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Mr. Usama Douglah
Rexford Industrial – 14940 Proctor, LLC
11620 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 610
Los Angeles, California 90025

Subject: Paleontological Resources Inventory Report for the 14940 Proctor Avenue Warehouse Project, City of Industry, Los Angeles County, California

Dear Usama Douglah:

This letter documents the results of the paleontological resources inventory conducted by Dudek in support of the proposed 14940 Proctor Avenue Warehouse Project (project) in the city of Industry (City), California. The approximately 7.60-acre site located at 14940 Proctor Avenue (Assessor Parcel Numbers [APNs] 8208-002-043 and 8208-002-049) located directly south of Proctor Avenue and west of South 9th Avenue (Attachment A: Figure 1).

To determine the paleontological sensitivity of the project site, Dudek performed a paleontological resources inventory for the project to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP 2010) guidelines for successful paleontological mitigation. The inventory consisted of a Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (LACM) paleontological records search and review of geological mapping and geological and paleontological literature. The results of the paleontological records search were negative for paleontological resources within the project site; however, the LACM reported five fossil localities near the project site.

Given the limited ground disturbance planned for project and the Holocene alluvial deposits present beneath the layer of artificial fill as indicated by the geotechnical report, the project has a low potential to produce significant paleontological resources. However, an inadvertent discovery mitigation measure (MM) is provided to ensure any paleontological resources, if encountered during project construction, are treated in compliance with SVP (2010) standards. This inventory report was prepared by Michael Williams, Ph.D. and Sarah Siren, M.Sc., qualified Principal Investigators (PIs) for paleontology, in accordance with CEQA guidelines and SVP (2010) standards.

1 Project Location and Description

The approximately 7.60-acre project site is located at 14940 Proctor Avenue and is composed of two (2) parcels (Assessor's Parcel Number [APN] 8208-002-043 and 8208-002-049). The project site is located within public land survey system (PLSS) Section 6 of Township 2 South, Range 10 West on the *Baldwin Park*, California 7.5-minute U.S. Geological Survey (USGS 1966) Topographic Quadrangle map (Attachment A: Figure 1). The project site is bound by South 9th Avenue to the east, Proctor Avenue to the north, and industrial development to the west and south (Attachment A: Figure 2).

The project involves the demolition of an existing 90,828 square-foot manufacturing facility and the construction and operation of an approximately 165,537 square-foot industrial/warehouse facility. An approximately 19,200

square- foot office building, with an approximately 9,600 square-foot mezzanine space would be located in the northeastern portion of the site. The project would include a lot-tie adjustment to merge the two parcels into one APN.

Access to the project site would be provided via an existing 28-foot driveway, located on the western portion of the site, along Proctor Avenue; a 30-foot driveway located on the east side of the project site, along Proctor Avenue; and a 40-foot driveway located in the southeastern portion of the site, off of South 9th Avenue. The project would provide a total of 216 parking stalls, including 165 standard stalls, seven (7) accessible stalls, 11 electric vehicle (EV) parking spaces, and 33 EV-ready parking spaces. Ten (10) bicycle racks would be provided on-site. An 8-foot-tall high black tube steel fence line would surround the majority of the project site.

Landscaping and biofiltration basins would be provided in the northern and eastern portions of the site and scattered throughout the parking areas surrounding the proposed building. The project would include fire water, storm drains, flowlines, a force main, water lines, and sewer lines around the proposed building and within the boundaries of the site, which would connect to existing utilities located on and in the immediate vicinity of the project site.

The current project design involves mostly fill work, due to the proposed high building design. In consideration of this factor, ground disturbance within the project site includes approximately 3.5 feet below ground surface (bgs) for the biofiltration basins, an assumed depth of no greater than 5 feet bgs for utility infrastructure, and a maximum depth of ground disturbance between 13 and 15 feet bgs for the sump pump manholes.

