



Appendix E

Paleontological Resources Assessment

Paleontological Resources Assessment
for the
1515 Walnut Grove Avenue Project
in the
City of Rosemead
Los Angeles County, California



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APPENDICES

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. (Kimley-Horn) conducted a Paleontological Resources Assessment for the 1515 Walnut Grove Avenue Project (Project) located within the City of Rosemead (Lead Agency) in Los Angeles County, California. This study was completed to support the Lead Agency's review of potential impacts to paleontological resources as a result of the proposed Project. A literature review and records search were conducted for the property to identify the likelihood of present paleontological resources that would be adversely impacted by the Project.

1.1 Project Description

The Project area is located in the south-central portion of the City of Rosemead, in the County of Los Angeles (Figure 1). Specifically, the Project area is located at 1515 Walnut Grove Avenue and situated on Assessor Parcel Number 5279-027-001 (Figure 2). The property is currently bounded by Walnut Grove Avenue to the east, commercial buildings to the north, single-family housing to the west, and institutional uses to the south.

The Project will involve the demolition of an existing Southern California Edison building and detached central plant building and will construct 191 townhome dwelling units. Vehicular access provisions for the property would be provided via two full-movement unsignalized driveways along Walnut Grove Avenue. The proposed Opening Year for the Project is 2029. The Project will be developed in a single project phase.

1.2 Regulatory Setting

Paleontological resources are limited, nonrenewable resources of scientific, cultural, and educational value and are afforded protection under federal and state laws and regulations. This study satisfies project requirements in accordance with state regulations, as well as guidelines and criteria specified by the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (1995, 2010).

California Environmental Quality Act

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is the principal statute governing environmental review of projects occurring in the State and is codified at Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21000 et seq. CEQA requires lead agencies to determine if a proposed project would have a significant effect on the environment, including significant effects on paleontological resources. Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA, as amended December 1, 2016 (Title 14, Chapter 3, California Code of Regulations [CCR] 15000 et seq.), define procedures, types of activities, persons, and public agencies required to comply with CEQA.

