

**Appendix F:  
Paleontological Records Search Results**

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September 7, 2022

Dana DePietro  
FirstCarbon Solutions  
1350 Treat Boulevard, Suite 380  
Walnut Creek, CA 94597

### **Re: Paleontological Records Search for the Barber Yard Specific Plan Project (1723.0003), City of Chico, Butte County**

Dear Dr. DePietro:

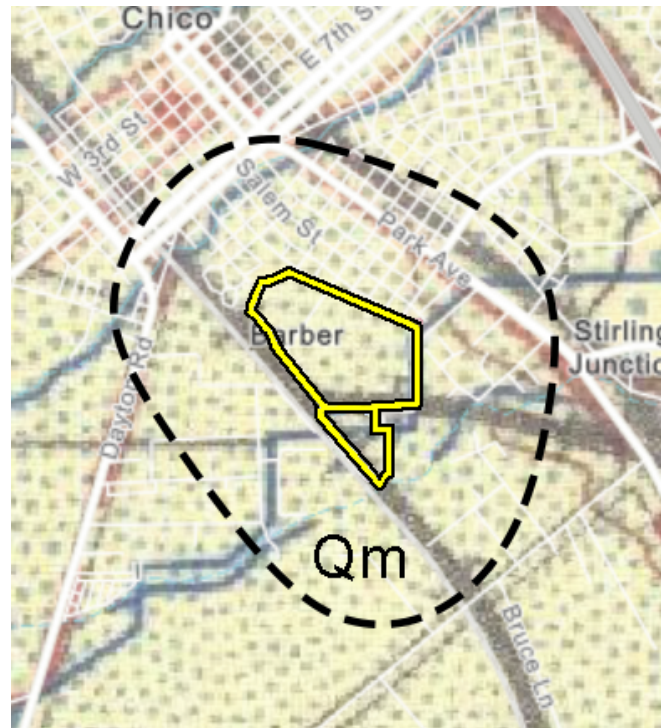
As per the request of Isobel Cooper, I have performed a paleontological records search on the University of California Museum of Paleontology (UCMP) database for the Barber Yard Specific Plan Project in Chico. The nearly 133-acre Plan Area is located in the southern portion of the city. It is bounded by the Union Pacific Rail Road to the west, a unincorporated portion of Butte County to the south, Chestnut Street and Normal Avenue to the northeast, Estes Road to the east, and various individual properties to the north. Its Public Land Survey (PLS) location is S½, Sec. 35, T21N, R1E, Chico quadrangle (USGS 7.5-series topographic map). The project site is heavily disturbed by prior industrial development.

#### Geologic Units

According to the part of the geologic map by Saucedo and Wagner (1992), both the project site (yellow outline at center) and its surrounding one-mile search area (dashed black outline) are upon the Pleistocene Modesto Formation (Qm).

#### UCMP Records Search

The database search focused on the Modesto Formation, for which there are nine vertebrate localities listed. Three of those localities are in San Joaquin County, where they were recorded from a recent construction project in Stockton (Haasl and Fisk, 2017), but their specimens have yet to be entered into the database. The other six localities are in Stanislaus, Fresno, and Yolo counties, and are represented by 27 specimens repre-



senting the Rancholabrean North American Land Mammal Stage. The composite assemblage includes *Mammuthus columbi* (Columbian mammoth), *Bison latifrons* (long-horned bison), *Camelops* (camel), a microtine rodent (e.g., vole), and an unidentified reptile. The locality nearest to the project site is located approximately 60 miles to the south. There are also two plant localities in the Modesto Formation. One is in Fresno County and is represented by a palynological slide that has not been entered into the specimens database; the other is in Sutter County and yielded carbonized fossil walnuts (*Juglans californica*) and wood.

#### Remarks and Recommendations

The records search reveals that the Modesto Formation has a high sensitivity but low paleontological potential for significant paleontological resources. A paleontological walkover survey of the project site is not recommended due to its heavy disturbance. Despite the yield of significant fossils from the Modesto Formation, none have been recorded in Butte County or within 60 miles of Chico. I therefore do not recommend paleontological monitoring of earth-disturbing construction activities on the project site.

Should any vertebrate remains (i.e., bones, teeth, or unusually abundant and well-preserved invertebrates or plants) be unearthed, the crew should not attempt to remove them, as they could be extremely fragile and therefore prone to crumbling, and to ensure their occurrence is properly recorded; instead, all work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery should be diverted at least 15 feet until a professional paleontologist assesses the find and, if deemed appropriate, salvages it in a timely manner. All recovered fossils should be deposited in an appropriate repository, such as the UCMP, where they will be properly curated and made accessible for future study.

Sincerely,



#### References Cited

- Haasl, D.M, and Fisk, L.H., 2017, Paleontological mitigation report for the South Stockton Six-Lane Project in San Joaquin County, California. PaleoResources Consultants, Auburn.
- Saucedo, G.J., and Wagner, D.L., 1992, Geologic map of the Chico quadrangle, California, 1:250,000. California Division of Mines and Geology, Regional Geologic Map 7A.