

From: Kelly Vreeland  
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 4:31 PM  
To: CEQA Guidelines@CNRA  
Subject: CEQA changes to Paleontological resources

To the Governor's Office of Planning and Research,

It is extremely important to consider the potential impacts to fossils on lands being developed on. Under the possible new CEQA changes, paleontology really deserves to have its own category instead of being brushed to the side and lumped into the "Landscapes" section. Studying the past is the only way we can be prepared for the future. We cannot take the chance of destroying our only glimpse of how life was before humans impacted it. For example, oysters are a huge asset to our coastlines, yet some species are dwindling to near extinction, which will have devastating affects on the coastal food chain, and oysters are also filter feeders which help to keep our coastal waters clean. I did research using oyster fossils that were collected from various Southern California development sites (thanks to many companies that provided paleontologists on these development projects to help collect and preserve these fossils). My research on the oyster communities from the past have played a vital role in the restoration projects that are currently taking place along the California coastline. Without these fossils, we would not know how oyster communities looked and thrived in the past so that we could create successful restored oyster reefs along the coast of California. That is just one example of why fossils are so important, and why we HAVE to have paleontologists present during any ground disruption. With all of that being said, I believe that it is vital that paleontology have its own section in the update to CEQA guidelines that will be taking place soon. Our future depends on the past!

Thank you for taking my views into consideration.

Warmest Regards,  
Kelly Vreeland