

APPENDIX D

Procedure for the Programmatic Evaluation of Paleontological Resources for the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program

There will be three phases to the process of investigating paleontological resources: 1) project initiation where basic data will be compiled, reviewed and sorted to determine the next steps that need to be taken on any given project; 2) scrutinize individual project evaluation for projects that may encounter paleontological resources at a higher level; and 3) mitigation planning to develop mitigation strategies for projects that have identified paleontological resources. The three phases are summarized below.

Project Initiation

The project initiation phase of the resource investigation project will be done to evaluate the logistical and time needs for conducting the paleontological evaluation. The below outlined questions will facilitate rapid evaluation of individual projects and assure cooperation among evaluators, pertinent agencies, and landowners. The evaluation procedure will generally follow standards being implemented by other agencies conducting ground disturbance activities such as Cal Trans.

Pertinent evaluation steps, associated questions for this phase, and triggered actions include:

- A) Evaluation of the likelihood of paleontological resources and land manager issues
- 1) Does the project involve ground disturbance?
If no, then a negative declaration report will be prepared.
 - 2) Are there likely to be paleontological resources present at the project site?
If yes, answer question 3
If no, then negative declaration report is prepared
 - 3) Does the project involve lands administered by the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Army Corps of Engineers, Native American tribal lands, or California Department of Parks and Recreation? If the answer to question 3 is yes, then coordinate paleontological report containing site forms, site significance, and mitigation measures with involved entities.

Individual Project Evaluation

Contact the appropriate regional archaeological Information Center for a record search and the Native American Heritage Commission for a Sacred Lands File Check. If paleontological resources are likely to be present, then qualified staff will evaluate the paleontological resources in coordination with any affected agencies including any affected Native American tribe. If no resources are present then a negative declaration report will be prepared. If there are paleontological resources present then the evaluator will delineate the extent and type of resources present and discuss any issues with pertinent agencies, Native American tribe, project managers, and local experts to develop mitigation planning, or to go to the next phase of the investigation.

Mitigation Planning

If there are paleontological resources at any project site, then plans will be developed to mitigate impacts to the resource. These plans will be consistent with current mitigation strategies employed by other entities conducting CEQA investigations. The initial investigation report, along with mitigation recommendations, will be compiled and delivered to the appropriate CDFG grant/contract manager and the project manager of the proposed project in question. Minimum report elements will include:

- 1) Project description and location.
- 2) Results of the investigation.
- 3) Mitigation recommendations and plans.
- 4) Maps depicting project location and paleontological resource locations.