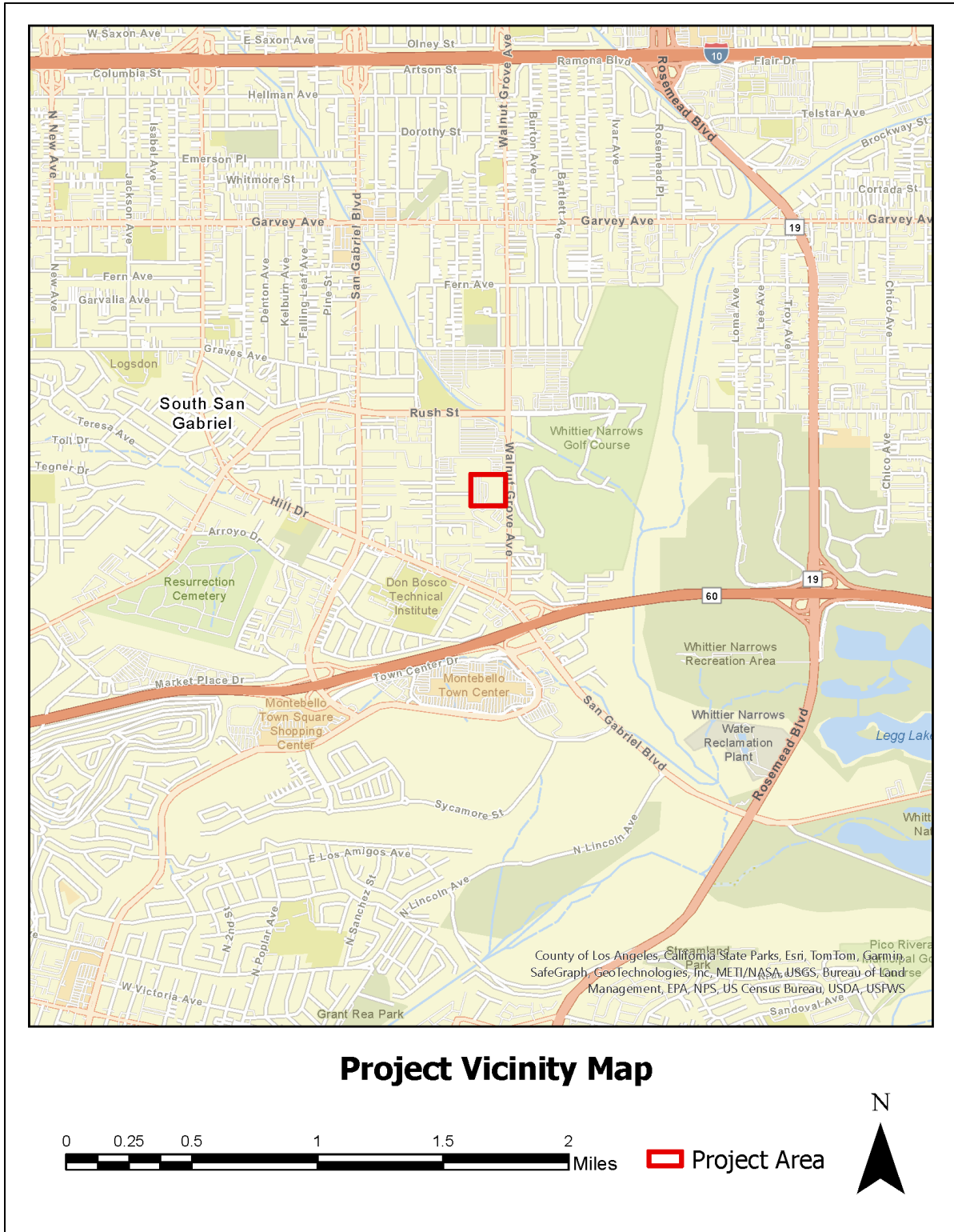


Figure 1: Project Vicinity Map



Figure 2: Project Area Map

Public Resources Code Section 5097.5

Requirements for paleontological resource management are included in the PRC Division 5, Chapter 1.7, Section 5097.5, and Division 20, Chapter 3, Section 30244. These statutes prohibit the removal, without permission, of any paleontological site or feature from lands under the jurisdiction of the state or any city, county, district, authority, or public corporation, or any agency thereof. Consequently, local agencies are required to comply with PRC Section 5097.5 for their own activities, including construction and maintenance, as well as for permit actions (e.g., encroachment permits) undertaken by others. PRC Section 5097.5 also establishes the removal of paleontological resources as a misdemeanor and requires reasonable mitigation of adverse impacts to paleontological resources from developments on public (state, county, city, and district) lands.

2.0 METHODS

This report was prepared pursuant to CEQA. This study identifies whether any paleontological resources were previously recorded within the Project area, the potential for unrecorded paleontological resources, and whether any present paleontological resources are potentially significant under the above-referenced regulations. Tasks completed include:

- A paleontological resource record search through the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (NHMLAC) for the Project area and vicinity,
- Review of the University of California Museum of Paleontology (UCMP) online database,
- Review of geological and historical maps and imagery to identify the paleontological resource sensitivity of the Project area,
- Recommendations regarding any identified or potential paleontological resources.

3.0 PROJECT SETTING

3.1 Natural Setting

The proposed Project is situated in an urban environment within the San Gabriel Valley. The San Gabriel Valley ranges around 400 square miles and spans from the San Gabriel Mountains (north), Los Angeles (west), Pomona (east), and Orange County (south) (Cheng 2014). This area has an elevation between 200 to 900 feet above mean sea level (amsl). The Project area is situated along the East Montebello fault line (U.S. Geological Survey 2025). The soil composition of the Project area consists of Urban land-Pico-Metz complex with the underlain soil considered to be Holocene-age loam from an alluvial fan (SoilWeb 2025). However, the Project area is currently developed with no native soil visible on the surface.

3.2 Geologic Setting

The San Gabriel Valley is situated in the greater Los Angeles Basin. The Los Angeles Basin is a structural depression that is approximately 50 miles long and 20 miles wide that developed as a result of tectonic

Figure 3: Geologic Map of the Project Area (Indicated with Red Star)

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Paleontological Record Search

Kimley-Horn conducted a paleontological record search for the Project area and vicinity through the NHMLAC. The repository responded on August 10, 2025, and indicated that no previously recorded fossil localities were identified in the Project area. However, NHMLAC noted that fossil localities have been recorded near the Project area. The repository provided information about the closest known fossil localities, as outlined in **Table 1**. Though resources were recorded nearby, it is notable that the geologic deposits where the fossil localities were recorded are not consistent with the geologic deposits within the Project area. A copy of the repository’s response is included in **Appendix A: Paleontological Record Search Results**.

Table 1: Previously Recorded Fossil Localities Near the Project Area

Locality Number	Location	Formation	Taxa	Depth	Approx. Distance
LACM IP 11852	Merced Hills to the north of Whittier Narrows Recreation Area	Pico Formation (conglomerate bed in siltstone)	Invertebrates, including tusk shell (<i>Dentalium neohexagonium</i>) and foraminifera	Unknown	1 mile south
LACM IP 2896	T2S; R12W. El Monte Quad	Pico Formation	Invertebrates (uncatalogued)	Surface	2 miles south
LACM VP 3363	W of Monterey Pass Road in Coyote Pass; Monterey Park	Unknown formation (Pleistocene; sand and silt)	Horse (<i>Equus</i>)	Unknown	7 miles west
LACM VP 7702	Intersection of 26th St and Atlantic Blvd, Bell Gardens	Unknown formation (Pleistocene; silt)	Fish (<i>Gasterosteus</i>); snake (Colubridae), rodents (<i>Thomomys</i> , <i>Microtus</i> , <i>Reithrodontomys</i>); rabbit (<i>Sylvilagus</i>)	30 feet bgs	9 miles southwest

4.2 Database Review

Kimley-Horn reviewed the UCMP online database to identify any previously recorded paleontological resources in the Project area or vicinity. The UCMP did not report any fossil localities in Los Angeles County that date to the Holocene or Pleistocene epochs. Though there are no Pleistocene-aged deposits within the Project area, Kimley-Horn searched the UCMP for fossil localities from that epoch due to the Project's adjacency to some Pleistocene-aged deposits.

