

# SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

3 February 2022

Michael M. DeGiovine  
ECORP Consulting, Inc.  
3838 Camino del Rio North, Suite 370  
San Diego, CA 92108

RE: Paleontological Records Search – Proposed BNSF Rail Terminal in the City of National City

Dear Mr. DeGiovine:

This letter presents the results of a paleontological records search conducted for the Proposed BNSF Rail Terminal project (Project), located in the western portion of the City of National City, San Diego County, California. The Project site lies west of Interstate 5, and is bordered to the south by West 19<sup>th</sup> Street, to the east by Cleveland Avenue, to the northwest by Tidelands Avenue, and to the west by existing commercial development.

## Methods

A review of published geological maps covering the Project site and surrounding area was conducted to determine the specific geologic units underlying the Project site. Each geologic unit was subsequently assigned a paleontological resource sensitivity (Deméré and Walsh, 1993). In addition, a search of the paleontological collection records housed at the San Diego Natural History Museum (SDNHM) was conducted in order to determine if any documented fossil collection localities occur at the Project site or within the immediate surrounding area.

## Results

Published geological reports (e.g., Kennedy and Tan, 2008) covering the Project area indicate that the proposed Project has the potential to impact artificial fill and Quaternary young alluvial flood plain deposits. These geologic units and their paleontological sensitivity are summarized below.

The SDNHM does not have any recorded fossil localities that lie within one mile of the Project site.

**artificial fill** – Artificial fill is mapped as underlying the majority of the Project site. The fill deposits present along the National City Bayfront were emplaced to support industrial and military development along the bay. Because artificial fill has been previously disturbed and may have been imported to a project site, any contained fossil remains have lost their original stratigraphic contextual data and are thus of little scientific value. For these reasons, artificial fill is assigned no paleontological sensitivity.

**young alluvial flood plain deposits** – The eastern margin of the Project site is underlain at the surface by late Pleistocene- to Holocene-age young alluvial flood plain deposits. These deposits are generally considered to be less than 11,700 years old, and range in composition from unconsolidated to moderately consolidated silt, sand, pebbly and cobbly sand, and boulders. These deposits are assigned a low paleontological sensitivity based on their relatively young geologic age and lack of recorded fossil collection localities.

## Summary and Recommendations

Given the low or zero paleontological sensitivity of the geologic units underlying the Project site and the lack of nearby recorded fossil collection localities, construction of the Project is unlikely to result in impacts to paleontological resources. Therefore, implementation of a paleontological resource mitigation program is not recommended.

If you have any questions concerning these findings please feel free to contact me at 619-255-0264 or kmccomas@sdnhm.org.

Sincerely,



Katie McComas, M.S.  
Paleontological Report Writer & GIS Specialist  
San Diego Natural History Museum

*Enc: Figure 1: Project map*

## Literature Cited

Deméré, T.A., and S.L. Walsh. 1993. Paleontological Resources, County of San Diego. Unpublished technical report prepared for the San Diego County Department of Public Works: 1–68.

Kennedy, M.P., and Tan, S.S. 2008. Geologic Map of the San Diego 30' x 60' Quadrangle, California. California Geological Survey, Regional Geologic Map Series 1:100,000 scale, map no. 3.

San Diego Natural History Museum (SDNHM), unpublished paleontological collections data.

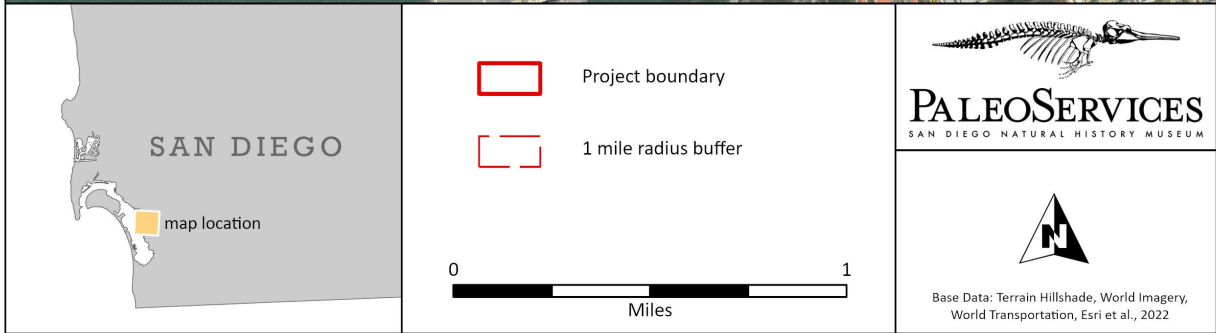


Figure 1: Records Search Map, BNSF Rail Terminal, City of National City, San Diego County, California