



THE ROSEDALE PROJECT (MONROVIA NURSERY SPECIFIC PLAN)

The Rosedale Project is a primarily residential development of more than 500 acres in Azusa on lands formerly used for a commercial plant nursery. It was controversial and took over 15 years to get approval. The regulatory environment was CEQA and local. We performed this work for the City of Azusa but funding was provided by the developer, Azusa Land Partners LLC.



Services Provided: Cultural Resources Sensitivity Training for all project personnel, Survey, Research, Planning and Sensitivity Mapping, Monitoring, Testing, Data Recovery Excavations, Laboratory Work, Analysis, Interpretive Report, Interpretive Artifact Display, and Planning and Execution of City Outreach Events.

Challenges: (1) Monitoring was required for all earthmoving but developer wanted to control costs, (2) Portions of development encroach on the boundaries of a historic private cemetery, (3) Two historic houses were demolished prior to grading but research and testing were required by project conditions, (4) A prehistoric site known to be on the property was required to be relocated and evaluated and (5) vertebrate and invertebrate fossils were recovered and required interpretation.

Solutions: (1) We developed an archaeological sensitivity map and a paleontological sensitivity map, won approval from the City and provided monitoring services based on those results.



(2) We proposed Ground Penetrating Radar testing to define any burials outside the cemetery fence. We were able to craft an agreement with the cemetery to also perform GPR inside the cemetery walls (at their expense) at the same time for their



planning purposes. This created significant goodwill with the City and locals. No burials were found outside the fences.

(3) We made a formal proposal to the City Council to adjust the project conditions to permit monitoring in the vicinity of the historic homes with subsequent testing of any features encountered. This was approved and eventually both structural and archaeological features were discovered. These were a trash pit associated with each historic house and a tunnel which provided a pathway between the two houses. Research revealed one family owned the very large parcel and constructed both houses and the tunnel.

(4) We made the vicinity of the prehistoric site part of our archaeological sensitivity map. Our monitor relocated the site during grading. Testing revealed both intact and disturbed portions of the site. Data recovery excavations were conducted in the intact portion followed by controlled machine excavation of the remainder of the site.

We found prehistoric roasting ovens and 400 associated plant processing artifacts. Grading activities were redirected and no time was lost to the project. The discovery was reported in the local press by a reporter assigned to the Rosedale project and picked up by the national press.



We placed a display of the artifacts at the City Library for a highly popular six month run, facilitated associated events including rock art painting and flintknapping, presented the results to the City's Historical and Cultural Commission and City Council and provided an interpretive report with extensive graphics.



(5) We recovered one marine mammal fossil, over 100 fish fossils and about a dozen invertebrate fossils from 10 localities in the project area in association with grading of outcrops of the Topanga Formation on the project. Both shallow and deep water environments were represented. An extremely scientifically important specimen of a deep sea anglerfish was recovered. The Rosedale Anglerfish is the oldest known fossil anglerfish ever to have been recovered. It is 17-14 million years old and is a juvenile female anglerfish.



At the request of the City, we prepared a display of the fossils called When Azusa Was Under the Ocean and placed it at the City Library for a six month run. Again, we facilitated associated events including shale splitting to look for fish fossils for children, presented the results to the City's Historical and Cultural Commission and City Council and provided an interpretive report with extensive graphics.