2 Paleontological Resources

Paleontological resources are the remains or traces of plants and animals that are preserved in earth's crust, and per the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology ([SVP] 2010) guidelines, are older than written history or older than approximately 5,000 years. They are limited, nonrenewable resources of scientific and educational value and are afforded protection under state laws and regulations. This study satisfies requirements in accordance with state guidelines (13 California Public Resources Code [PRC], 21000 et seq.) and PRC Section 5097.5 (Stats 1965, c 1136, p. 2792). This analysis also complies with guidelines and significance criteria specified by SVP (2010). Table 1 provides definitions for high, undetermined, low, and no paleontological resource potential, or sensitivity, as set forth in and by the SVP (2010) Guidelines for Determining Significance: Paleontological Resources.

Table 1. Paleontological Resource Sensitivity Criteria

Resource Sensitivity / Potential	Definition
High	Rock units from which vertebrate or significant invertebrate, plant, or trace fossils have been recovered are considered to have a high potential for containing additional significant paleontological resources. Rocks units classified as having high potential for producing paleontological resources include, but are not limited to, sedimentary formations and some volcaniclastic formations (e. g., ashes or tephras), and some low-grade metamorphic rocks which contain significant paleontological resources anywhere within their geographical extent, and sedimentary rock units temporally or lithologically suitable for the preservation of fossils (e. g., middle Holocene and older, fine-grained fluvial sandstones, argillaceous and carbonate-rich paleosols, cross-bedded point bar sandstones, fine-grained marine

Table 1. Paleontological Resource Sensitivity Criteria

Resource Sensitivity / Potential	Definition
	sandstones, etc.). Paleontological potential consists of both (a) the potential for yielding abundant or significant vertebrate fossils or for yielding a few significant fossils, large or small, vertebrate, invertebrate, plant, or trace fossils and (b) the importance of recovered evidence for new and significant taxonomic, phylogenetic, paleoecologic, taphonomic, biochronologic, or stratigraphic data. Rock units which contain potentially datable organic remains older than late Holocene, including deposits associated with animal nests or middens, and rock units which may contain new vertebrate deposits, traces, or trackways are also classified as having high potential.
Undetermined Potential	Rock units for which little information is available concerning their paleontological content, geologic age, and depositional environment are considered to have undetermined potential. Further study is necessary to determine if these rock units have high or low potential to contain significant paleontological resources. A field survey by a qualified professional paleontologist (see "definitions" section in this document) to specifically determine the paleontological resource potential of these rock units is required before a paleontological resource impact mitigation program can be developed. In cases where no subsurface data are available, paleontological potential can sometimes be determined by strategically located excavations into subsurface stratigraphy.
Low Potential	Reports in the paleontological literature or field surveys by a qualified professional paleontologist may allow determination that some rock units have low potential for yielding significant fossils. Such rock units will be poorly represented by fossil specimens in institutional collections, or based on general scientific consensus only preserve fossils in rare circumstances and the presence of fossils is the exception not the rule, e. g. basalt flows or Recent colluvium. Rock units with low potential typically will not require impact mitigation measures to protect fossils.
No Potential	Some rock units have no potential to contain significant paleontological resources, for instance high- grade metamorphic rocks (such as gneisses and schists) and plutonic igneous rocks (such as granites and diorites). Rock units with no potential require no protection nor impact mitigation measures relative to paleontological resources.

Source: SVP (2010)

2 Regulatory Framework

2.1 California Environmental Quality Act

The CEQA Guidelines require that all private and public activities not specifically exempted be evaluated against the potential for environmental damage, including effects to paleontological resources. Paleontological resources, which are limited, nonrenewable resources of scientific, cultural, and educational value, are recognized as part of the environment under these state guidelines. This study satisfies project requirements in accordance with CEQA (13 PRC [Public Resources Code], 21000 et seq.).

Paleontological resources are explicitly afforded protection by CEQA, specifically in Section VII(f) of CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, the "Environmental Checklist Form," which addresses the potential for adverse impacts to "unique

paleontological resource[s] or site[s] or … unique geological feature[s]." This provision covers fossils of signal importance – remains of species or genera new to science, for example, or fossils exhibiting features not previously recognized for a given animal group – as well as localities that yield fossils significant in their abundance, diversity, preservation, and so forth.

