



## Irvine High Rise Condominiums

### Project Description:

Redevelopment of a former manufacturing plant property into high rise condominiums south of Interstate 405 at Jamboree in Irvine. The regulatory environment was CEQA and local. This work was performed for two private developers.



**Services Provided:** Paleontological and Archaeological Monitoring, Fossil Salvage, Fossil Preparation, Fossil Identification, Fossil Analysis, Radiometric dating, Stratigraphic Columns, Micropaleontological Analysis, Taphonomic Analysis, Collection Management, Interpretive Report, Transport of Large Fossils and Curation Arrangements.

**Challenges:** (1) Discovery of an 80 by 25 foot bone bed, (2) Complete mammoth skull with both tusks was revealed, (3) Arranging curation of very large fossils and (4) Moving very large fossils to repository.

**Solutions:** (1) Fortuitously, the fossils were discovered at the conclusion of grading at the bottom of a detention basin and further work was not scheduled for another 8 months. Excavation of the bone bed took about 2.5 months with a crew of 4. We recovered a partial mammoth, several bison, a ground sloth and a turkey vulture.

(2) Near the end we got another mammoth skeleton and under the scapula discovered a complete skull with both tusks (upside down in photo). This was carefully excavated and hardened. Our client placed a 24 hr a day guard on the site to prevent loss of the specimens.



(3) We were able to negotiate an agreement with California State University at San Bernardino to accept this collection without fees as the cornerstone of their newly constructed Museum of Paleontology. As part of that agreement, we agreed to train selected students in fossil

preparation using the collection. A win-win for all parties.

(4) Moving the skull was a great challenge. We built a heavy wooden frame around it, placed plywood sides on it and then had a commercial art moving company fill the space between the plaster jacket over the skull and the sides of the crate with liquid foam. Upon hardening, this foam provided a cushion that allowed us to move the skull without damage. We flipped the crate onto a pallet and used a pallet truck to place it on a large truck for transport. At CSUSB the crate was removed from the truck with some damage to the crate but not the fossil and it was safely installed in the new Museum. It has now been completely prepared by our lead preparator and a group of student preparators. It will be on display shortly.