

Natural History Museum  
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4 October 2019

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

Attn: Wendy Blumel, Assistant Cultural Group Manager

re: Paleontological resources for the proposed 13 acre parcel Project, ECORP Project # 2019-185, in the City of Hemet, Riverside 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 13 acre parcel Project, ECORP Project # 2019-185, in the City of Hemet, Riverside County, project area as outlined on the portion of the Los Viejos USGS topographic quadrangle map that Julian Acuna sent to me via e-mail on 30 September 2019. We do not have any vertebrate fossil localities that lie directly within the proposed project area, but we do have localities somewhat nearby from the same or similar sedimentary deposits to those that occur in the proposed project area, either at the surface or at depth.

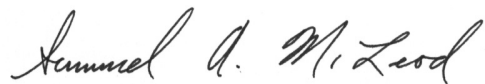
Almost all of the proposed project area has surface deposits of younger Quaternary Alluvium, derived primarily as alluvial fan deposits Park Hill adjacent to the east or from the Santa Rosa Hills to the southeast. These types of deposits typically do not produce significant vertebrate fossils, at least in the uppermost layers, but they may be underlain by older Quaternary sediments that may well contain significant vertebrate fossils. Our closest vertebrate fossil locality from somewhat similar older Quaternary deposits is LACM 4540, from the gravel pits just west of Jack Rabbit Trail on the western side of Mt. Eden northwest of the proposed project area, that produced a specimen of fossil horse, *Equus*. Our next closest fossil vertebrate locality in somewhat similar older Quaternary sediments is probably LACM 7261, west of south of the proposed project area at Skinner Reservoir, that produced fossil specimens of mammoth, *Mammuthus*, and bison, *Bison*.

In the very northeastern-most portion of the proposed project area there are exposures of the Plio-Pleistocene Bautista Formation. Our closest fossil vertebrate locality from the Bautista Formation is probably LACM 1715, east-southeast of the proposed project area near the mouth of Sand Canyon on the southwest side of the South Fork of the San Jacinto River, that produced a fossil specimen of horse, *Equus bautistensis*. Our next closest Bautista Formation locality is LACM 7062, much further to the southeast of the proposed project area in Horse Canyon on the east side of Table Mountain south of Highway 74, that produced fossil specimens of rabbit, Lagomorpha, and horse, *Equus idahoensis*.

Shallow excavations in the surficial younger Quaternary Alluvium exposed throughout almost all of the proposed project area probably will not encounter any significant vertebrate fossils. Deeper excavations there that extend down into older Quaternary deposits, however, as well as any excavations in the Bautista Formation in the very northeastern portion of the proposed project area, may well uncover significant vertebrate fossil remains. Any substantial excavations below the uppermost layers, 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 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