2.2 California Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5097.5

The PRC Section 5097.5 (Stats 1965, c 1136, p. 2792) regulates removal of paleontological resources from state lands, defines unauthorized removal of fossil resources as a misdemeanor, and requires mitigation of disturbed sites. The code specifically states that:

> "No person shall knowingly and willfully excavate upon, or remove, destroy, injure, or deface, any historic or prehistoric ruins, burial grounds, archaeological or vertebrate paleontological site, including fossilized footprints, inscriptions made by human agency, rock art, or any other archaeological, paleontological or historical feature, situated on [lands owned by, or under the jurisdiction of, the state, or any city, county, district, authority, or public corporation, or any agency thereof], except with the express permission of the public agency having the jurisdiction over the lands. Violation of this section is a misdemeanor."

3 Methods

3.1 Geological Map Review, Literature Review, and Paleontological Records Search

Published geological maps and published and unpublished reports were reviewed to identify geological units on the site and determine their paleontological sensitivity.

A paleontological records search request was sent to the LACM on February 8, 2023. The purpose of the records search was to determine whether there are any known fossil localities in or near the project site and to aide in determining whether a paleontological mitigation program is warranted to avoid or minimize potential adverse effects of construction on paleontological resources.

4 Results

4.1 Geological Map Review, Literature Review, and Paleontological Records Search

The project site lies within the northernmost Peninsular Ranges Geomorphic Province, which extends from the tip of the Baja California Peninsula to the Transverse Ranges (the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountains) and includes the Los Angeles Basin, offshore islands (Santa Catalina, Santa Barbara, San Nicholas, and San Clemente), and continental shelf. The eastern boundary is the Colorado Desert Geomorphic Province (California Geological Survey 2002; Morton and Miller 2006). The ancestral Peninsular Ranges were formed by uplift of plutonic igneous rock

resulting from the subduction of the Farallon Plate underneath the North American Plate during the latter portion of the Mesozoic era approximately 90 to 125 million years ago (mya) (Abbott 1999).

More specifically, the project is located on the northeastern block of the Los Angeles Basin (Yerkes et al. 1965). The Los Angeles Basin (also called the coastal plain) extends from the Santa Monica Mountains in the north to the San Joaquin Hills of Orange County in the south and is a structural basin that in some areas has been subsiding and filling with sediments since the late Cretaceous (approximately 66 to 100.5 million years ago) (Yerkes et al. 1965). The Los Angeles Basin is characterized by alluvial coastal plains, underlain by older alluvial and marine sediments, and punctuated by uplifted highlands owing to the numerous faults underlying the basin. These faults, which include the Newport-Inglewood fault zone in the south and the Sierra Madre fault zone in the north, are part of the greater San Andreas fault system, characterized by numerous strike-slip faults.

According to the published geological mapping at a scale of 1:24,000 by Dibblee and Ehrenspeck (1999) and the geotechnical report by (Leighton Consulting, Inc. [Leighton] 2021), native soils underlying the project site consist of Holocene (less than 11,700 years ago; Cohen et al. [2022]) alluvial deposits (map unit Qa), composed of unconsolidated to moderately consolidated silt, sand, and gravel deposited in valleys and on floodplains. The geotechnical report indicated the project site is immediately underlain by artificial fill ranging from 2 to 4 feet below the ground surface (bgs), followed by Holocene alluvial deposits to a maximum depth of 51.5 feet bgs (Leighton 2021). No Pleistocene age or older geological units or formations were encountered; however, the deeper Holocene alluvial deposits may date to the middle to early Holocene (approximately 4,200 to 11,700 years ago) and may contain significant paleontological resources.

The LACM records search results letter was received on April 9, 2023. No records of fossil localities were found within the boundaries of the project site; however, the LACM reported five Pleistocene fossil localities in the vicinity of project site (Confidential Attachment B). The fossil localities are summarized in Table 2 below.

