

APPENDIX E2

Paleontological Records Search



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

June 16, 2021

Dear Mr. Maxon,

This letter presents the results of a record search conducted for the Norco Residential Project in the city of Norco, Riverside County, California. The project site is located north of Sundance Lane and east of River Road in and non-sectioned portion of Township 3 South and Range 7 West on the *Corona North, CA* USGS 7.5 minute topographic quadrangles.

The geologic unit underlying the project area is mapped entirely as very old alluvial channel deposits dating to the early Pleistocene epoch (Morton et al., 2002). Pleistocene alluvial units are considered to be of high paleontological sensitivity. The Western Science Center does not have localities within the project area or a one mile radius, but does have numerous localities throughout the region in similarly mapped sediments as well as Pleistocene localities within three miles associated with the SR-91 Corridor Improvement Project in Corona. Southern California Pleistocene units are well known to produce fossil localities and specimen including those associated with mammoth (*Mammuthus columbi*), mastodon (*Mammut pacificus*) sabertooth cats (*Smilodon fatalis*) and many other Pleistocene megafauna and microfauna, and the SR-91 Corridor Improvement Project produced specimens associated with ancient bison (*Bison sp.*) and ancient horse (*Equus sp.*) locally.

Any fossils recovered from the Norco Residential Project area would be scientifically significant. Excavation activity associated with development of the area has the potential to impact the paleontologically sensitive early Pleistocene units and it is the recommendation of the Western Science Center that a paleontological resource mitigation plan be put in place to monitor, salvage, and curate any recovered fossils associated with the current study area.

If you have any questions, or would like further information, please feel free to contact me at dradford@westerncentermuseum.org

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darla Radford', written in a cursive style.

Darla Radford
Collections Manager