cited.

Sites

The records search also concluded that no Archaeological Resources have been recorded within the Project Site. There is one resource recorded within a 1/2-mile radius of the Project site.

Table 2: Cultural Resources Within One-Half Mile of the Project Site

Site Number	Recorder/Year (most recent)	Description
30-000165	Payne/ 1960	Possible village site - *Lukup*

30-000165. Payne (1960): This site is a large habitation site with habitation debris and a lithic scatter located on the bluffs overlooking the Santa Ana River. It is described as possibly the location of the ethnohistoric village of *Lukup*.

In addition, just beyond the ½ mile records search radius to the northeast of the Project site, on bluffs overlooking the Santa Ana River channel, lies the Fairview Park site (CA-ORA-58), a large village site well known in the area. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Internet Research

Internet research on the project, and an examination of historical aerial photographs at HistoricAerials.com (NETRONLINE n.d.), revealed that the Project site has been developed as a residential community since 1972 at least. In 1963 the entire area was completely undeveloped river floodplain.

Paleontological Records Search

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (NHMLAC) completed a Vertebrate Paleontology Records Check on April 2, 2019 (Attachment B) that determined no paleontological resources are recorded on the Project Site, although fossils have been found and recorded in the same sedimentary deposits nearby.

> *The entire proposed project area has surface deposits composed of younger Quaternary Alluvium, derived as overbank deposits from the Santa Ana River adjacent to the east. These deposits usually do not contain significant vertebrate fossils, at least in the uppermost layers, but these deposits may be underlain by older Quaternary deposits as occur in the bluffs to the east and west defining the Santa Ana River floodplain. Our closest vertebrate fossil locality from older Quaternary deposits is LACM 1339, just northeast of the proposed project area along Adams Avenue near the top of the mesa bluffs east of the Santa Ana River, that produced fossil specimens of mammoth, Mammuthus, and camel, Camelidae, in sand approximately 15 feet below the top of the mesa that is overlain by shell bearing silts and sands (Mcleod 2019).*

According to McLeod (2019), surface grading or shallow excavations in the younger Quaternary Alluvium probably will not uncover significant vertebrate fossil remains. However, excavations that extend down into the older Quaternary deposits could encounter significant fossils. Excavations below the uppermost layers in the proposed project area, therefore, should be monitored by a qualified paleontologist. Sediment samples should also be collected from the older deposits to determine their small fossil potential. Any fossils collected should be placed in an accredited and permanent scientific institution for the benefit of current and future generations.

Given the minimal impacts to native sediments anticipated for the project, VCS recommends archaeological monitoring only be considered if tribes request monitoring as a result of the Assembly Bill (AB) 52 process. Although archaeological monitoring is not warranted, an archaeologist must be retained in the event of a discovery to evaluate the find. Although NHLAC recommends that paleontological monitoring be conducted in older Quaternary alluvial sediments, VCS recommends no paleontological monitoring because of the limited nature of ground disturbance associated with the well construction. In the event of a fossil discovery, a qualified paleontologist must be retained to identify and evaluate the find.

Please contact me at pmaxon@vcsenvironmental.com or 949.489.2700 extension 214 should you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Patrick Maxon, RPA
Director, Cultural Services

Enclosures (2)

- Attachment A: South Central Coastal Information Center California Historic Resources Records Search
- Attachment B: Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County Vertebrate Paleontology Records Search

CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT A

Not for Public Review

South Central Coastal Information Center
California Historic Resources Records Search

ATTACHMENT B

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
Vertebrate Paleontology Records Search

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

tel 213.763.DINO
www.nhm.org

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Vertebrate Paleontology Section
Telephone: (213) 763-3325

e-mail: smcleod@nhm.org

2 April 2019

VCS Environmental
30900 Rancho Viejo Road, Suite 100
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

Attn: Patrick O. Maxon, Director, Cultural Services

re: Vertebrate Paleontology Records Check for paleontological resources for the proposed OCWD Talbert Extraction Well Project, in the City of Huntington Beach, Orange County, project area

Dear Patrick:

I have conducted a thorough search of our paleontology collection records for the locality and specimen data for the proposed OCWD Talbert Extraction Well Project, in the City of Huntington Beach, Orange County, project area as outlined on the portion of the Newport Beach USGS topographic quadrangle map that you sent to me via e-mail on 19 March 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.

The entire proposed project area has surface deposits composed of younger Quaternary Alluvium, derived as overbank deposits from the Santa Ana River adjacent to the east. These deposits usually do not contain significant vertebrate fossils, at least in the uppermost layers, but these deposits may be underlain by older Quaternary deposits as occur in the bluffs to the east and west defining the Santa Ana River floodplain. Our closest vertebrate fossil locality from older Quaternary deposits is LACM 1339, just northeast of the proposed project area along Adams Avenue near the top of the mesa bluffs east of the Santa Ana River, that produced fossil specimens of mammoth, *Mammuthus*, and camel, Camelidae, in sand approximately 15 feet below the top of the mesa that is overlain by shell bearing silts and sands.

Surface grading or shallow excavations in the younger Quaternary Alluvium exposed throughout the proposed project area probably will not uncover significant vertebrate fossil remains. Excavations that extend down into the older Quaternary deposits, however, may well encounter significant fossil vertebrate specimens. Any substantial excavations below the uppermost layers in the proposed project area, therefore, should be monitored closely to quickly and professionally recover any fossil remains discovered while not impeding development. Sediment samples should also be collected from the older deposits in the proposed project area and processed to determine their small fossil potential. Any fossils collected should be placed 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,

Samuel A. McLeod

Samuel A. McLeod, Ph.D.
Vertebrate Paleontology

enclosure: invoice