Table 2. LACM Paleontological Records Search Results

Locality Number	Location	Formation or Unit	Taxa	Depth (ft bgs)
LACM VP 2027	Wineville Avenue in Eastvale	Unknown Pleistocene unit	Mammoth (*Mammuthus*)	100
LACM VP 7811	Bridgen Rd., Pasadena	Unnamed Pleistocene unit	Mammoth (*Mammuthus*)	Unknown
LACM VP 3363	West of Monterey Pass Road and east of the Long Beach Freeway in Monterey Park	Unnamed silty and sandy Pleistocene unit	Horse (*Equus*)	Unknown
LACM VP 7702	Near 26th Street and Atlantic Avenue in Bell Gardens	Unnamed silty Pleistocene unit	Fish (*Gasterosteus*); Snake (*Colubridae*), Rodents (*Thomomys*, *Microtus*, *Reithrodontomys*); Rabbit (*Sylvilagus*)	30

Table 2. LACM Paleontological Records Search Results

Locality Number	Location	Formation or Unit	Taxa	Depth (ft bgs)
LACM VP 1728	Near Peyton Drive and English Road in Chino	Unnamed interbedded shale and coarse sandstone Pleistocene unit	Horse (*Equus*), Camel (*Camelops*)	15 to 20
LACM VP 7508	Near Vellano Club Dr. and Palmero Dr. in Chino Hills	Pleistocene	Elephant family (*Proboscidea*) and Horse (*Equus*)	Unknown

VP, Vertebrate Paleontology; bgs below the ground surface

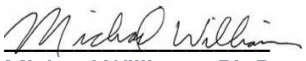
5 Summary and Management Recommendations

No paleontological resources were identified within the project site as a result of the institutional records search, desktop geological review. The paleontological records searches conducted by the LACM revealed five Pleistocene fossil localities in the vicinity. The Holocene alluvial deposits immediately underlying the artificial fill within the project site, have low paleontological resources sensitivity on the surface, increasing with depth, and artificial fill has no paleontological resources sensitivity. Based on the records search results, map and literature review, and planned excavations for the project, the project site has low potential to produce paleontological resources during planned construction activities. In the event that intact paleontological resources are discovered on the project site, ground-disturbing activities associated with construction of the project, such as grading and large diameter drilling during site preparation and trenching for utilities, have the potential to destroy a unique paleontological resource or site. Without mitigation, the potential damage to paleontological resources during construction would be a potentially significant impact. With implementation of the following recommended inadvertent discovery, Mitigation Measure (MM) GEO-1, impacts would be reduced to below a level of significance. Impacts of the project are considered less than significant with mitigation incorporated during construction.

MM GEO-1: Inadvertent Discovery. In the event that paleontological resources (e.g., fossils) are exposed during construction activities for the project, all construction work occurring within 50 feet of the find shall immediately stop until a qualified paleontologist meeting the professional standards of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology can evaluate the significance of the find and determine whether or not additional study is warranted. If the discovery is clearly not significant, the paleontologist may document the find and allow work to continue. If the discovery proves potentially significant under CEQA, additional work such as preparation of a paleontological treatment plan and monitoring in the area of the find may be warranted.

Should you have any questions relating to this report and its findings please contact Michael Williams (mwilliams@dudek.com) or Sarah Siren (ssiren@dudek.com).

Respectfully Submitted,



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Att.: Attachment A, Figures
cc: Sarah Siren, Dudek

