ECORP Consulting, Inc.
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

October 7, 2014
(2014-139)

Jan Sandgren
Withers & Sandgren
P.O. Box 276
Montrose, California 91021

Subject: River Wilderness Park, Paleontology Assessment

Dear Ms. Sandgren:

A search of the paleontology collection records in the Vertebrate Paleontology Section of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County was conducted by Dr. Samuel A. McLeod for the River Wilderness Park Entry Improvements Project area (Attachment). The River Wilderness Park is located at the intersection of San Gabriel Canyon Road and Old San Gabriel Canyon Road in the City of Azusa, Los Angeles County, California. Shallow deposits in the terraces and river bed in the project area consist of younger Quaternary Alluvium. These deposits typically do not contain significant vertebrate fossils and have a low potential to contain fossil resources. The adjacent upland slopes to the south consist of igneous rocks which have no potential to contain fossils.

The younger Quaternary Alluvium overlies older Quaternary deposits in the subsurface which have high potential to contain significant vertebrate fossils. Fossils recovered from these sediments in the project vicinity include horse (*Equus* sp.) and camel (*Camelops* sp.). The depth at which the older Quaternary deposits begin in the Project area is unknown but may be estimated as about 10 feet below surface.

No mitigation for paleontological resources is necessary for excavations in the Project area in the upland slopes and in the river terrace and river bed that do not extend more than 10 feet below surface. If excavations extend below 10 feet, a qualified paleontologist should determine if the older Quaternary deposits are present. If so, the paleontologist should establish a monitoring program to recover any significant fossils that may be encountered.

Sincerely,

ECORP Consulting, Inc.

Roger D Mason

Roger D. Mason, Ph.D., RPA
Director of Cultural Resources

Attachment

Natural History Museum
of Los Angeles County
900 Exposition Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90007

tel 213.763.DINO
www.nhm.org

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Vertebrate Paleontology Section
Telephone: (213) 763-3325
Fax: (213) 746-7431
e-mail: smcleod@nhm.org

2 October 2014

ECORP Consulting, Inc.
1801 Park Court Place
Building B, Suite 103
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Attn: Roger D. Mason, Ph.D., Director of Cultural Resources

re: Paleontological resources for the proposed River Wilderness Park Entry Improvements Project, Project # 2014-139, near Azusa, Los Angeles County, project area

Dear Dr. Mason:

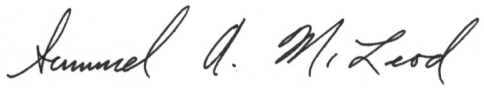
I have conducted a thorough search of our paleontology collection records for the locality and specimen data for the proposed River Wilderness Park Entry Improvements Project, Project # 2014-139, near Azusa, Los Angeles County, project area as outlined on the portion of the Azusa USGS topographic quadrangle map that you sent to me via e-mail on 18 September 2014. We have no vertebrate fossil localities that lie directly within the outline boundaries of the proposed project area, but we do have localities somewhat nearby from sedimentary deposits similar to those that may occur at depth in the proposed project area.

Bedrock in the elevated terrain around the southern rim of the proposed project area and in the surrounding mountains is composed of plutonic igneous rocks that will not contain recognizable vertebrate fossils. The northern portion of the proposed project area has surface deposits of younger Quaternary Alluvium, derived as fluvial gravel and sand from the San Gabriel River that flows through this portion of the proposed project area and adjacent to the north. These types of deposits usually do not contain significant fossil vertebrate remains, at least in the uppermost layers. At unknown depth, however, there are older Quaternary deposits that may well contain significant vertebrate fossils. Our closest vertebrate fossil locality in such deposits is LACM 1728, southeast of the proposed project area southwest of Chino, that produced fossil specimens of horse, *Equus*, and camel, *Camelops*, at a depth of 15-20 feet below the surface.

Excavations in the igneous bedrock exposed in the elevated terrain in the southern portion of the proposed project area will not uncover any recognizable vertebrate fossils. Shallow excavations in the Quaternary gravels exposed in the San Gabriel River channel in the northern portion of the proposed project area probably will not encounter significant vertebrate fossils. Deeper excavations in those latter areas that extend down into older Quaternary deposits, however, may well uncover significant vertebrate fossils. Any substantial excavations in the Quaternary deposits exposed in the proposed project area, therefore, should be closely monitored to quickly and professionally collect any specimens without impeding development. Also, sediment samples from the finer-grained deposits should be collected and processed to determine the small fossil potential in the proposed project area. Any fossils recovered during mitigation should be deposited in an accredited and permanent scientific institution for the benefit of current and future generations.

This records search covers only the vertebrate paleontology records of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. It is not intended to be a thorough paleontological survey of the proposed project area covering other institutional records, a literature survey, or any potential on-site survey.

Sincerely,



Samuel A. McLeod, Ph.D.
Vertebrate Paleontology

enclosure: invoice