Kimley-Horn reviewed a database of historic maps and aerial imagery for the Project area. Historic aerial imagery is available for the Project area from 1948 through present, and historic topographic maps are available from 1894 through present (Historic Aerials 2025). The aerials show that the Project area was developed as farmland before the 1940s (Figure 4). By 1980, the Project area was vacant and no longer operated as agricultural land (Figure 5). A commercial property was developed in the Project area between 1980 and 1987 (Figure 6). Little to no changes have occurred to the built environment since that time.



Figure 4: Historic Aerial Image of the Project Area in 1948



Figure 5: Historic Aerial Image of the Project Area in 1980



Figure 6: Historic Aerial Image of the Project Area in 1987

5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Paleontological Resources

Kimley-Horn did not identify any previously recorded paleontological resources in the Project area. The NHMLAC reported that fossil localities have been recorded near the Project area, though were located within different types of geologic deposits. The Project area contains deposits of young geologic age and, therefore, has a low paleontological sensitivity. The Pico Formation from the Pliocene epoch is paleontologically sensitive, but it is located one mile south of the Project area.

5.2 Recommendations

The paleontological sensitivity of the Project area is low, but there is still potential for paleontological resources to be inadvertently discovered during construction depending on the depth of proposed disturbance and the location of deeper, older soils underlying the mapped Holocene-aged deposits. As such, Kimley-Horn recommends a mitigation measure or condition of approval that outlines the process for inadvertent discovery. With this measure or condition in place, any potential impacts to paleontological resources would be less than significant. Example language is included below.

- **PALEO-1: Inadvertent Discoveries of Paleontological Resources**

Should paleontological resources be inadvertently encountered, construction activities shall be temporarily halted within 50 feet of the find so that the resource can be evaluated by a

paleontologist meeting the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP) professional qualifications. A paleontologist shall temporarily divert or redirect grading and excavation activities in the area of the exposed material to facilitate evaluation and, if necessary, salvage. The paleontologist shall then assess the discovered material(s) and prepare a memorandum evaluating the impact. The Applicant shall then comply with the recommendations of the evaluating paleontologist, and a copy of the survey report shall be submitted to the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. Ground disturbing activities may resume once the paleontologist's recommendations have been implemented.

6.0 REFERENCES

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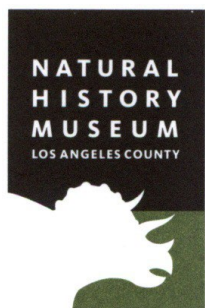
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Appendix A

Paleontological Record Search Results



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Research & Collections

e-mail: paleorecords@nhm.org

August 10, 2025

Kimley-Horn
Attn: Christina Livingston

re: Paleontological resources records search for the 1515 Walnut Grove Project

Dear Christina:

I have conducted a search of our paleontology collection records for the proposed development at the 1515 Walnut Grove project area as outlined on the portion of the El Monte USGS topographic quadrangle map that you sent to me via e-mail on August 5, 2025. We do not have fossil localities that have been recorded or georeferenced directly within the proposed project area, but we do have fossil localities nearby from similar sedimentary deposits that may occur in the proposed project area, either at the surface or at depth.

The following table shows the closest known localities in the collection of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (NHMLA).

Locality Number	Location	Formation	Taxa	Depth
LACM VP 3363	W of Monterey Pass Road in Coyote Pass; Monterey Park	Unknown formation (Pleistocene; sand and silt)	Horse (<i>Equus</i>)	Unknown
LACM VP 7702	Intersection of 26th St and Atlantic Blvd, Bell Gardens	Unknown formation (Pleistocene; silt)	Fish (<i>Gasterosteus</i>); snake (Colubridae), rodents (<i>Thomomys</i> , <i>Microtus</i> , <i>Reithrodontomys</i>); rabbit (<i>Sylvilagus</i>)	30 feet bgs
LACM IP 11852	Merced Hills to the north of Whittier Narrows Recreation Area	Pico Formation (conglomerate bed in siltstone)	Invertebrates, including tusk shell (<i>Dentalium neohexagonium</i>) and foraminifera	Unknown
LACM IP 2896	T2S; R12W. El Monte Quad	Pico Formation	Invertebrates (uncatalogued)	Surface

VP, Vertebrate Paleontology; IP, Invertebrate Paleontology; bgs, below ground surface

This records search is limited to the records of the NHMLA. It is not intended as a paleontological assessment of the project for the purposes of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Potentially fossil-bearing units are present in the project area, either at the surface or in the subsurface. As such, NHMLA

recommends that a paleontological assessment be conducted by a paleontologist meeting Federal (43 Code of Federal Regulations Part 49.110) or Society of Vertebrate Paleontology standards for compliance with applicable regulations, such as CEQA or NEPA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alyssa Bell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Alyssa" is written in a larger, more prominent script, and the last name "Bell" is written in a slightly smaller, more compact script. The signature is set against a light beige rectangular background.

Alyssa Bell, Ph.D.
Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County