6 References

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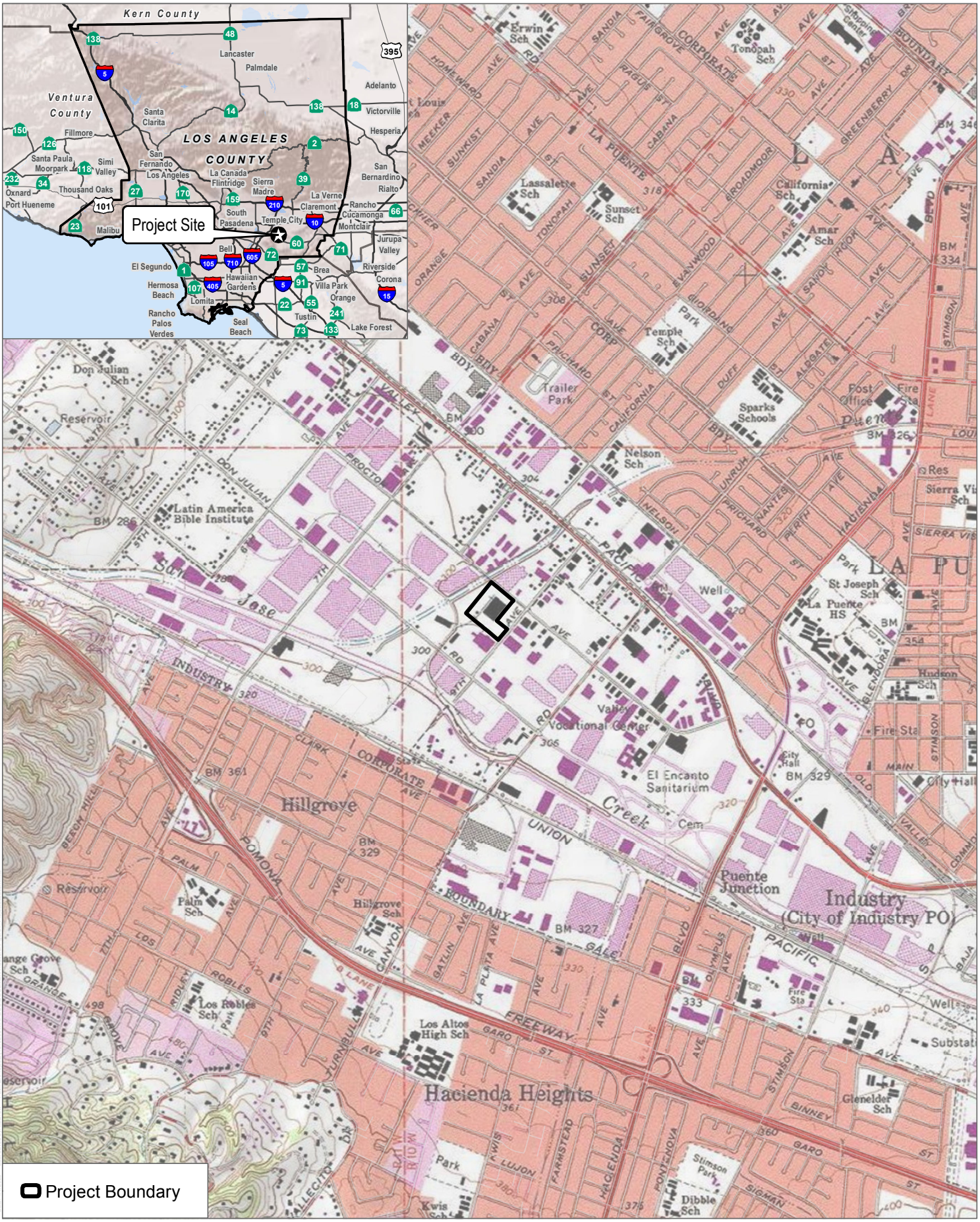
Yerkes, R.F., T.H. McCulloh, J.E. Schoellhamer, and J.G. Vedder. 1965. Geology of the Los Angeles

Attachment A

Figures



SOURCE: USGS 7.5-Minute Series Baldwin Park Quadrangle
Township 2S; Range 10W; Section 6

DUDEK

0 1,000 2,000 Feet
0 285 570 Meters
1:24,000

FIGURE 1

Project Location

14940 Proctor Avenue Warehouse Project

SOURCE: Bing Maps Aerial

DUDEK

0 75 150 Feet
0 20 40 Meters
1:2,000

FIGURE 2

Project Site

14940 Proctor Avenue Warehouse Project