

Lockey, Heather@CNRA

From: P. David Polly, SVP <svp_president@vertpaleo.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 5:37 PM
To: CEQA Guidelines@CNRA
Cc: Weisman, Serena
Subject: CEQA review comments
Attachments: CEQA comments from SVP 2018.pdf

Dear Mr. Calfee,

Attached are comments from the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology about the CEQA checklist in Appendix G. Thank you for taking the time to review them.

With best wishes,
David

P. David Polly
President, Society of Vertebrate Paleontology
Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
1001 E. 10th Street
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47405

svp_president@vertpaleo.org<mailto:svp_president@vertpaleo.org>
+1 (812) 272-2945
<http://vertpaleo.org/>



Society of Vertebrate Paleontology

9650 Rockville Pike • Bethesda, MD 20814-3998

Phone: (301) 634-7814 • Fax: (301) 634-7455

Email: svp@vertpaleo.org • Web: www.vertpaleo.org

FEIN: 06-0906643

Christopher Calfee, Deputy Secretary and General Counsel
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814
Email: CEQA.Guidelines@resources.ca.gov.

14 March 2018

Subject: California Environmental Quality Act Comments

Dear Mr. Calfee:

We are writing on behalf of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP) with comments on updates to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process.

The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology exists to advance the science and education of vertebrate paleontology and to serve the common interests of all members of our discipline. With over 2,500 members from every continent except Antarctica, we are the largest professional organization of paleontologists in the world. More than 200 of our members reside in the State of California and many more conduct research on the paleontological resources there.

We welcome the revisions, which are long overdue. Because of their scientific importance and their value as national heritage, we would like to see paleontological resources placed in a category of their own in the CEQA checklist of Appendix G. Paleontological resources are the fossilized remains, traces, or imprints of organisms preserved in or on the earth's crust that provide information about the history of life on Earth, but they do not include archaeological or cultural resources. Until recently paleontological resources were grouped with Cultural Resources in Appendix G, which is confusing because they are non-cultural, and are now grouped as Geology and Soils. Fossils and traces are in many ways different from the geological units in which they occur and have distinct concerns. We recommend, therefore, that paleontological resources be given a category of their own in Appendix G with the language, "*Would the project directly or indirectly cause a substantial adverse effect on a paleontological resource or site?*"

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. David Polly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

P. David Polly
President, The Society of Vertebrate
Paleontology

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emily J. Rayfield". The signature is cursive and somewhat compact, with a distinct loop at the end.

Emily J. Rayfield
Vice President, The Society of Vertebrate
Paleontology

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Long". The signature is cursive and elegant, with a prominent loop at the end of the word "Long".

John A. Long
Past President, The Society of Vertebrate
Paleontology